

III. Inscriptions¹

By R.S.O. TOMLIN

A. MONUMENTAL

1. **London** (*Londinium*, TQ 3265 7965), Southwark, Tabard Street (FIG. 1). Small fragment of a white very fine crystalline marble slab, 50 by 68 mm, 10 mm thick, found in 2002 in a medieval robber cut adjacent to the pit between two Romano-Celtic temples that contained *RIB* III, 3014.² The surviving letters are incomplete, but they are very well drawn and inscribed; their height can be estimated as (line 1) 43 mm and (line 2) 22 mm. They read: [...] | [...]AV[...] | [...]JOLL(*or* OLI) [...] | [...].³

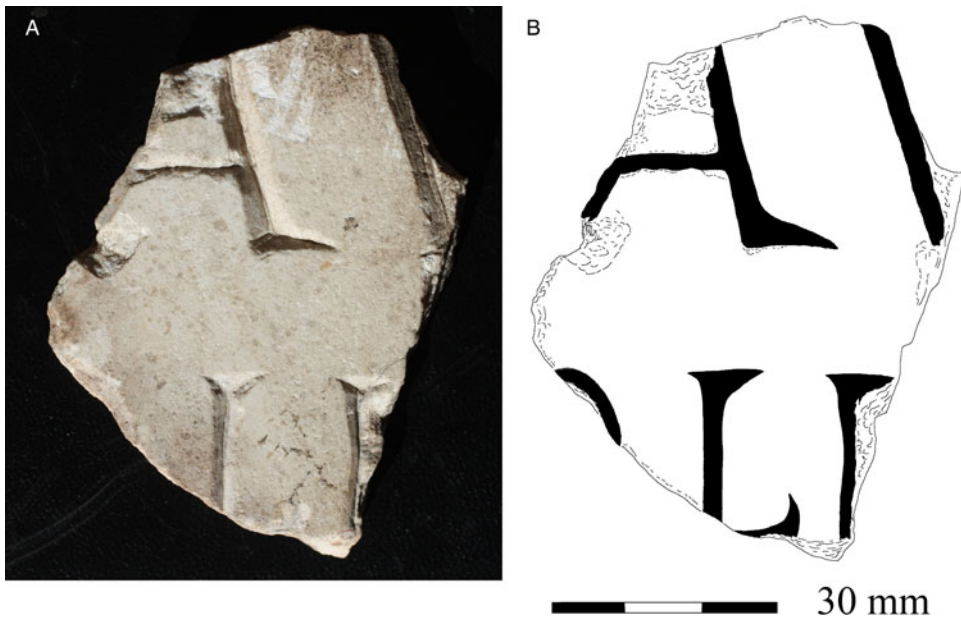


FIG. 1. (a) and (b). London, Southwark, marble fragment (No. 1). (Photographed and drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

¹ Inscriptions on STONE have been arranged as in the order followed by R.G. Collingwood and R.P. Wright in *The Roman Inscriptions of Britain* Vol. i (Oxford, 1965) 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* (1–2400) and *RIB* 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.

² During the same excavation by Pre-Construct Archaeology (LLS02, 972 sf 184), but not reported at the time. Victoria Ridgeway, Publications Manager of PCA, made it available. It is much thinner than *RIB* III, 3014, which ranges from 25 to 33 mm. Kevin Hayward notes that it bears some resemblance to the finer white marbles from the eastern Mediterranean.

³ The surviving text is too slight to be restored, but in view of its quality is no later than Antonine, and surely ‘official’.

2. **Old Carlisle** (probably *Maglona*, NY 26 46), Cumbria (FIG. 2). Part of a red sandstone slab, 0.65 by 0.54 m, 0.11 m thick, found⁴ in 2012. Only the left-hand edge is original, and consists of a simple border with cable moulding which defines a recessed panel 0.09 m thick on which is inscribed⁵: [...] | AVR ♣ TOISIA [...] | AVR ♣ MARINVS[...] | AVR ♣ MARIANV[...] | LVPIA ♣ V ♣ Λ ♣ XXV[...] | V ♣ A ♣ V ♣ PANNO[...] | VITALIS ♣ V ♣ A ♣ V[...] | ET SATVRNIN[...] | [...], [...] / *Aur(elia) Toisia [u(icit) a(nnos) ...]* / *Aur(elius) Marinus [u(icit) a(nnos) ...]* / *Aur(elius)*



FIG. 2. Old Carlisle, tombstone (No. 2). (Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin)

Since line 1 is almost twice the height of line 2, the sequence AV strongly suggests AV[GUST...] and an imperial dedication of some kind. The content of line 2 can only be guessed, but in view of the likely religious context, the possibilities include [*c*]oll[*egium*] (a guild of worshippers) or (like *RIB* III, 3014) a dedication to the *Numen Augusti* or *Numina Augustorum* coupled with another deity, for example [*deo Ap*]oll[*ini*] as in *RIB* 611 and III, 3191. Less likely would be [*deo S*]oli or [*Iovi D*]oli[*cheno*].

⁴ In ploughing, and noted on the PAS database (LANCUM-273C82) with commentary by David Shotter and Stuart Noon, who will publish it and the next item in *Trans. Cumb. Westm.* 3rd ser. 13 (2013), forthcoming.

⁵ The letters (c. 50 mm high) are rather tall in proportion to their width. A is cut indifferently with or without a cross-bar. The medial points are leaf-stops (*hederae*).

Marianu[s u(ixit) a(nnos) ...] / Lupia u(ixit) a(nnos) XXV[... ...] / u(ixit) a(nnos) V[...] Panno[nius u(ixit) a(nnos) ...] / Vitalis u(ixit) a(nnos) V[...] / et Saturnin[us u(ixit) a(nnos) ...] / [...]. ‘... Aurelia Toisia lived [...] years; Aurelius Marinus lived [...] years; Aurelius Marianus lived [...] years; Lupia lived 25(–29) years; [...] lived 5(–9) years; Pannonius lived [...] years; Vitalis lived 5(–9) years; and Saturninus lived [...] years. [...]’⁶

3. Ibid. (FIG. 3). Part of a red sandstone slab, 0.32 by 0.54 m, 0.06 m thick, found⁷ in 2012. None of the edges are original, but they have been roughly squared as if for re-use in paving or as a building stone. Inscribed⁸: [...] | [...]XVIII M[...] | [...]MACV[...] | [...]ATVR[...] | [...] ONIV[...] | [...]DVMQ[...] | [...]⁹



FIG. 3. (a) and (b). Old Carlisle, tombstone (No. 3). (Photographed and drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

⁶ Unusually, this is not an individual tombstone but evidently marked a mausoleum or communal burial plot: the mixture of adults and children, and the related names *Marinus* and *Marianus*, suggest a family group like *RIB* 594 (Ribchester) for example. The cognomina *Marinus*, *Marianus*, *Vitalis* and *Saturninus* are all quite common, but *Pannonius* is unusual as a personal name, *Lupia* is an unusual variant of *Lupus* / *Lupa*, and *Toisia* seems to be unique.

⁷ In ploughing, a month after the previous item, and also noted on the PAS database (LANCUM-277A53). The finder has donated both stones to Tullie House Museum, Carlisle, where Tim Padley made them available.

⁸ In rather square, well-drawn letters *c.* 90 mm high. A is cut with an apex like that of M, but shorter. The cross-bar of T is rather narrow. A scored setting-out line (not drawn) is visible at the foot of line 4.

