

A CATALOGUE OF THE  
**ROMAN INSCRIBED STONES**  
FOUND IN THE CITY OF LINCOLN

By ARTHUR SMITH, F.L.S., F.E.S.  
Curator of the City and County Museum  
Lincoln



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## PREFACE.

For more than a century records of Roman inscribed stones in Lincoln appear in many important Archæological publications and in articles on the subject in the Journals of learned Societies.

I beg to acknowledge the use of such works in the compilation of this catalogue, which is intended to be a complete list of locally found examples.

Several of the fragmentary stones have disappeared in the past for lack of sufficient care in their preservation.

It is hoped that any inscribed stones that may be unearthed in the future will be immediately notified to the City and County Museum to avoid a similar fate.

The subject was recently dealt with in a series of articles in the "*Lincolnshire Echo*" and requests for a more permanent record have induced me to re-write and publish in a more compact form.

For this purpose I am indebted to Mr. W. E. Rippon for the use of the illustrations reproduced from my rough sketches.

Mr. T. D. Kendrick has helped me with information regarding the inscribed stones of this period found in Lincoln and preserved in the British Museum.

In particular I express my gratitude to Mr. R. G. Collingwood for his expert assistance throughout the compilation of this catalogue, for his willing help in reading and correcting it before going to press and for an "Introduction" from his own pen.

*Lincoln*, 1929.

ARTHUR SMITH.

## INTRODUCTION.

by R. G. COLLINGWOOD, M.A., F.S.A.

A collection of Roman inscribed stones, such as this to which Mr. Arthur Smith has written a guide, is not merely a collection of interesting, and sometimes pathetic, relics of a long past age. It is also a collection of historical documents, official and unofficial, which tell us more than anything else can about the life people lived, the way they were governed, their trade, their religion, and a hundred other things which without the help of such documents we could only guess at. For although the Romans have left us a great literature, much of it consisting of historical works, this literature is mostly concerned with Rome itself, and tells us little or nothing about the provinces and frontier-districts of the Empire. Caesar has told us how he conquered the Gauls and invaded Britain, but no writer has told us how the Gauls got on after being conquered, or how the ancient Britons (of whose early lessons in Roman citizenship we may read in the pages of Tacitus) passed the three hundred and fifty years during which they were part and parcel of the Roman world. Yet we know a good deal about these matters; and we owe the knowledge almost entirely to the science of archaeology, the science, that is, which reconstructs history from fragments of the past. These fragments are of many kinds—coins, pottery, tools, weapons, implements, ruins of buildings, and so forth; but, in the case of the Roman period, the most important is inscriptions. The reason for this is that the Romans were in the habit of making inscriptions on stone or metal in order to record all kinds of events which we record on paper; and therefore a collection of Roman inscriptions serves the historian in the same way in which he would use a library or public record office or file of newspapers in dealing with the history of recent events.

Examples may be seen in this catalogue. The first two inscriptions here described are milestones; and Roman milestones were not mere indications of distance—indeed, they sometimes had no distance written upon them at all—but also, and primarily, official documents stating that the road in question was built by a certain Emperor. When the road was rebuilt or extensively repaired, the Emperor who did the new work might, and often did, destroy the old milestones and put

up new stones of his own. An ostentatious and conceited Emperor would, of course, lose no opportunity of doing this, and a modest one would often prefer to leave his predecessors' milestones standing, however much he had done to the road; but as a rule one can assume that an Emperor who has left many milestones behind him was an Emperor who cared much for the upkeep of these great roads on which not only the movements of the Roman armies, but the efficiency of Roman trade and therefore the wealth of the Roman world depended. And it is especially interesting to see, as we can see from the first inscription in Mr. Smith's catalogue, how the usurper Victorinus, although not a legitimate Emperor, justified his position by repairing the roads in the neighbourhood of Lincoln, as he did in many other places.

Other inscriptions tell us about the religion of the Romans. The only complete and legible example of this kind at Lincoln is the altar, No. 3. This is remarkable as a relic of Emperor-worship, that curious institution so characteristic of the Roman world, expressing as it did the feeling that the ruler of so mighty an empire was something more than a mere man, a god on earth, come to save and protect his people. It was an idea that naturally challenged comparison with the central doctrine of Christianity, and for that reason there was nothing about which the early Christians were more strict than their refusal to take part in the worship of the Emperors.

But most of the inscriptions at Lincoln—including in that number those which are now either lost or removed to another place—are tombstones. At first sight one might suppose that little history is to be learnt from tombstones; but this is by no means the case. Number 5 tells us of a Gaulish family from about 80 miles south-east of Paris, who came and settled in Lincoln in the early days of its life as a Roman town. This gives us some idea of the way in which Roman subjects travelled about and found homes far from the place of their birth. The same lesson is taught by number 7, which is the tombstone of a Greek. These were civilians; it is not surprising to find that soldiers like the persons recorded in numbers 9, 10, 11, and 12, were all from foreign countries—one from Spain, one from Macedonia, one from Hungary and one from the south of France. It is also of importance to notice that no less than five of the tombstones mention the Ninth Legion, and four of these are tombstones of soldiers in that legion. Now the Ninth Legion was one of those which came over to Britain in the original army of conquest under the Emperor Claudius in A.D. 43; and we know that it suffered very severely in the campaigns

that followed, and was finally cut to pieces about the year 117. From about A.D. 70 or 75 until that final disaster it lay in garrison at York; and therefore these tombstones are of great value as evidence of the period when it was in garrison at Lincoln, before moving northward. It must have been about A.D. 45 that Lincoln became the fortress of the Ninth Legion, and this it continued to be for 25 or 30 years. It is to this period that we must ascribe numbers 6, 9, 10, and 21.

After Lincoln ceased to be a legionary fortress, it became a civil town with the status of colony. A Roman colony was a town inhabited by time-expired soldiers from a legion, who were given plots of land to cultivate in the neighbourhood. It is commonly said that the name Lincoln preserves the title *colonia* in its second syllable, so that Lincoln is short for Lindum Colonia; but there are difficulties about this, and it is safer not to rely on that argument for the ancient status of the city. But here again the inscriptions come to our aid. In number six we are told that the deceased was a citizen of Lindum, and that her husband was a decurion. In this connexion, the word cannot mean that he commanded a squadron of cavalry. In that case his corps would have been mentioned. It can only mean that he was a decurion in the civil sense, that is, a city councillor, a member of the local senate which existed at every colony.

Lincoln was therefore one of the chief towns of Roman Britain. Standing on its hill and commanding a wide view over the neighbouring plains, it was at first a mere stronghold, later a peaceful, though no doubt a fortified and defensible city. The line of its walls can still be traced, and one of its gates, the Newport Arch, is still standing. The centre of a fertile and wealthy district, it must have been a flourishing place, far smaller indeed than it is now—in those days a town of this kind would hardly have more than perhaps 5,000 inhabitants—but then, as now, the undisputed capital of all the country that is to-day Lincolnshire. In the fourth century, we are told, three bishops came from Britain to attend the Council of Arles (A.D. 314); and one of these was the Bishop of Lincoln. This statement shows that Lincoln retained its importance down to the latest age of Roman Britain. Whether the Roman town survived the coming of the Anglo-Saxons we do not know, and perhaps we never shall; but it is at least possible that the present city has a history stretching back without a break for close on nineteen centuries, to the time when it was founded by the men of the Ninth Legion.

## I. MILESTONES.

1. The best known inscribed stone found in Lincoln is a Roman Milestone. It has been referred to in many publications of archaeological interest, but the story of its disinterment, after being buried for many centuries, can best be told by Mr. J. T. Thacker, of Burton-road, who had more than a little to do with its preservation.

Extensive excavations were in progress to improve the drainage system in the City in 1879, and Bailgate was the scene of operations. Mr. Thacker was in the employ of Mr. Rosser, grocer, in Bailgate, who was desirous of acquiring stones to place in the garden behind his premises. On April 2nd, 1879, the foreman of the navvies reported that they had got out a stone weighing about a ton. He also stated that several men were needed to bring it to the surface, and he wanted a sovereign to remunerate them. Mr. Rosser being confined to his room by illness, Thacker went to examine the stone that was lying in Gordon-road. He reported to his master, and the stone was duly delivered at the garden, where Mr. Thacker and a friend cleaned it and brought to light the inscription.

The discovery interested them, and another friend was told of it. Being a verger at the Cathedral he in turn conveyed the news to Precentor Venables, who persuaded Mr. Rosser to allow it to be taken to the Cathedral until a Museum was provided for the City.

The milestone is seven feet four inches in height, sixteen inches wide across the face, and twelve inches in thickness. The angles of the stone are rounded almost to the base, the inscription is on the upper part of the column. At first the deciphering of the letters seemed hopeless, but fortunately, the Rev. Prebendary Wordsworth was on a visit to his father, and being familiar with the subject, deciphered it. For many years it stood near the stairway in the Cathedral cloisters. In the early part of 1907 it was removed with some other remains of the same period, by the generosity and interest of the Dean and Chapter to the City and County Museum.

The milestone was unearthed opposite to the "Lion and Snake" Inn, Bailgate, a spot that suggests it stood in the

centre of the Roman City at the intersection of the roads that passed through the four gateways of the walled fortress. The inscription is in the abbreviated Latin commonly found on inscribed stones of the period.

This may be construed into English as follows:

*"To the Emperor Caesar Marcus Piavonius Victorinus, the pious, fortunate, unconquerable, Augustus, Chief Pontiff, invested with tribunician power, father of his country. From Lindum to Segelocum, XIV miles."*

Segelocum is identified with Littleborough-on-Trent.

Victorinus (A.D. 268-270) was one of the Emperors who ruled in Gaul when the Roman Empire was temporarily split up during the late third century. Though technically usurpers, the Gaulish Emperors were vigorous and successful rulers.

The rendering of the inscription as given here is one carefully made by the late Professor Haverfield, and the writer, soon after it had been set up in the lower room of the City and County Museum. Mr. Collingwood has more recently examined it and confirms the reading.



THE INSCRIPTION ON THE ROMAN MILESTONE.



2. There appears to have been no record made at the time of the discovery of the other milestone, that of Valerianus; and unless there may be some note in an obscure corner, the actual account and date of its disinterment will never be known. Its story is the more interesting from the fact that it was again lost for several years.

The late Mr. H. Leeds, who will be remembered by many as the Parliamentary agent for the Liberal Party in Lincoln, was also a keen archaeologist, and never tired of showing visitors to the City many of the less prominent, though none the less valuable things of interest. He was one of the most frequent visitors to the Museum, and in its early days informed the Curator of several locally found antiquities that later became accessions. It was in 1908 that he came into the Museum and reported, with considerable anxiety, that a Roman inscribed stone, which for years had been fixed in a window recess at the end of the hall of St. Mary's Guild, had been removed. The Curator, with nothing more to assist him, began enquiring about the missing stone.