⁹ In line 1, the beginning of the third stroke of M survives, confirming it is not A. This is the age at death, whether or

4. **Binchester** (*Vinovia*, NZ 210 313) Roman fort, County Durham; the external bath-house on Dere Street (FIG. 4). Buff sandstone altar, 0.50 by 0.65 m, 0.51 m deep, found¹⁰ in 2013. Except for damage to the left bolster, it is complete and well-preserved. Between the bolsters there is a shallow round *focus* above a recessed die, on the left side of which is carved a bull in high relief. The right side is plain. On the front (0.41 by 0.28 m) is inscribed¹¹: FORTVNE | REDVCI | ELTAOMINVS | EMERITVS | EX ^Δ ARCITEC | ALAE ^Δ VETTO | V ^Δ S L ^Δ L M, *Fortun(a)e | Reduci | Eltaominus | emeritus | ex arc(h)itec(to) | alae Vetto(num) | u(otum) s(oluit) l(aetus) l(ibens) m(erito)*. ‘To Fortune the Home-Bringer, Eltaominus, veteran and former engineer of the *ala Vettonum*, has paid his vow gladly, willingly, deservedly.’¹²

not *annos*, *menses* and *dies* were abbreviated: ‘... 19 (or 29, 39, etc.) years, ... months ... days ...’ In 2, the sequence MACV suggests the phrase *uixit ... sine ulla macula* (‘lived without any blemish’) as in *RIB* 1828 (Carvoran). There it is suggested that it has ‘a Christian flavour’, but one of the examples cited (*ILS* 7518) is of a man ‘whose spirit has been received among the gods’ (*cuius spiritus inter deos receptus est*); obviously a polytheist, not a Christian. In 3, ATVR suggests the cognomen *Saturnina* or *Saturninus* (as in the previous item, but the name is quite common). In 4, although ONIV could be part of *Antonius*, it is surely part of *coniunx* (‘wife’ or ‘husband’), whether in the nominative or dative case. In 5, DVMQ is a more likely sequence than DVMO, and [...]*dumq[ue]* suggests the end of a gerundive such as *faciendum* or *ponendum*; this would be an elaboration of the formula *titulum ponendum curavit* (‘saw to the erection of this tombstone’) which has already been found in the same cemetery (*RIB* 909, compare 912). Thus, although the name of the deceased is lost and other details are elusive, this is part of quite an elaborate text in which Saturninus commemorated his wife, or perhaps Saturnina her husband.

¹⁰ With another altar, not inscribed, during excavation of a room which was probably the *apodyterium*, where it was still standing in one corner. David Mason directed the excavation by Archaeological Services, Durham University, on behalf of a partnership of that university, Durham County Council Archaeology Section, the Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland, and *Vinovia*. See D. Mason, ‘New excavations at Binchester: results of season 5 (2013)’, *Archaeology County Durham* 9 (2014), 60–9. The altar is now stored by the Bowes Museum, where Jane Whittaker made it available.

¹¹ In neatly incised rather square letters 30 mm high, carefully massed to fill the space available, at the cost of some irregular spacing; thus the first three letters of REDVCI (2) are spaced out, and in line 7, which is inscribed on the base, the spacing is VS LL M. There are four medial points, after EX (5), ALAE (6), and in 7 after V and the first L, but none elsewhere.

¹² The reading ELTAOMINVS (3) is certain, but this name seems to be unattested, and even its elements unparalleled except for the termination *-minus*. The military *architectus* was an *immunis* (*Digest* 50.6.7), but not necessarily a legionary, despite the implication of the note to *RIB* 2091, even though they are most often attested in the legions and Praetorian Guard. They are also attested in the *equites singulares Augusti* at Rome, who were seconded from provincial cavalry units (M.P. Speidel, *Die Denkmäler der Kaiserreiter: Equites Singulares Augusti* (1994), nos 9, 223, 321, ?580), but this seems to be the first instance of one in a cavalry *ala*. The other instances from Britain are at Carrawburgh (*RIB* 1542) and Birrens (*RIB* 2091 and 2096), where auxiliary cohorts were stationed, but they do not specify their unit; for a possible instance in the Fleet, see *RIB* III, 3036.

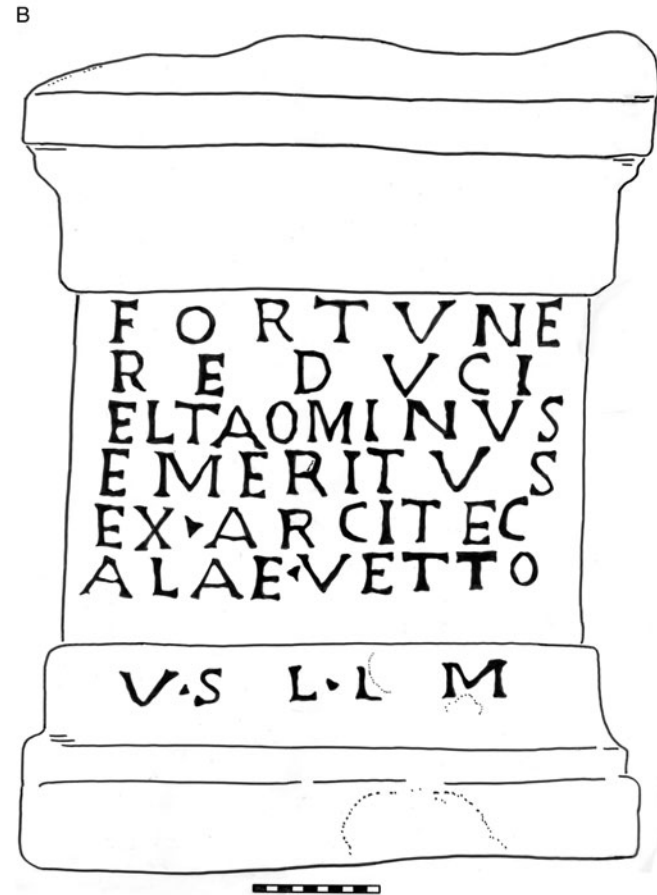


FIG. 4. (a) and (b). Binchester, altar (No. 4). (Photo: David Mason. Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

5. **Vindolanda** (NY 768 663), Northumberland (FIG. 5). Buff sandstone altar, 0.18 by 0.265 m, 0.165 m deep, found¹³ in 2013 in a barrack-block south of the *praetorium*. Inscribed on the face of the die, 0.10 by 0.16 m, in letters *c.* 20 mm high: DEO Δ APOL|LINI Δ APR|ILIS Δ VOT Δ | RET Δ L Δ M, *Deo Apollini Aprilis uot(um) | ret(tulit) l(ibens) m(erito)*. ‘To the god Apollo Aprilis has paid his vow, willingly, deservedly.’¹⁴



FIG. 5. Vindolanda, altar (No. 5). (Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin)

¹³ During excavation by the Vindolanda Trust directed by Andrew Birley, who made the stone available.

¹⁴ The words and abbreviations are separated by medial points, with a redundant point within initial D; there is no point after the final M, presumably because it was unnecessary. This is only the second instance of the *uotum rettulit* formula from Britain, the other being *RIB* 1523 (Carrowburgh), but it occurs a few times elsewhere.

6. **Ribchester** (*Bremetennacum*, SD 65 35), Stonelands Farm (FIG. 6). Lower part of a red sandstone cylindrical milestone, 2.0 m high, 0.135 m in circumference, found¹⁵ in 2005. Only the bottom of the inscribed panel survives, inscribed in poor capitals now badly weathered: [...] | MAXIMI|ANO AV[G], [...] | *Maximi|ano Au[g(usto)]*. ‘... to Maximian Augustus.’¹⁶



FIG. 6. Ribchester, milestone (No. 6). (Photo: Patrick Tostevin)

¹⁵ Re-used as a gatepost, but adjacent to the presumed line of the Roman road (Margary 7c) north from Ribchester to Overborough. Patrick Tostevin sent a photograph and other details. It has been published as D. Shotter and P. Tostevin, ‘A newly-reported Roman milestone from Ribchester’, *Trans. Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Soc.* 107 (2011), 117–18. It remains in the landowner’s possession.

¹⁶ There is no sign of any further lettering. It is unclear whether Maximian was honoured jointly with Diocletian, as in *RIB* 2256, or alone, as in *RIB* 2301, which are his only other British milestones. He was western *Augustus* during A.D. 286–305 as Diocletian’s colleague (but Britain was controlled by Carausius and Allectus c. A.D. 286–93), and again in A.D. 307–8. Rather less likely is Diocletian’s successor as eastern *Augustus*, Galerius Maximianus (A.D. 305–11), although one British milestone (*RIB* 2293) is dedicated to him.