For a long time the result was not very encouraging, several people were met with who remembered "something about it," but could give no description or helpful information. Among the many who were asked about the slab was the late Mr. W. Merrills, a road-foreman in the employ of the City Council, who made an interesting statement that in the light of later events certainly appeared to refer to the finding of the stone. He remembered that many years before there had been several excavations, at different times, in Sibthorp-street and in the High-street adjacent to it. Unfortunately, he could not give any reliable date or call to mind with certainty which excavation resulted in unearthing a long, heavy stone. The stone was cut in two pieces, one of which was put up at the side of the buildings in High Street. Sure enough a stone was there.

What became of the other part—the part which had disappeared from St. Mary's Guild Hall—Merrills could not tell. Then came a conversation with an "old inhabitant" who "called to mind" that the late Vicar had noticed that the stone in the window was weathering and suggested it be taken out for preservation.

Mr. C. C. Sibthorp, the owner of the property, was approached, but could not at the time find out anything about it, but in the summer of 1909, having become interested in the

search, he reported to the Curator that there was an inscribed stone in the gardens at Canwick Hall, and he would consider presenting it to the City and County Museum. As a matter of diplomacy the matter was left until the following February, a period when the removal of a heavy stone across flower beds and lawn would be less objectionable. The stone was then readily given to the Museum, and the donor had it conveyed to that institution. Though another inscription had been secured for the collection it was not the one being searched for.

Again Mr. Sibthorp assisted in the quest, and a little later found the much desired stone at Sudbrooke, where it was discovered, half buried face downwards where it had been unloaded at its removal from Lincoln. It was fortunate that the inscription was downward, so preserving the lettering, but the rough side of the stone being uppermost had misled previous searchers until it was turned over and the lost milestone re-discovered. On its arrival at the Museum examination seemed to justify the statement of Mr. Merrills.

In the original condition it was similar in form and dimensions to the milestone found in Bailgate. It would appear that the decision to place it in the wall of St. Mary's Guild was made immediately after its discovery. The inscribed portion was sawn off, and its thickness reduced by trimming the back evidently to fit it into the window recess. The reason for its removal from the exposed position in Sibthorp Street was very evident. A large fossil in the block of native limestone had responded to the weather, and split from the face of the stone, obliterating three or four of the letters. There was, however, quite sufficient to read the interesting inscription which was examined and verified by the late Professor Haverfield.

A translation into English would read:—

*“In the reign of (or, in honour of) the Emperor Publius Lacinus Valerianus, pious, fortunate, Augustus, Chief Pontiff, holding the tribunician authority; father of his country.”*

The Emperor Valerian (A.D. 253-259) was captured in 259 by the Parthian King Sapor, whose dominions he was invading and passed the rest of his life in captivity.

Below this is a detached letter R. In the absence of any numerals it is believed to indicate that this milestone was the first one on the way to RATÆ. The modern name of that city is Leicester, an important town on the Foss Way, where many evidences of Roman occupation have been discovered.



ROMAN MILESTONE OF VALERIANVS.

RIB 2240

## II. ALTARS.

3. During the excavations for the foundations of the tower and spire of St. Swithin's Church, Lincoln, a Roman altar was discovered. On March 12th, 1884, the workmen, at a depth of some thirteen feet, found the stone, face downwards.

Apart from a certain amount of damage at the top, the altar is perfect, the inscription as clear-cut as when it received the finishing touches of the sculptor. Its preservation is probably due to its having been overthrown and buried in the Roman period, before it had been very long in existence. In addition, by lying face downward, it escaped the accidental mutilation

that might have been the result of the workman's pick on first coming in contact with the stone.

The altar is of local limestone, is over three feet in height, twenty-two inches at the top and an inch less across the base. The central portion bearing the inscription is seventeen inches across the face, and from back to front measures fifteen inches.

Each of the sides is carved, one with an ewer, and the other with a patera, both in relief.

Professor Haverfield transcribes and extends the inscription as follows:—

*Parcis Deabus Et  
Numinibus Augustorum  
Gaius Antistius Fron-  
tinus Curator Tertium  
Aram De Svo Dedit,*  
and translates it:

*"To the Goddesses the  
Fates, and to the deities  
of the emperors, Gaius  
Antistius Frontinus,  
thrice curator, gave this  
altar at his own ex-  
pense."*

Regarding the sixth line of the inscription Mr. Collingwood says:—

"Many kinds of officers in the Roman army were called Curatores. A possible explanation of the title as here used is that Frontinus was a centurion in a legion (Lincoln being a colony

for legionaries; I do not think the altar is as early as the time when the Ninth Legion actually lay in garrison there) and had three times been "seconded" to temporary command of an auxiliary cohort. These cohorts were normally commanded by tribunes or prefects, according to size; but at times, perhaps because no officer of the required rank was available at the moment, we find them commanded or 'cared for' by a centurion from a legion.

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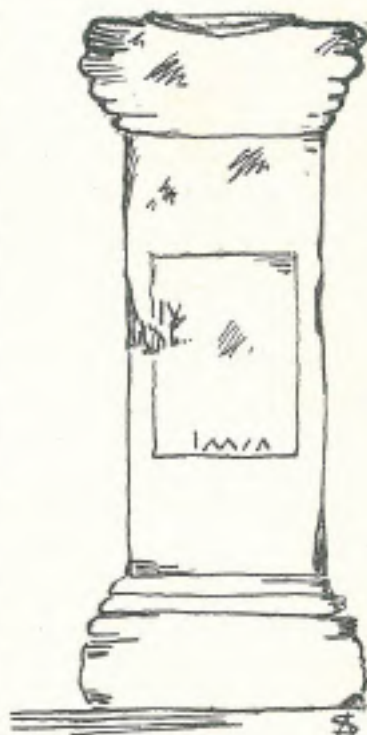


"In cases like these the centurion, though called centurio from the point of view of his legion, seems to have been called curator from the point of view of his temporary command." This explanation, however, is not certain, and does not seem to hold good in all cases.

4. Another altar of smaller dimensions was unearthed while preparing for mining operations at the Mid-Lincolnshire Ironstone Company's works at the eastern border of the City in 1924.

It is twenty-four inches in height, and the base and cap are nine inches wide and five inches thick. On the top of the cap there is a hollow in which was placed the "sacred flame." There is a rectangular recess on the face of the pillar that once bore an inscription. Unfortunately this has been obliterated, or it would most probably have told the name of those who set it up. When Mr. Collingwood examined this altar he saw at the beginning traces of the words *Genio Loci* "To the genius of the place." At the end a few letters 'IMIA' convey nothing to help to fill in the lost inscription.

This seems to have been the small altar of a private house, and may have been associated with the many finds of the same period, a little to the south, that undoubtedly prove extensive buildings existed for a long time on the site between Monks Road and the Greetwell Road.



## III. SEPULCHRAL INSCRIPTIONS.

5. Of all the Roman inscribed stones now existing at Lincoln, this was probably the first to be discovered, as it has been known ever since the Anglo-Saxon period, when a second inscription was cut upon it.

It no doubt owes its preservation to the position in which it has been placed, where it may be seen by every passer-by, built into the tower of St. Mary-le-Wigford's Church. Where it was first found will never be known, but it must have been in one of the cemeteries outside the Roman town.

In shape it is much like the many memorial slabs found on the sites of Roman interments, with a gabled top and panel recessed for an inscription. The Anglo-Saxon letters are chiselled on the pointed or gabled part of the stone and are curious in commencing at the bottom of the gable and finishing at the peak, where a fractured indent may have once been the symbol of the cross as seen in Maurice Johnson's drawing of the inscription.

It would seem that in Saxon times there was one named Eartig (or some such name), who caused a church to be erected in Lincoln. For the dedication stone he took a Roman memorial, and whether from superstition or sympathy he avoided mutilating the existing inscription, and only used the upper un-inscribed portion. This Saxon dedication has never been interpreted satisfactorily, and awaits the examination of an expert Anglo-Saxon scholar.

A suggested translation runs:

*"Eartig had me built and endowed to the praise of Christ and St. Mary."*

The finding and the preservation of this Roman memorial is therefore due to Eartig, and the date of its discovery somewhere back in the Saxon period. Stukeley noticed this inscription when he visited Lincoln in 1722. Another visitor, Horsley, referring to this slab says "Lincolnshire affords no inscriptions except at Lincoln itself, and only one original is now remaining there which has any legible letters."

It is evident that two hundred years ago, this was the only inscribed stone of the Roman period known to exist in Lincolnshire.

The slab is four feet, ten inches in height, and three feet in width. The bottom of the stone is broken away with the ending of the inscription, whose remaining portion is quite plain to

read and runs as follows:—

*Dis Manibus; nomini Sacri, Brusci filii, civis Senoni, et Carassoune conjugis ejus et Quinti f(ili) . . . .*

and may be rendered in English as follows:

*"In the memory of the departed; to the name of Sacer, son of Bruscius, a Senonian citizen, and Carassouna his wife and Quintus his son . . . ."*

Mr. Collingwood adds the following comment: "Sacer came from the district of Gaul of which Sens is the capital; Carassouna and Bruscius are, of course, Gaulish names, and one sees how the Romanised Gauls of the period used Roman and native names with perfect indifference. The same thing happened elsewhere; thus Nectovellius son of Vindex, a Brigantian," has his tombstone in the Edinburgh Museum. Sacer was not, I think, a legionary soldier. Had he been, he would have had the tria nomina of the Roman citizen, and called himself Quintus Julius Sacer (or the like) not just Sacer."



6. It was in February, 1909, that an important archaeological discovery was made. The Lincoln City Council had decided to provide a number of cricket pitches on the South Common, and the Commons Warden, Mr. T. Kennington, was superintending the levelling of a mound when his men unearthed some irregularly shaped stones with incised letters. He immediately informed the Curator of the Museum who recognised them to be portions of a Roman inscribed slab.

They were conveyed to the Museum where they were cleaned and fitted together and found to measure nearly four feet in length and about three feet in width.

Originally the stone was much longer as part of the gable-shaped top is missing and the bottom part of it is also absent. In a large recessed panel, however, is a most interesting inscription, perfect except for the two final letters. The letters are exceedingly well formed and as clear cut and readable as when inscribed in the first century of our era. The sharp condition of the cutting shows that the monument was overthrown, and perhaps broken in pieces, before it had stood for many years.

The inscription is in the usual abbreviated form found on most of the Roman inscribed stones. The last two lines stand for *t(estamento) p(oni) i(ussit); h(ic) [s(itus) e(st)]*. On this slab is seen the Latin ere it became a dead language, chiselled in letters, just as we have to-day known to the printer as "Roman type," at a period when that language was then spoken by the people of a widespread empire.

The late Professor Haverfield took considerable interest in the discovery of this stone and translated the inscription as follows:

"*Gaius Valerius, son of Gaius, of the Maecian tribe, soldier of the Ninth Legion, Standard-bearer, in the century of Hospes, aged 35. Service fourteen years. He left instructions in his will for this monument. He lies here.*"

The broken stones and parts of the slab missing suggest that the place of discovery may not have been the spot where the memorial was erected. Possibly it was thrown out at an earlier date when the railway cutting that crosses the South Common

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was excavated, the broken stone becoming covered with earth to form the little hillock in which it was again found. Such memorials were erected along the side of the road and no doubt the remains of Valerius were interred near by as the Roman road crossed the area now the South Common.