B. INSTRUMENTUM DOMESTICUM

CHESHIRE

7. **Chester** (*Deva*, SJ 40 66), Roman amphitheatre (sf 8800) (FIG. 7). Flat bone roundel 5 mm thick, 19 mm in diameter, found¹⁷ in 2004–6. Scratched on one face: K¹⁸

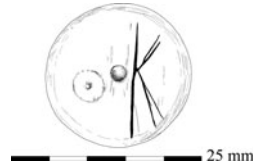


FIG. 7. Chester, bone roundel (No. 7). (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

8. *Ibid.* (sf 7425) (FIG. 8). Sherd preserving the profile of a samian dish (Dr. 18, c. A.D. 80–110). Scratched after firing on the wall above the foot-ring: BL¹⁹

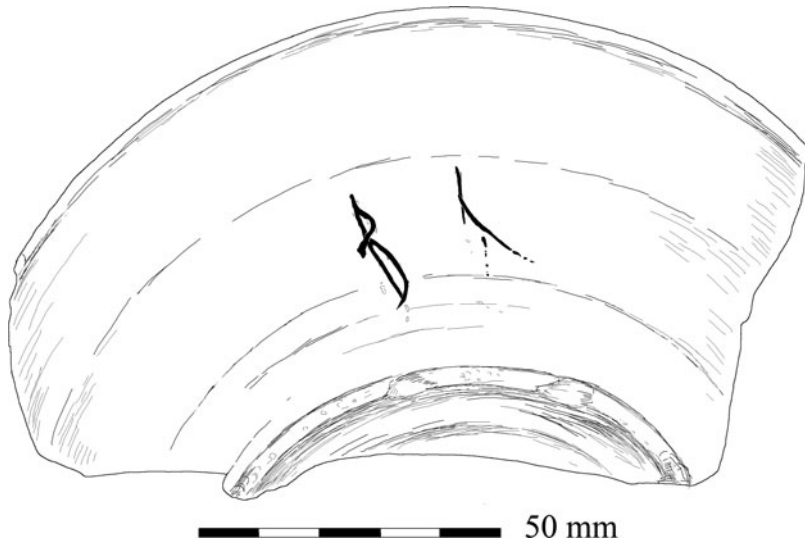


FIG. 8. Chester, samian graffito (No. 8). (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

9. *Ibid.* (sf 9959) (FIG. 9). Base sherd of a wide flat-bottomed samian dish (probably Walters 79, after c. A.D. 165). The upper surface is scored after firing by two parallel straight lines 13 mm apart, with short scratches at right-angles to them. The lines at least are deliberate, but they are not lettering. Since four unusually small counters were also found, only 13–15 mm in diameter,

¹⁷ With the next two items (the samian identified by Margaret Ward) during excavation for Cheshire West and Chester Council and English Heritage directed by D. Garner and T. Wilmott, as noted in *Britannia* 36 (2005), 420–2, and 37 (2006), 401–2. They will be included with some minor graffiti in Wilmott's final report on the Chester Amphitheatre Project.

¹⁸ All the letters of the alphabet are found singly or in pairs on bone roundels, probably as marks of ownership (*RIB* II.3, 2440 (a), discussed on pp. 105–8). For an example of K from Caerleon, see *RIB* II.3, 2440.46.

¹⁹ An abbreviated personal name, probably *Blaesus* or *Blandus*. B is of capital-letter form, not cursive. The reading BA is just possible, but the second letter looks more like a slipshod L, its second stroke diagonal, not horizontal. This form is very common, and the writer was probably hampered by the foot-ring, which is why graffiti in this position are often inverted in respect to the vessel, since they were then easier to inscribe.

made from first-century South Gaulish samian, the dish may have been an improvised calculating table (*abacus*).²⁰



FIG. 9. Chester, samian graffito (No. 9). (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

DURHAM

10. **Bowes** (*Lauatris*, NY 99415 13491), Holme Lea, in the *vicus* east of the Roman fort (FIG. 10). Wall sherd of a South Spanish oil amphora (Dressel 20), found²¹ in 2013. Neatly inscribed before firing in cursive letters: [...]*PALLADI*, *Palladi*. '(Work) of Palladius.'²²

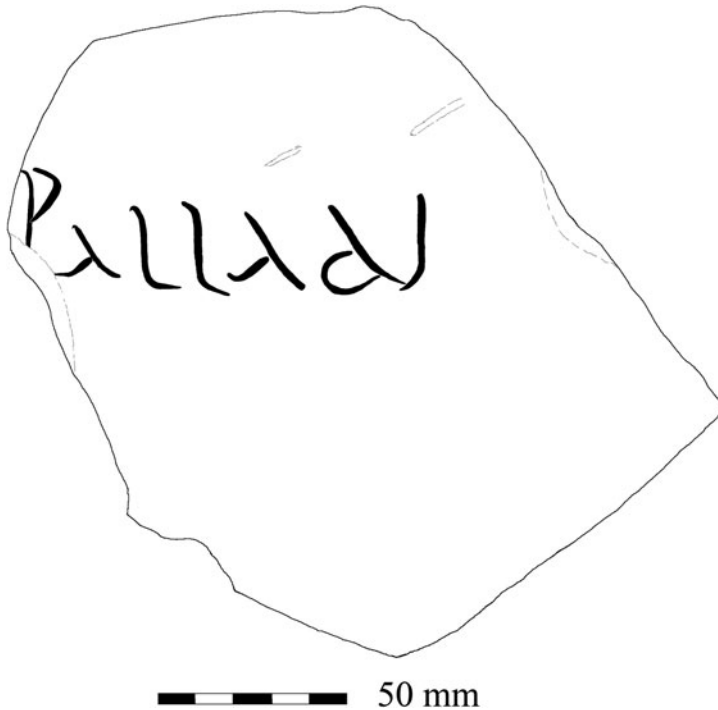


FIG. 10. Bowes, amphora graffito (No. 10). (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

²⁰ The *abacus* is described in *RIB* II.3, p. 105. It was a board inscribed with two rows of parallel columns, up and down which counters were moved to make calculations.

²¹ With the next item during excavation by Northern Archaeological Associates. Alex Croom made them available.

²² The graffito is almost certainly complete, although some potters' signatures on Dressel 20 include a date, for example item No. 14 (Snodland). A name on its own, in the genitive case, may be that of the 'firm' rather than the individual potter:

11. *Ibid.* (FIG. 11). Two conjoining wall sherds of a reduced ware (probably local) storage jar, incised after firing: [...]*LVG XV*[...]²³



FIG. 11. Bowes, coarseware graffito (No. 11). (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

12. **Binchester** (*Vinovia*, NZ 210 313) (FIG. 12). Rim sherd of a thin-walled cooking pot in a buff fabric, second-century or earlier, found²⁴ in 2013. Incised before firing in neat cursive letters: [...]*IIT IIPRIV*[...], [...] *et Epriu[m ...]*. ‘... and Eprius ...’²⁵

Rodríguez Almeida (*Il Monte Testaccio* (1984), 253–60) notes *Quinti*, *Fortunati*, *Palladi* and *Vitalis* as typical, but gives no references.

²³ The graffito is incomplete, and its meaning unclear. *XV*[...] would be a numeral from ‘15’ (*XV*) to ‘19’ (*XVIII*), whether it numbered the jar in a sequence or was a measure of capacity. Personal names in *Lug-* are very rare, but *LVG* is a regular abbreviation of *Lug(u)dunum* (Lyon), and may have been extended to a British place-name incorporating the same element, whether *Luguvalium* (Carlisle) or *Lugudunum* (A.L.F. Rivet and C. Smith, *The Place-Names of Roman Britain* (1979), 401; quite possibly South Shields, see Add. (a) below). An abbreviated personal name such as *L(ucius) V(alerius) G(...)* is also possible.

²⁴ Unstratified, in a molehill beside the area of the fort displayed. Information from David Mason, who made it available.

²⁵ The lower left-hand portion of the letter after *V* survives in the broken edge, but looks more like *M* (accusative) than *S* (nominative), since there is no sign of the leftward extension of *S*. The initial *et* implies that at least two persons were named (and in the accusative case apparently), which means this cannot be a potter’s signature. Perhaps a third party is greeting (*salutat*, or similar) two or more named persons. *Eprius* is a Latin nomen, but is quite uncommon; it has not occurred in Britain before.

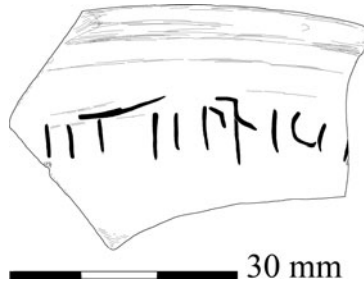


FIG. 12. Binchester, coarseware graffito (No. 12). (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

HEREFORDSHIRE

13. **Kenchester** (*Magnis*, SO 344 242) (FIG. 13). Base sherd of a black burnished (BB1) jar comprising about one-quarter of the base, found²⁶ in 2011. Inscribed underneath before firing in cursive letters: [...]*CIVS* | [...]*!ÇA*[], [...]*cius* | [...]*ica*].²⁷

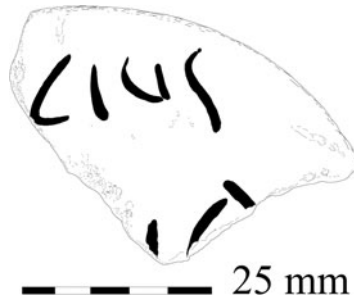


FIG. 13. Kenchester, black burnished ware graffito (No. 13). (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

²⁶ During excavation by the Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council (HSM51615 sf 6377), as part of the Yazor Brook flood alleviation scheme. Laura Brook made it available.