7. The published accounts of the finding of this perfect inscribed stone inform us that in 1785, when the ground was levelled on the south side of the northern city wall, about ten feet from it; and slightly to the west of the remains of the north gateway, this slab was discovered about four feet below the surface. The gable form of the upper part is common in such monuments. It is five feet in height, two feet in width and seven inches in thickness. Though blackened with age, it is of the local limestone, and retains the clear-cut letters that are as readable as when first they were chiselled in the recessed, moulded panel in which they are inscribed.

The translation of the inscription may be read:

*To the Divine Dead. Flavius Helius, by birth a Greek, lived forty years. Flavia Ingenua placed (this tablet) to (the memory) of her husband.*

For preservation, the slab was conveyed to the cloisters of the Cathedral, where it remained until the City and County Museum was established when the Dean and Chapter permitted its removal to the Grey Friary in 1907, where it is now on exhibition among many other important remains of the Roman period.

The fact that husband and wife have the same family name suggests that the wife had once been a slave of her husband's, and that he had set her free and married her. A slave on being set free regularly took his master's family name.



8. In a previous paragraph describing the milestone of Valerianus, mention was made of another inscribed stone that was located during the search for the second known milestone to occur in Lincoln. The memorial now to be described was found in 1830 opposite the City Gaol on the premises of the late Alderman Colton, New Road. It was acquired by the late Colonel Sibthorp, M.P., and exhibited during the meeting of the Archaeological Institute at Lincoln in 1848. In the catalogue of exhibits it was erroneously stated that this tombstone was found on the side of the River Witham towards Saxilby. The same publication also renders the reading of the broken top line of the inscription wrongly. After the exhibition the slab was removed to Canwick Hall where it remained until its removal to the Museum at Lincoln in 1909, the gift of Mr. C. Coningsby Sibthorp, J.P.



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The stone is three feet nine inches in height and two feet seven inches in width. Originally it would be some twelve inches taller, the upper portion being broken off. The inscription is clearly cut in a recessed panel.

The translation is:

*"To the Memory of Claudia Chrysis (mis-spelt Crysis) who lived to be ninety years of age, erected by her heirs."*

The large size of the leaf-stops has caused mis-readings in some descriptions. One such rendering of the first line is LQM. Another mis-reading of the same line is DOMO.

The interest of this inscription is that it commemorates the long life of some lady who died and was interred in this

city many centuries ago. There are few evidences of such longevity among those who dwelt in Britain in Roman times.

9. When houses were being built on the Lindum Road in 1830, two inscribed memorial slabs were unearthed whilst preparing the ground for foundations. At that time this important ascent was familiarly known as "New Road," a name given to it when improvements were made to the little more than a rough track that had served to climb the hill for long ages.

One of the stones was that of Claudia Chrysis previously described. The other was made known by Mr. J. S. Padley, on whose property it was discovered opposite the City Gaol.

It was described and figured in the "Gentleman's Magazine" in 1842, and again in the "Archæological Journal" in 1860. There are some unusual features in the letters forming the inscription, that misled the earlier translators into giving the mis-readings published in these accounts. About 1892, Professor Haverfield corrected the previous readings and published them, accompanied with an illustration, in "Roman Inscriptions in Britain, 1892-1893."

The third line had been a problem to early students. Professor Hubner gave *claccludi* explaining this strange form as a blunder, on the part of the sculptor, for *claudii*. "The stone really has," said the late Professor Haverfield, "*babudi*." "What Professor Hubner took for *cl* is a cursive *b*, made in the shape in which it appears in Pompeian scrawls and elsewhere."

In the earlier reading the fifth and sixth lines had been rendered *ispanica leria civ ma*. Professor Haverfield corrected it to read *ispani galeria clunia*.



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The curious shape of the letter *e* is not often met with.

Mr. Collingwood supplies the following translation :

*"(In memory) of Lucius Sempronius Flavinus, private in the Ninth Legion, in the century of Babudius Severus, in the seventh year of his service and thirtieth of his life; a Spaniard of the Galerian tribe from Clunia."*

Clunia is in the upper Douro Valley. The stone measures four feet six inches in height, three feet four inches in width, and is seven inches in thickness. The gabled top is ornamented with an incised geometrical design of semi-circles within a circle; a similar design, but smaller, appears at each side of the gable.

This exceedingly interesting slab was for many years one of the local treasures of the collections in the Museum of the Mechanics' Institute. After the dissolution of that organisation it was sold to the British Museum, much to the regret of present-day students of local history in the city of its discovery. Attached to the wall under the stairway to the Cathedral Library is a cast of the inscribed face of the slab.

10. The most perfect of the locally found inscribed memorial stones of the Roman period was discovered in 1865 at the corner of Salt House Lane, in High Street, Lincoln.

It is seven feet in height, two feet wide, and eight inches in thickness. As usual the lettering is graven in a sunk moulded panel, the only embellishment being three geometrical designs carved on the gabled top.

It records another soldier of the famous ninth legion, and the slab is in the collection among other inscribed stones at the British Museum.

As a typical example of this form of monument it has been reproduced as an illustration in many books on the subject. Generally the drawings have shown E E in the name instead of F E, attributable, no doubt, to being wrongly delineated in the first published drawing and copied in those following.

The inscription may be read:—

*"To Gaius Saufeius, son of Gaius, of the Fabian tribe, from Heraclea, a soldier of the ninth legion, aged forty years, and with twenty-two years' service. He is buried here."*

Heraclea is in Macedonia.



R13  
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11. Another inscribed memorial, set up in bygone days beside the road that entered the city from the south, was found in the year 1849 on the site of what is now Monson-street.

It was discovered at a depth of about seven feet below the surface, broken in pieces. It measures five feet in height and is twenty-seven inches in width. It is one of the most ornamented monumental slabs yet discovered in Lincoln. The carving of the design and the clear cut lettering testify to the excellent craftsman, unknown, but whose work is seen on this stone over eighteen centuries after he had so carefully fashioned it.

The design above the inscription portrays two dolphins and a trident erect between them. The two "adjutrix" legions were raised from the fleet, so that the soldier referred to on this tombstone was a sailor in the Roman navy before he became a member of the "second legion adjutrix." This is the meaning of the nautical symbols. The axe-like implement carved below the inscription may

represent an implement used in preparing the stone.

The inscription reads:—

*"Titus Valerius Pudens, son of Titus, of the Claudian tribe, from Savaria, a soldier of the second legion Adjutrix, the pious and faithful, and in the century of*



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*Dossennius Proculus. Aged thirty years, and with . . . years' service. His heir erected this monument at his own expense. He is buried here."*

The stone is broken away with the part of the inscription that bore the statement of his years of service.

The stone came into the possession of the late Mr. Arthur Trollope who was an enthusiastic collector of local antiquities; as there was then no City Museum he presented it to the British Museum collections in 1853.

A full description appears in the *Archæological Journal* in 1860.

Savaria, also called Claudia Savaria, was a town in Pannonia, about 70 miles south of Vienna; it is now called Szombathely and lies close to the western border of Hungary.

**12.** In the "*Archæological Journal*," 1860, a memorial tablet is illustrated and described as being "brought to light at the west end of the city, in trenching a piece of land belonging to Mr. Cooper."

It lay about two feet from the surface; the dimensions are about 24 inches by 30 inches.

This was in 1859. It is now with other inscribed slabs from Lincoln that are included in the "Trollope" collection at the British Museum.

In shape, the stone differs from those previously described and is of a less massive character.

It commemorates

"*Gaius Julius Galenus, of the Galerian tribe, from Lyons, a veteran of the 6th legion, victorious, dutiful and loyal.*"

The meaning of the last six letters is not clear.

This legion crossed from Germany to Britain about the year A.D. 120. One writer suggests that it landed at the mouth of the Tyne. He argues from the fact that in 1875 an altar dedicated by the legion to

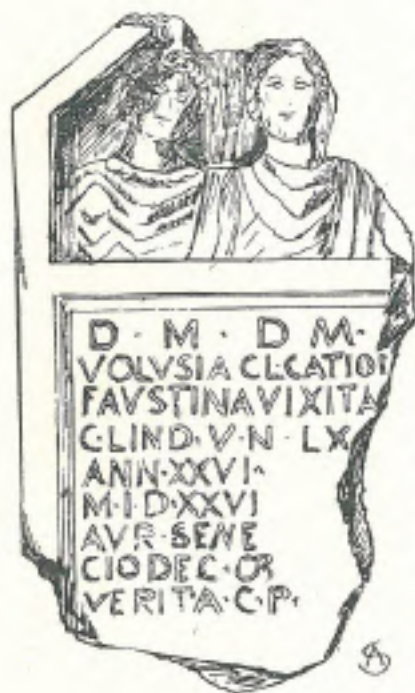


Neptune was found in the river at Newcastle, and "there could be no other reason for such an offering than the satisfactory termination of a voyage." The sixth legion succeeded the ninth at York and there are several inscriptions referring to it that have been found in that City.

The sixth legion had a record of considerable length of service and appears to have been in Britain to the end of the Roman occupation.

**13.** An unusual form of memorial slab is recorded to have been found in Lincoln during February, 1859, "built into the foundations of the walls of the lower Roman town which extended nearly to the river." This would suggest that the roadside interment had been disturbed during the enclosing of the slope of the hill to make an extension to the existing fortress walls and the slab used in the stonework that surrounded it.

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The upper part of the memorial has busts of a man and a woman carved in high relief. Though now defaced to some extent there is every indication that the features and drapery were originally good examples of the Roman sculptor's work.

Though part of the stone is broken away it is clear that the recessed panel contains two inscriptions each of which is prefaced by the letters D M. These are the initial letters of DIS MANIBVS, 'To the divine shades,' which is the formula in general use among the ancient Romans on tombstones.

The rest of the inscription may be translated:  
"Erected by Aurelius Senecio, decurion, to



*his deserving wife Volusia Faustina, a citizen of Lindum, who lived 26 years, 1 month and 26 days; also to Claudius Catiotus (?) . . . who lived sixty years.*

Why Claudius Catiotus and Volusia Faustina should have been buried in the same tomb is not clear. Their names do not suggest that they were closely related. Volusia's husband, Aurelius Senecio, was a member of the city council (*ordo*) of Lincoln, as explained in the Introduction.

The height of the broken slab is about four and a half feet.

It was sold by a Lincoln gentleman to the British Museum where it is exhibited with other inscribed stones of the period. Though most of the inscription is preserved much of one side of the slab is mutilated probably by those who used it as building material.