²⁷ The name of the potter, for example *Lucius*. The letters below are incomplete, and their reading not certain. There is room for one more, which might be E for a locative ending *-ica[e]*; S for a feminine noun in the accusative plural, *-ica[s]*; or T for a verbal ending, *-ica[ti]*. There is too little room for M, and the word is not part of a date.

KENT

14. **Snodland** (TQ 570605 162072), in land off the old High Street (FIG. 14). Four conjoining sherds of a South Spanish oil amphora (Dressel 20), found²⁸ in 2008. Inscribed before firing in cursive letters: IIDIVLES | [...]LVCRIONIS, *i Id(us) Iule(a)s | Lucrionis*. ‘One (day before) the Ides of July [14 July], (work) of Lucrio.’²⁹



FIG. 14. Snodland, amphora graffito (No. 14). (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

²⁸ In demolition/make-up layers (context 617, sf 248) during excavation by Archaeology South-East (UCL Institute of Archaeology) directed by Clive Meaton. Information from Louise Rayner, who made the sherds available.

²⁹ The surface to the left of line 1 is unmarked except for a casual scratch, so there is only a single digit (*i*) in the date-numeral; exceptionally, the scribe wrote *i Idus* as an alternative to the usual *pr(idie) Idus*. *Iules* is for *Iulias*, probably because post-consonantal *i* in hiatus was confused with *e* (as in *Iuleas* for *Iulias* in *CIL* iv 814) and the *a* was then omitted. Confusion may have been easier because five out of twelve month-dates ended in *-es*, not *-ias*. In line 2, the tip of initial *l* survives in the broken edge, also the end of the first stroke of *u*. The second stroke of *o* was extended downwards and to the left, so as to provide the first stroke of ligatured *n*. There is another instance of *Lucrionis* inscribed on a Dressel 20 before firing (*CIL* xv 3614, Monte Testaccio), but the hand is not the same, and the content of the graffito is different.

LEICESTERSHIRE³⁰

15. **Hallaton** (SP 79 99). Silver finger-ring (Henig type XI), 21 mm in diameter, 10 mm wide, recorded³¹ in 2012. Inscribed on the bezel: TOT³²

LINCOLNSHIRE

16. **Lincoln** (*Lindum*, SK 98 74), in pasture north of the city (FIG. 15). Fragment of a moulded lead tank, 0.61 by 0.33 m, 20 mm thick at the rim, found³³ casually in topsoil ‘some years ago’. Below the rim are two bands moulded in relief with cable-moulded margins, the lower a scroll ornament, the upper an inscription: MLLEDOFECITF ELIX [...], *M(a)lledo fecit felix [...]*. ‘Malleo made (this). [?Be] happy.’³⁴



FIG. 15. Lincoln, lead tank (No. 16). (Photo: *The Collection, Lincoln*)

³⁰ The TOT and TOT-related rings which follow, under Leicestershire (1), Lincolnshire (7) and Nottinghamshire (3), have all been recorded in the PAS database and in the catalogue made available by Adam Daubney, Finds Liaison Officer for Lincolnshire; see further A. Daubney, ‘The cult of Totatis’, in S. Worrell *et al.* (eds), *A Decade of Discovery: Proceedings of the Portable Antiquities Scheme Conference 2007* (2010), 201–7. Four unprovenanced rings (nos 78, 84, 87 and 88) and six very recent discoveries (nos 82, 83, 85, 86, 89 and 90) have not been included here.

³¹ PAS ref. WMID-63F643 (Daubney 75).

³² T is inscribed rather like I with exaggerated horizontal serif top and bottom, presumably to read the same either way up.

³³ By the late husband of the present owner, who brought it to The Collection, Lincoln, for evaluation (PAS ref. LIN-9C11F6). Its present location is unknown since she declined their offer to buy it, choosing instead to approach a dealer. Information from the Access Officer (archaeology), Antony Lee.

³⁴ The lettering does not clearly distinguish between L, E, F and I, but is confirmed by the context. The first F is inverted, the second has a redundant third horizontal bar. C of *fecit* is indistinguishable from L of *felix*. There is also

17. **Marton** (SK 83 81). Incomplete silver finger-ring (Henig type VIII), recorded³⁵ in 2011. Inscribed on the circular bezel: T ◦ T³⁶

18. **Horncastle** (TF 26 69) (FIG. 16). Silver finger-ring (Henig type VIII), recorded³⁷ in 2011. Inscribed on the circular bezel: TOT³⁸



FIG. 16. Horncastle, silver ring-bezel (No. 18). (Photo: PAS)

19. **Ulceby** (TA 10 14). Silver finger-ring (Henig type VIII), recorded³⁹ in 2011. Inscribed on the circular bezel 7 mm in diameter: TOT

20. **Little Ponton and Stroxtun** (SK 92 32). Copper-alloy finger-ring (Henig type XI), recorded⁴⁰ in 2012. Inscribed on the oval bezel: TOT

21. **Wellingore** (SK 98 56). Copper-alloy finger-ring (Henig type VIII), recorded⁴¹ in 2013. Inscribed on the circular bezel: T ◦ T⁴²

22. **Blyborough** (SK 93 94). Silver finger-ring (Henig type XI), recorded⁴³ in 2012. Inscribed on the rectangular bezel: TOT

23. **Roxby cum Risby** (SE 92 17). Copper-alloy finger-ring (Henig type XI), recorded⁴⁴ in 2012. Inscribed within a rectangular panel formed by hatching between two lines of punched dots: TOT

an improper space between F and E of *felix*. Lettering and decoration are identical to those of the Bishop Norton tank (*RIB* II.2, 2416.7) found a few miles to the north, which must derive from the same workshop. Although the fragment is now curved, it is uncertain whether this feature is original, and thus would imply the tank was cylindrical.

The Bishop Norton tank reads [...]*DO FECIT FELIX* [...], the break after *felix* leaving it unclear whether the inscription ended here. Probably not, for if *felix* qualified *fecit*, the adverb *felicit* would have been more natural; but the addition of *sis* or *vivas* would complete the phrase nicely. Compare the Caistor tank from the same area, which reads (*RIB* II.2, 2416.4): *Cunobarrus fecit vivas*. As already noted by *RIB*, the maker's name was Celtic and ended in *-edo*; it can now be understood as *Malledo*, which is well attested as the name of a late Antonine samian potter at Lezoux (B.R. Hartley and B.M. Dickinson, *Names on Terra Sigillata*, V (2009), 225–8, s.v. *Malledo* (*Malledus*)). The letter A was probably omitted by confusion with M, unless it was thought to be contained within M, but there is no sign of any cross-bar.

³⁵ PAS ref. LIN-156706 (Daubney 69).

³⁶ The usual O of TOT is represented by a central pellet.

³⁷ PAS ref. SWYOR-9C5DA6 (Daubney 70).

³⁸ Both Ts are inscribed with exaggerated bottom serif formed by two diagonals.

³⁹ PAS ref. LIN-A884E7 (Daubney 72).

⁴⁰ PAS ref. LIN-C79A47 (Daubney 76).

⁴¹ PAS ref. LIN-CB8401 (Daubney 77).

⁴² Reported by autopsy as 'the letters T.T'. Compare item No. 17 (Marton).

⁴³ PAS ref. NLM-F594B5 (Daubney 79).

⁴⁴ PAS ref. NLM-AA76B4 (Daubney 81).

LONDON

24. **The City** (*Londinium*, TQ 532549 181002), Bucklersbury/Walbrook, Bloomberg Place. Some 400 stilus writing-tablets were found⁴⁵ in 2013, almost all of them fragments. They have lost their waxed coating, and at least four-fifths are uninscribed or illegible because they have been re-used, but more than 60 retain some legible trace of writing in the underlying scratches left by the stilus.