### III. FRAGMENTS OF INSCRIBED STONES.

14. Among the many sculptured stones of many periods that are preserved in the Cloisters of the Cathedral there is a large slab that was found on the west side of the city in 1882. The stone is three feet nine inches in height, about the same width, and eight inches in thickness. It is the lower half of a massive memorial slab. The upper portion is broken away and lost or perhaps still buried under the property in the Motherby Hill district which ascends the incline along the line of the western rampart of the later extension of the Roman City. The missing portion doubtless bore two or three lines of the inscription including the name of the deceased. The letters on the remaining piece no doubt reads:—

DEC ALAE II  
ASTOR VIXIT  
ANNIS LXX

R13  
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which may be translated

"*decurion of the second Ala of Astures: aged 70.*"

Here the title "decurion" is used not in its civil sense, as in the last inscription, but in its military sense, as an officer of cavalry.

ASTOR(VM) for ASTVR(VM) seems to be an error of cutting: it is an error that re-appears in the text of *Notitia Dignitatum*, where both the First and Second alæ of Astures are mis-spelt Astorum. This regiment was in garrison at Chesters on the Wall of Hadrian. Asturia is in Northern Spain,

where the company of soldiers in which the deceased served was originally raised.

R1B  
272

**15.** Beside the large slab in the cloisters there is another fragment about fifteen inches long from the side of an inscribed slab. One letter N is to be seen and parts of other letters. In any case no useful guess can be made as to the text, but it is important to record even so small a relic of the period for some day more of the slab may be unearthed and a little more of the history of Lindum pieced together.

R1B  
265

**16.** Many years ago a side fragment of an inscribed slab was found near the Cathedral by the late Mr. M. Otter, who took it with other stones to his yard in Rumbold Street where it lay until the Lincoln Museum was opened when it was given to the collection.

It is about two feet in length, sixteen inches wide and seven inches in thickness. Though there are the remains of lines of letters very few can be read with certainty; and Professor Haverfield and Bishop Hicks, after repeated attempts, only made out—with no great confidence—a few words, DVLCISSIMA “sweetest [child?]” ABLATA REPENTE “snatched suddenly from us” and TVA FATA “thy fate.” These words show that the inscription was a verse epitaph probably on a child. At the end the numeral VIII shows that it was probably erected by a soldier of the Ninth Legion.

R1B  
269

**17.** Another fragment in the Lincoln Museum was found in the Temple gardens many years ago. It was acquired by the late Mr. A. G. Webster who gave it to the City and County Museum in 1908. It is part of a large panel which has the remains of the carving of a foliated design that evidently decorated the sides of the tablet. The slab is a thin one and unlike a tombstone. It is one of those discoveries that tells so little but might, if more of the stone had been found, have told so much. The only letters remaining are IND, the last two being joined together. These may well be part of the word LINDUM and the full inscription part of a dedication or record that might have thrown much light on some important event in our City.

The accompanying sketch is of fragments of inscribed stones found in the City.

**18.** The first one is read by Mr. R. G. Collingwood.

*"Marcus Aurelius Primus (or the like), freedman of Marcus Aurelius . . . sumus, aged . . . xxv. (perhaps lxxv.) erected in accordance with his will by his heir, . . . veteran of the 14th Legion."*  
*"Lines 6-7 contained the heir's name."*

It will be seen that some of the words broken away from the slab have been suggested in the translation given. The two fragments of this slab measure thirty-two inches in length, were found in Lincoln 1859 "on the site of Mr. Seely's biscuit factory," and are now with others comprising the Trollope collection in the British Museum.

The Fourteenth Legion came to Britain with the army of conquest in A.D. 43, and stayed until about A.D. 70. It probably had at one time a fortress at Wroxeter, where two of its members were buried; and we know that it greatly distinguished itself in the terrible rebellion of Queen Boudicca ("Boadicea"). This inscription only shows that a member of the legion once came to Lincoln to bury a friend: not that the legion was quartered there, which it certainly was not.

**19.** Another of the Trollope contributions to the British Museum is a portion of a tombstone about two feet four inches in height (II.). It was found in Monson Street in 1849; and refers to a young soldier of the second legion. It reads:—

*"[serving in the] Second Legion called Adjutrix, Pia, Fidelis, in the century of Pontius Proculus, Lucius Lucinius, son of Lucius, of the Galerian tribe, from Salica in Gallia Lugdunensis (lies here): aged 20, he served 2 years."*

RIB  
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I RELIVS  
VS·MAYRE  
SVMI·LIB·  
CINO  
XXV  
SI  
-ENVS VE  
EX·LEG·XIII  
H·E·TEST P

II FORTVNATA  
TAE·EII

III ANIAVE  
IAXIIIIB  
CINXXXV  
-----  
-----

IV VIC·HRVPO MERCVRIVM

V Q·VL·VICTO  
RINVS·MILES  
ISCO

VI C·MILA RSP  
VRO MIL  
-LEG-

VII G·I·AD·RI·F·  
ONTI·PROCV  
LI·L·LICINI·VS·L·EG  
AL·SALICA·LVGA  
NDRVM·XX  
IPENDII

VIII RG·S  
SM·F

RIB  
253

R1B  
264

20. A small fragment (III.) is about fifteen inches of the upper part of a slab and bears the name "*Fortunata, daughter of . . . ta.*" This also is in the British Museum.

R1B  
260

21. Two more fragments are of a memorial (III.); the larger being two feet wide and placed together the reconstructed inscription reads:—

"*Marcus . . . , son of Marcus, from Pisaurum, of the Camilian tribe, a private in the Ninth legion.*" (Pesaro is in Italy).

This and the foregoing inscribed stone are in the Trollope collection in the British Museum.

A small fragment with the letters RC is recorded elsewhere but was afterwards found to be part of the "Marcus" slab and has now been joined to it.