25. *Ibid.* (*Londinium*, TQ 32600 80830), Cannon Street Station (north). Oblong lead sealing, 15 by 6 mm, found⁴⁶ in 1988. One face is impressed with a rectangular die, in capitals: LAF, *L(ucius) A(...)* *F(...)*⁴⁷

26. *Ibid.* (*Londinium*, TQ 32490 81120), 72–75 Cheapside/83–93 Queen Street. Incomplete lead sealing with remains of the hole for a cord, found⁴⁸ in 1990. One face is impressed with a rectangular die, in capitals with an ‘arrow’ above and a ‘palm’ below: [...]*V*ST, [*E*]ust(...)⁴⁹

NORFOLK

27. **Narford** (TF 77 13) (FIG. 17). Incomplete silver finger-ring (Henig type X1), external diameter 23 mm, with rectangular bezel 12 by 9 mm, recorded⁵⁰ in 2013. Inscribed on the bezel: DEM, *de(o) M(...)* or *de(ae) M(...)*. ‘To the god (or goddess) M(...)’⁵¹



FIG. 17. Narford, silver ring-bezel (No. 27). (Photo: PAS)

⁴⁵ During excavation by MoLA (site director Sadie Watson, senior archaeologists Jessica Bryan and Michael Tetreau) of the site of Bucklersbury House for Bloomberg in advance of redevelopment. 200 iron writing-stili were also found. The tablets were made available by Julian Hill, senior post-excavation manager, and will be published as a Museum of London monograph. In deference to the sponsor’s wishes, none of the texts already drawn and transcribed can be presented here.

⁴⁶ During excavation (LYD 88) by MoLA. Michael Marshall made it available.

⁴⁷ This die is not found in *RIB* II.1, 2411 (lead sealings), in which there are many instances of *tria nomina* abbreviated to their three initials. Some are directly associated with military units, and must be the initials of officers. The initials LAF are those of a cavalry decurion engaged in the building of Hadrian’s Wall (*RIB* 1445), but this may only be a coincidence.

⁴⁸ During excavation (CID 90) by MoLA published as J. Hill and A. Woodger, *Excavations at 72–75 Cheapside/83–93 Queen Street, City of London* (1999). Michael Marshall made it available.

⁴⁹ The reading can be restored from *RIB* II.1, 2411.266 (London), a complete example of the same die. Various abbreviated personal names of Greek derivation are possible, including *Eustathius*.

⁵⁰ PAS ref. NMS-DE40B2.

⁵¹ The most likely god is Mercury (to whom other silver rings are explicitly dedicated; see *RIB* II.3, 2422.20, 29 and 30), but Mars and Minerva are also possible. DE is difficult as an abbreviated *de(o)* when D would have been sufficient, but easier as a ‘vulgar’ reduction of *de(ae)*, which means that Minerva must be considered. However, IN DE for *in de(o)* is found on the Silchester gold ring (*RIB* II.3, 2442.14) because space ran out.

28. Near **Swaffham** (FIG. 18). Silver disc 11 mm in diameter, probably a finger-ring bezel, found⁵² in 2013. Engraved in intaglio with a diademed head facing right, surrounded by the retrograde legend: ANTONI VIVAS IN DEO, *Antoni uiuas in deo*. ‘Antonius, may you live in God.’⁵³



FIG. 18. Near Swaffham, silver probable ring-bezel (No. 28). (Photo: PAS)

NORTHUMBERLAND

29. **Vindolanda** (NY 768 663). Cylindrical lead weight (sf 13868), 32–34 mm in diameter, 16 mm thick, weight 154 gm, found⁵⁴ in 2013. Inlaid on one face in copper wire: S, *s(emis)*. ‘Half (a pound).’⁵⁵

30. Ibid. Four conjoining fragments of a ridge tile (sf 16662), found in 2012. Impressed with a rectangular stamp almost complete: LEGVIV, *leg(io) VI V(ictrix)*.⁵⁶

31. Ibid. (FIG. 19). Rim sherd of a South Spanish oil amphora (Dressel 20, sf 17876), found in 2013. Incised after firing in diagonal strokes: [...]*M VIII, m(odii) VIII*. ‘8 modii.’⁵⁷

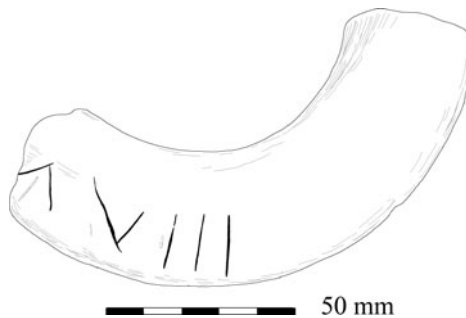


FIG. 19. Vindolanda, amphora graffito (No. 31). (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

⁵² PAS ref. NMS-0B5BB1, identified by Adrian Marsden. It was declared Treasure and acquired by Norwich Castle Museum (acc. no. NWHCM:2014.13).

⁵³ Only S is correctly reversed; N, D and E are not. NT is ligatured. The Christian legend VIVAS IN DEO is engraved rectograde on gold finger-rings from Silchester (*RIB* II.3, 2442.14) and Brancaster (*ibid.*, 15), but a silver finger-ring and a silver disc both from Silchester provide better parallels of a bezel engraved with a head facing right and retrograde legend (*ibid.*, 25 (IVL BELLATOR VIVAS) and 42 (VIVAS)).

⁵⁴ With the next nine items during excavation by the Vindolanda Trust directed by Andrew Birley, who made them available with other graffiti of less than three letters, which are not included here.

⁵⁵ *RIB* II.2, 2412 (at p. 1) accepts a figure of 327.45 gm for the Roman pound (*libra*), which would make this example 4.5 per cent underweight, but it compares closely with *ibid.*, 81 (153.38 gm), 83 (157.83 gm) and 84 (157.21 gm).

⁵⁶ *RIB* II.4, 2460.48, assuming the diagnostic middle stroke of E has not registered completely. The die has already been found at Vindolanda, *ibid.* (vii). Two fragmentary stamps of Leg VI V were also found in 2012 (sf 16633 and 16663), and two more in 2013 (sf 17357 and 17633).

⁵⁷ There is apparently a third stroke between the two surviving strokes of M, but it is probably casual, since numerical notes of capacity in *m(odii)* are often found here on Dressel 20. They mostly range from seven to eight *modii*, with or without a fraction: see *RIB* II.6, 2494, p. 33. One *modius* was equivalent to 8.754 litres.

32. Ibid. (FIG. 20). Base sherd of a samian bowl (sf 17130), found in 2013. Scratched underneath after firing within the foot-ring: [...]~~AND~~, perhaps [*C*]and(*idus*).

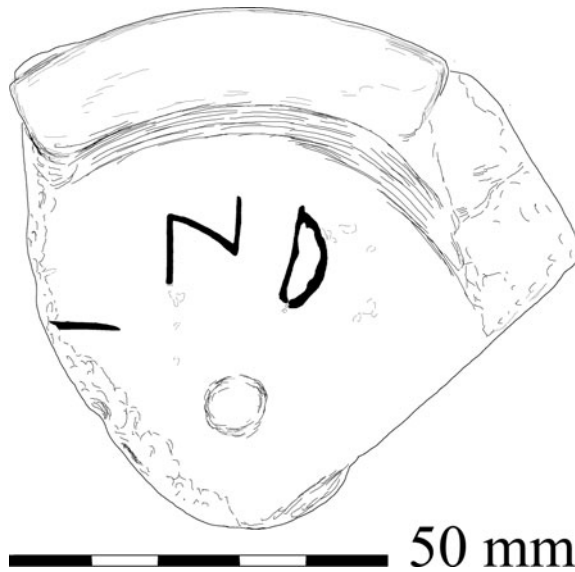


FIG. 20. Vindolanda, samian graffito (No. 32). (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

33. Ibid. (FIG. 21). Rim sherd of a samian platter (sf 16703), found in 2012. Scratched below the rim after firing: PRI[...], probably *Pri*[*mus*] or a cognate name.



FIG. 21. Vindolanda, samian graffito (No. 33). (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

34. Ibid. (FIG. 22). Samian rim sherd (sf 17424), found in 2012. Coarsely incised after firing: [...]TALI[...], perhaps [...]tali[us]⁵⁸

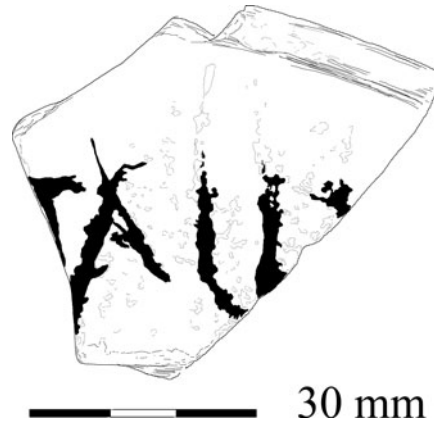


FIG. 22. Vindolanda, samian graffito (No. 34). (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

35. Ibid. (FIG. 23). Samian (S.G.) base sherd (sf 16956), found in 2012. Scratched underneath after firing: [...]VŞPO[...], perhaps [...]i]us Po[...].⁵⁹

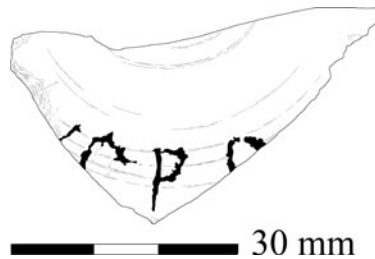


FIG. 23. Vindolanda, samian graffito (No. 35). (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

36. Ibid. (FIG. 24). Two conjoining wall sherds of a pink coarseware vessel, found in 2013. Inscribed before firing in fluent cursive letters: [...] | [...] non[...] | [...]hisolaplac[...] | [...] extingunt[...], apparently [...] non [...] | [... mi]hi sola plac[e...] | [...] exting(u)unt[...]. '... not (she or you or they) alone please(s) me ... (they) extinguish (or are extinguished) ...'⁶⁰

⁵⁸ There is quite a good trace of the downstroke of T in the broken edge. I widens towards the foot, and the corner of the next letter survives in the break. It looks more like V than S, although the name *Vitalis* is very common. Possibilities include *Natalius* and *Vitalius*.

⁵⁹ The first two letters are incomplete, but the angle of the first suits V better than I or N. The sequence VSPO suggests the end of one name and the beginning of another, i.e. nomen and cognomen.

⁶⁰ Line 2 is metrical, and it may be conjectured that the graffito is part of a poem perhaps amatory. The verb in 2, if present indicative, could be second-person *plac[es]*, or third-person singular *plac[et]* or plural *plac[ent]*. The adjective *sola* would thus be feminine singular or neuter plural, but an attractive restoration is [*tu mi]hi sola plac[es]*, 'you alone please me'. The verb in 3 is active *exting(u)unt*, or passive *exting(u)unt[ur]*.



B



FIG. 24. (a) and (b). Vindolanda, coarseware graffito (No. 36). (Photographed and drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

37. Ibid. (FIG. 25). Black burnished rim sherd (sf 16725), found in 2012. Scratched below the rim after firing: [...]DIORTIŞ[...]⁶¹

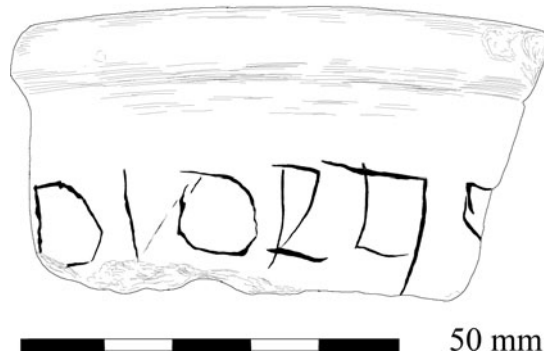


FIG. 25. Vindolanda, black burnished ware graffito (No. 37). (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

38. Ibid. Abraded pink coarseware sherd (sf 17931), found in 2013. Scratched after firing: [...]MAV[...], perhaps *Mau[rus]*.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

39. **Collingham** (SK 83 61). Circular bezel and shoulders of a silver finger-ring (Henig type VIII), recorded⁶² in 2011. Inscribed on the bezel: TO⁶³

40. **Walkeringham** (SK 76 92) (FIG. 26). Silver finger-ring (Henig type XI), recorded⁶⁴ in 2010. Incised within a rectangular panel formed by diagonal hatching: TOT



FIG. 26. Walkeringham, silver ring-bezel (No. 40). (Photo: PAS)

⁶¹ The letters are quite carefully formed capitals and well-preserved, and the reading looks certain, but there is no obvious restoration.

⁶² PAS ref. SWYOR-B1D197 (Daubney 71).

⁶³ TOT abbreviated. The inscription is complete and fills the bezel.

⁶⁴ PAS ref. SWYOR-D86B87 (Daubney 73).

41. **Carlton** (SK 60 41) (FIG. 27). Silver finger-ring (Henig type XI), recorded⁶⁵ in 2011. Incised within a rectangular panel: DMT, *D(eo) M(arti) T(outati)*. ‘To the god Mars Toutatis.’⁶⁶



FIG. 27. Carlton, silver ring-bezel (No. 41). (Photo: PAS)

SOMERSET

42. **Banwell** (ST 39 59), Roman cemetery (FIG. 28). Rim sherd of a fourth-century Oxfordshire mortarium (Young type C100), found⁶⁷ in 2012. Scratched after firing on the outer wall: NO[...], *No[...]*⁶⁸

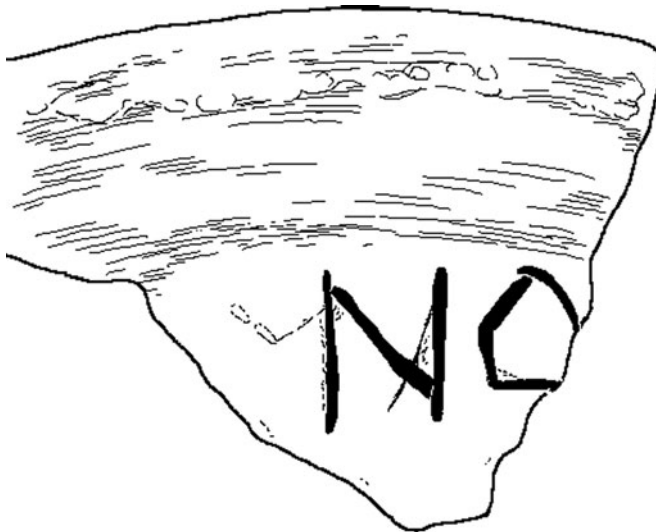


FIG. 28. Banwell, mortarium graffito (No. 42). (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin from a photograph)

⁶⁵ PAS ref. DENO-8EAFE4 (Daubney 74).

⁶⁶ For the same legend, see *RIB* II.3, 2422.22 (Benwell), where a dedication to Mars Toutatis is regarded as likely, but two other possibilities are suggested. They should now be withdrawn.

⁶⁷ During excavation by Border Archaeology in advance of a water pipeline. Information from Jane Timby, who sent a photograph.

⁶⁸ The owner's name, but there are too many possibilities to guess what it was.

SURREY

43. **Flexford** (SU 93734 50967), rural Roman settlement (FIG. 29). Fragment of a copper-alloy everted rim, 89 by 26 mm, 1.5 mm thick, found⁶⁹ in 2013. Inscribed on the underside in good capitals: [...].X 7 PATR 7 LIB 7 [...], perhaps [... *e]x patr(imonio) lib(ens) ...]. ‘... willingly, from his own property.’⁷⁰*



FIG. 29. Flexford, copper-alloy rim (No. 43). (Photo: David Calow)

WILTSHIRE

44. **Leigh** (SU 07 93) (FIG. 30). Copper-alloy rim fragment, 27.5 mm wide, 2.8 mm thick, apparently of a large round plate, found⁷¹ in 2007. The gently curving bottom edge is original, and is respected by the incised decoration which encloses one surviving letter: R[...]

⁶⁹ In controlled metal-detecting during excavation by Surrey Archaeological Society, directed by David Calow, who sent full details. For the site, see *Britannia* 43 (2012), 349–50. The find-spot was subsequently excavated, showing that the fragment had been found in an occupation deposit containing Roman pottery and tile, over the undisturbed fill of a ditch which had previously been excavated 10 m away, where it contained pottery dated between A.D. 250 and 400.

⁷⁰ There may be trace of E before X, but this is uncertain. The stop after PATR is very faint. LIB is a common abbreviation for *libertus* ('freedman'), but cannot be linked to a conjectural [*e]x patr(ono)* ('former patron'). The expansion suggested here is more likely, although there is no British example of the phrase *ex patrimonio (suo)*: it occurs in dedicatory inscriptions in Lusitania and Baetica. *lib(ens)* would then suggest a variant of the *u(otum) s(oluit) l(ibens) m(erito)* formula, and imply that the vessel was dedicated to a deity. The site is within 2 km of the Roman temples at Wanborough, but no direct connection has yet been established.