R1B  
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22. Another fragment (V.) is recorded as being "Built into a mediæval wall near Pottergate" and is part of a tombstone of a soldier, Q. Valerius Victorinus. The fragment is about sixteen inches by twelve inches. It will be interesting to know if it is still extant in the City.

R1B  
268

23. Still another (VI.) is described in the "Archæological Journal," 1881, from a letter by Maurice Johnson, dated May 2nd, 1797, as being "found in the ruins of the old town house by workmen digging for sand eight feet deep." "Under the panel there had been some ornamentation described as resembling a vase of flowers."

R1B  
270

24. The last inscription shown in the sketch (VII.) is the fragment of a base and reads:—

VIC HRVPO MERCVRESIVM

presumably from a dedication to Victory by one Thrupo, of the guild of the worshippers of Mercury. In classical Latin the last word would be *Mercurensium*, but in provincial and late Latin the *n* in words of this form is regularly omitted. This inscription, like the last, has disappeared.

R1B  
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25. In Gough's edition of Camden's *Britannia* (1806) is recorded an inscribed tablet "lately found in the wall." The wall being remains of the Roman fortress walls. He gives the inscription thus:—

M LAETII  
F MAX CT  
MI

and translates it:—" *Marcus Laelius AETII Filius Maximo CT (et) Maximo Jovi* " and continues:

"And I suppose it dedicated to the emperor Maximus, who stimulated some soldiers of Aetius to revenge their beloved general's death by the murder of Valentinian III .A.D. 454: but nothing can be concluded by this tablet, supposing my reading and conjecture about its meaning to be true, as I have not yet learnt in what situation it was found in the wall." This is a good example of the absurd interpretations fancifully put upon inscriptions before the days of scientific archæology.

Hübner thought the inscription might have been

M LAETILI

F. MAXSI

MI

" (*in memory*) of *Marcus Laetilius, son of Maximus*," but that is only conjecture; no one can say if it is right, though certainly Hübner was right to explain it as a tombstone. The tablet seems to have entirely disappeared.

All we can do is to perpetuate the memory of the find so that the record, too, is not lost.

**26.** Gough's edition of Camden's *Britannia* also records and illustrates a "hollow moulding stone found on the East Side of the old Roman wall below the hill at Lincoln, on making the new road 1785 lying near a number of large stones, in a situation which seems to imply that they have been thrown down from a considerable building. They were, I think, three or four feet below the surface of the ground; some of them had mouldings not unlike that for the sepulchral stone, but on none of them could be discovered any inscription of letters. These letters are three and a quarter inches long; part of the stone at the beginning about four inches in length and the same in breadth, was chipped off at the beginning of the line large enough to have contained the letter A." The remaining letters on the stone were POLLINES. Gough continues "Had the word been APOLLINI, the S might have been supposed to have begun another word, as SACRUM and the stones to have belonged to the Temple of Apollo." A more probable explanation is that the word stands for APOLLINE(N)S(ES), meaning "members of the Guild of Apollo," a guild of worshippers like that of Mercury in No. 24.

The site of the discovery of this stone was evidently quite near if not actually within the grounds that until quite recently

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were known as Temple Gardens, a name suggestive of some earlier association.

The present whereabouts of this and the following inscription is unknown.

**27.** In Stukeley's account of his visit to Lincoln in 1722 he writes "I saw a pit where they found a stone with an inscription this summer; through age and the workmen's tools it was defaced, only small remains of D.M. and VIX.ANN.XXX., such letters as showed its intent, with carvings of palm trees, and other things."

This fragment is also noticed by Horsley, in his "Britannia Romana," published in 1732. He says "I saw the stone when I was there myself, but was surprised to find it so much wasted since it was exposed to the weather. There is yet a visible stroke or two of a letter remaining, from whence it appears that the letters of the inscription have been of prodigious size. This stone was found in a field behind the house where Lord Hussey was beheaded."

By these published records only do we know of this remnant of an inscription which refers to some unknown person who "lived to be thirty years" and this stone "Sacred to the Memory" was found near St. Mary's Guild in High Street, more popularly known as John of Gaunt's stables.

R13  
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ROMAN INSCRIBED STONES FOUND IN THE CITY OF LINCOLN.—Since the publication, in 1929, of "A catalogue of the Roman Inscribed Stones found in the City of Lincoln" two further examples have been unearthed and bring the known number recorded up to twenty-nine.

28. In August, 1932, a fragment of a tombstone was unearthed in a garden situated north of the east end of Monks Road, on a site east of the City, where considerable remains of buildings and tessellated pavements have been found and now covered with recently built dwelling houses.

The fragment is eleven inches in height. The letters are well cut and distinct and as far as can be deciphered suggest :

*M . . . in . . . Clau . . . anno . . . rogig . . .  
pertulit . . . [prae] terii [t . . .] mo [rs . . .] sic . . .*

The latter part of the inscription are sentiments expressed, it would seem, in metrical form.

This stone was presented to the City and County Museum, Lincoln, by the finder, Mr. A. Wood.

29. In September, 1932, during the re-building of "The Duke of Wellington" Hotel, in Broadgate; the east wall of the enclosure (near the south-east corner) was encountered during excavations for the cellarage. Just within the wall and about ten feet deep, a Roman Altar was found. Made of the local limestone, it measures twenty-nine inches in height, eighteen inches wide and fourteen inches front to back.

Unfortunately the inscription was almost wholly obliterated. A letter *M* is the only distinct letter left. It may be an initial letter and one thinks of *MARTI*.

The altar has been presented to the City and County Museum, Lincoln, by Messrs. Mowbray and Co., Ltd.



FRAGMENT OF TOMBSTONE.  
No. 28.



ALTAR, No. 29.