⁷¹ By metal-detector, PAS ref. NMGW-C4CF26. It looks Roman, but is too fragmentary to be identified.



FIG. 30. Leigh, copper-alloy rim (No. 44). (Photo: PAS)

NORTH YORKSHIRE

45. **York** (*Eboracum*, SE 6075 5185), Hungate (FIG. 31). Four sherds of a straight-sided colourless glass cup (late second/early third century), found⁷² in 2008–11. Inscribed below the rim in carefully-cut capitals, two rim sherds conjoin and read [...]**L**ISSO[...].⁷³ A third rim sherd preserves the tip of an unidentifiable letter, and a wall sherd the letter [...]**S** followed by an engraved hand and arm.⁷⁴

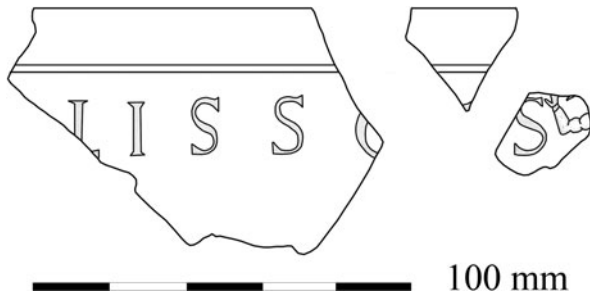


FIG. 31. York, inscribed glass (No. 45). (Drawn by Hilary Cool)

⁷² During excavation by York Archaeological Trust directed by Peter Connelly (see *Britannia* 40 (2009), 237). A drawing and full details were sent by Hilary Cool.

⁷³ It is not quite possible to tell from the spacing of the letters, which is slightly irregular, whether LISSO is the beginning of a word, but in other respects this is most unlikely. O is incomplete, but the other possibilities, C, G or Q, cannot have followed SS.

⁷⁴ The sequence LISSO suggests the end of a place-name or masculine personal name in the dative or ablative case, but a place-name like *Porolissum* seems unlikely, whereas *Melissus*, *Hyalissus* or *Ilissus* are quite well-attested personal names. The difficulty is that salutations, for example on 'motto beakers', naturally address the recipient in the vocative case; there is just one instance (*AE* 1982, 750) of the genitive *Melissonis*, which would imply a nominative (and vocative) form *Melisso*, whence a possible [*Me*]lisso [*viva*]*s* ('Long life to you, Melisso'). Much less common is the formulation with the adverb *feliciter* and the dative, whence a possible [*Me*]lisso [*feliciter*] ('Good luck to Melissus'), which would not account for the detached S. In default of good parallels, it is not possible to reconstruct the text.

ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA

(a) **RIB 1054** (South Shields). This badly-weathered altar has been re-examined⁷⁵ and a new reading proposed of line 9: N.LVG[...].JENSM, *n(umerus) [.] Lug(u)[dun]ens(iu)m* ('the military unit at Lugudunum'). In support it can be argued that *Lugudunum* was the original name of South Shields.⁷⁶

(b) **RIB 1749** (Great Chesters). The last line is better read as VIC^a S[...], probably a reference to *uiclos* or *uicani*.⁷⁷

(c) **RIB II.2, 2416.7** (Bishop Norton). The moulded inscription on this lead tank is identical to that of item No. 16 (Lincoln), which allows the maker's name to be restored as *[M(a)lle]do*.

(d) **RIB III, 3268** (South Shields), altar dedicated DEO | ANSV | VITIRI. A better explanation of the 'dyslexic' ANSV has been proposed⁷⁸, that it is the Germanic equivalent of *deo* ('to the god').⁷⁹

(e) **RIB III, 3331** (Queen's Crag) (FIG. 32). A better photograph is now available of this quarry-face inscription.⁸⁰

⁷⁵ By Paul Bidwell, 'The Roman names of the fort at South Shields and an altar to the *Di Conservatores*', in R. Collins and F. McIntosh (eds), *Life on the Limes: Studies of the People and Objects of the Roman Frontiers presented to Lindsay Allason-Jones on the Occasion of her Birthday and Retirement* (Oxford, 2014), 49–58.

⁷⁶ See previous note. The digital scan (ibid., 54, fig. 7.3) strongly supports the sequence LVG, and suggests it was preceded by two letters, one of which was N. The final M, of which there is now no trace, was read by Lister; it is possible that what he saw was actually ligatured *IVM*.

⁷⁷ As noticed by A.R. Birley in commenting on **RIB III, 3117**, at *JRA* 2011, 687, n. 32. **RIB** follows *CIL* vii 742 in reading *VICS*[...], which it understands as *uics[it ...]*, but the medial point was recognised by Collingwood in his drawing. In his note to *CIL* vii 742, Huebner suggested *VICO*, the diminutive *O* being his own interpretation of the medial point, but Collingwood Bruce had already recognised it for what it was in *LS* 287.

⁷⁸ By A.R. Birley, citing G. Köbler, *Germanisches Wörterbuch* (2007), s.v. *ansu*.

⁷⁹ **ansuz* is generally accepted as a pre-Christian Old German term for 'god', whatever its etymology (E.C. Palomé, 'L'étymologie du terme germanique **ansuz* "dieu souverain"', *Études Germaniques* 8 (1953), 36–44); Gothic *ansis*, which Jordanes (*Getica* 13.78) glosses as *semideos* ('demigods'), although an *i*-stem, is probably related (A. Bammesberger, 'Gotisch *ansis* und urgermanisch **ans(u)*', *Beiträge zur Namensforschung* 31.3 (1996), 231–40). The element has been recognised in the names of two uniquely-attested goddesses, *Vihansa* (*CIL* xiii 3592) and *Hariasa* (*CIL* xiii 8185), by S. Gutenbrunner, *Die germanischen Götternamen der antiken Inschriften* (1936), 101–2, but has not been found in any dedicatory formulas. Dedications to 'Veteres' are virtually confined to northern Britain, more than sixty, a concentration which led Eric Birley to conclude that it was a native British deity, not German (*ANRW* II, 18.1, 63). They are typically sub-literate, and *SVACNV* in **RIB** 1458 (Chesters) is apparently only part of the dedicator's name.

⁸⁰ The inscription is north-facing, and in the shadow of overhanging rock, but the photograph in **RIB III** was taken by available light. It has now been photographed with the aid of remote flash.



FIG. 32. Queen's Crags (*RIB* III, 3331), quarry-face inscription. (Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin)

(f) *RIB* III, 3371 (Vindolanda). The miniature altar from Waltham cited in the commentary has now been published.⁸¹

(g) *RIB* III, 3533* (alienum) is the tombstone of a Thracian woman called *Demetrus* whose alternative name was *Eptesucu*.⁸²

⁸¹ M. Henig, 'A miniature altar from Waltham Villa, Whittington', *Glevensis* 46 (2013) or 47 (2014), forthcoming. It carries the same motif of a circle bisected by a transverse line and quartered with a saltire cross. Henig compares two miniature altars from Chedworth (*CSIR* i.7, nos 127 and 128) which carry, respectively, a circle bisected by one and two lines at right-angles (compare *RIB* III, 3448), and a saltire cross between horizontal lines. The 'wheel'-like motifs may have been solar symbols.

⁸² D. Dana, 'Un nom féminin thrace dans une épitaphe de provenance obscure (*RIB* III 3533*)', *ZPE* 190 (2014), 162–3, shows that *DEMETRVS* is not an error for *Demetrius* but the Thracian feminine name *Demetrus*, and that *SEPETESVCV* is not a place-name but a distortion of the Thracian feminine name *Eptesucu*. *NAT THRAEEC* is for *nat(ione) Thraec(ia)*.

ALIENUM

Cuckfield, Highbridge Hill near Ansty (TQ 291 233), West Sussex (FIG. 33). Richly carved marble ash-chest, 0.31 by 0.33 m, 0.29 m deep, thought to have been found there in 1703, but probably an eighteenth-century import. Inscribed: MEMNO, 'Memno(n)'.⁸³



FIG. 33. Cuckfield, marble ash-chest (alienum). (Photo: Bonhams 1793 Ltd)

⁸³ Sold at auction by Bonhams (London) in their Antiquities sale of 3 April 2014 (Lot 70), with details of type and provenance. Despite containing cremated human remains, it would be regarded as a typical 'Grand Tour' import, were it not for the provenance suggested. Similar chests have been attributed to the city of Rome in the Claudian period by F. Sinn, *Stadtrömische Marmorurnen* (1987), 26–7 and 105, nos 54 and 55, with pl. 19.

The chest has been at Ockenden House, Cuckfield, since the eighteenth century, and a British provenance has been deduced from the entry by Timothy Burrell of Ockenden House in his journal for 5 April 1703 (*Sussex Arch. Coll.* 3 (1850), 120) of the discovery on Highbridge Hill of vessels of figured samian with *urna sepulchralis Romana cineribus et ossibus humanis repleta* ('a Roman sepulchral urn full of human ashes and bones'). But the editor of his journal, R.W. Blencowe, comments: 'This must have been a Roman urn with Samian pottery, such as has lately been found on the Downs at Barmer.' The implication is that Blencowe in 1850, whether or not he actually knew of the ash-chest, did not identify it with Burrell's *urna*. Even if the chest could be described as an *urna*, which would be contrary to ancient usage at least, it is still more unlikely that such a sophisticated object would have been imported from Rome into Britain just after the invasion to commemorate a person of Greek (and ultimately Egyptian) name. So it must be supposed that Burrell did indeed record a cremation jar (*urna*), and that his notice somewhat later (after 1850, it would seem) was taken to refer to another, much grander but unprovenanced, funerary container in the collection at Ockenden House.

CHANGES IN LOCATION⁸⁴

(a) **RIB 1068**, ‘now lost’, is now in the Great North Museum, Newcastle upon Tyne (Hancock acc. no. 1956.128.9.A) (FIG. 34). It measures 0.28 by 0.24 m.



FIG. 34. *RIB 1068* in the Great North Museum. (Photo: Scott Vanderbilt)

(b) **RIB 1313**, ‘now lost’, is now in the Great North Museum (Hancock acc. no. 1813.4), but has not been located.

(c) **RIB 1326**, ‘now (1930) in the Black Gate. Sought in vain by R. P. W., 1947’, is now in the Great North Museum (Hancock acc. no. 1956.419.A) (FIG. 35).



FIG. 35. *RIB 1326* in the Great North Museum. (Photo: Scott Vanderbilt)

⁸⁴ The next six items were noted by Scott Vanderbilt when collecting accession-numbers in the Great North Museum for the on-line *Roman Inscriptions of Britain*, but he did not have time to check every location.

(d) **RIB 1406**, in private possession (1960), is now in the Great North Museum (Hancock acc. no. 1956.396).

(e) **RIB 1407**, in private possession (1960), is now in the Great North Museum (Hancock acc. no. 1956.129), but has not been located.⁸⁵

(f) **RIB 1674**, in private possession (1946), is now in the Great North Museum (Hancock acc. no. 1956.426), but has not been located.

FALSA⁸⁶

(a) Red sandstone building-stone, 0.46 by 0.16 m, 0.17 m deep, with adhering mortar (FIG. 36). Part of one long side has been neatly squared off as if to make a facing-stone where two walls met at right-angles. On the opposite side, and off-centre, a rectangular panel 0.175 m wide has been roughly levelled off and outlined.⁸⁷ Incised asymmetrically within this panel: VEX • LEG | XX VV | []F[], *uex(illatio) leg(ionis) | XX V(aleriae) V(ictricis) | f(ecit)*. ‘A detachment of the Twentieth Legion Valeria Victrix made (this).’⁸⁸



FIG. 36. Falsum (a), vexillation inscription. (Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin)

⁸⁵ *RIB 1406* and *1407* belonged to Mr V.L. Benson of Rudchester, who also owned *RIB 1400*. This too may have been given to the Hancock, but an accession-number has not been found.

⁸⁶ The next five items were donated to the Vindolanda Trust by the executors of the author Rodney Legg, from his collection of Romano-British inscribed or carved stones. They are now stored by the Trust at Vindolanda, and the Director, Andrew Birley, made them available. They resemble many informal but genuine small inscriptions, but they have no provenance and show signs of improvisation and implausible details of lettering and content.

⁸⁷ There is some sign that it was intended to cut away the irregular end of the stone, so as to centre the panel, more or less. The third line of text, if it ever existed, was lost except for the tip of F (or E) when the stone broke away along the edge.

⁸⁸ The inscription seems to have been improvised from a stone which had already been used. Its layout, and in particular the indented second line, suggests an attempt to supply the loss of *RIB 1204* (Whitley Castle), but if so, the choice of red sandstone was inept.

(b) Buff sandstone altar, 0.15 by 0.235 m, 0.12 m deep, improvised from a building-stone which was not squared to shape (FIG. 37). A rectangular *focus*, 0.04 by 0.03 m, has been outlined but not finished. Two pairs of horizontal lines extending round both sides mark the die, within which is roughly incised: DEA | BRIGA | NTA, *dea* | *Briga*/*nt*(*i*)*a*. ‘The goddess Brigantia.’⁸⁹



FIG. 37. Falsum (b), altar to Brigantia. (Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin)

⁸⁹ The letters of lines 1 and 2 are *c.* 25 mm in height, but those of 3 only *c.* 10 mm, so as to fit them into the die rather than postpone them until the base. D, the first letter, has been ‘pecked’, but the other letters are incised. This peculiarity is shared by (c), despite the two stones being geologically quite distinct. The inscription must also be condemned for its use of the nominative case, the clumsy insertion of line 3, the form BRIGANTA, and the impression it gives of being improvised. It may have been inspired by two altars now in Leeds City Museum, *RIB* 630 which resembles it and appears to begin with DEAE | BRIGA, and 628 which appears to be dedicated to BRIGANT|A.

(c) Red sandstone altar, 0.15 by 0.23 m, 0.135 m deep, with a shallow round *focus* above (FIG. 38). The die is recessed between simple mouldings which mark capital and base, the base-mouldings not extending to either side. Crudely incised on the die: DEO MAR|TI, *deo Mar/ti*. 'To the god Mars.'⁹⁰



FIG. 38. Falsum (c), altar to Mars. (Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin)

⁹⁰ D, the first letter, has been 'pecked', but the other letters are incised: compare (b). M is not of Roman form. The ligaturing of A and R is clumsy. A 'medial point' divides T from I, although they are linked by a redundant horizontal stroke. I is followed by further redundant 'pecking'.

(d) Buff sandstone altar now blackened by fire, 0.145 by 0.215 m, 0.15 m deep, with an incomplete *focus* 0.06 m square (FIG. 39). The die is indicated by two pairs of scored horizontal lines. On its left side, a 'façade' formed by scored lines. On its right side, crudely carved in relief, a standing male figure with a shield unusually in his right hand and a lance in his left. Incised on the front: DEO | SVCE[L.], *deo / Suce/l[o]*. 'To the god Sucelus.'⁹¹



FIG. 39. Falsum (d), altar to Sucelus. (Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin)

⁹¹ S has been cut twice, and the final O ostensibly lost to damage. L looks rather sharp, and E is not altogether Roman. The cult of Sucellus is well attested in Gallia Belgica and Upper Germany, but the god is represented as holding a mallet (G. Webster, *The British Celts and their Gods under Rome* (1986), 61–2), not as a left-handed warrior. There are only two instances of his name being spelled with one L; one is *CIL* xiii 6224 (Worms), the other is *RIB* II.3, 2422.21 (York), incidentally the only evidence of the cult in Britain, a silver finger-ring found in 1875 which is inscribed DEO SVCELO.

(e) Grey sandstone altar, 0.135 by 0.177 m, 0.11 m deep, with a slightly-indicated *focus* 0.05 by 0.035 m (FIG. 40). Scored mouldings indicate capital and base, between which is a slightly recessed die; it is roughly incised: VETERI|BVS ◦ POS ◦ L | CATIV, *Veteri/bus pos(uit) L | CATIV*. ‘To the Veteres, ... erected (this).’⁹²



FIG. 40. Falsum (e), altar to ‘Veteres’. (Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin)

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⁹² It resembles two small altars found at Vindolanda in 1972, *RIB* III, 3338 and 3339, the formulation VETERIBVS POS being confined to Vindolanda (as also in *RIB* 1699, now lost; the verb is spelled out in *RIB* 1606 at Housesteads). The two dedicators identify themselves by cognomen, LONGI|NVS and SENILIS, unlike the dedicator of (e) who apparently abbreviates his praenomen and nomen, but omits any cognomen, that is if L | CATIV is meant to be *L(ucius) Catiu(s)*. Such a nomenclature is improbable.