

Roman inscriptions from Scotland: some additions and corrections to *RIB* I

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Nearly 20 years have elapsed since the completion by R P Wright of work on the first volume of *The Roman Inscriptions of Britain*, which provided a detailed description and drawing of each of the more than 2000 inscribed stones found in Britain up to 1954 (Collingwood & Wright 1965). Of these about 125 derived from Scotland. Since then a further 19 stones (some complete, others fragmentary) have come to light within Scotland's modern political boundaries. Most have already received definitive or at least preliminary publication in a variety of journals, but it may be of use, since the appearance of supplements to *RIB* remains a distant prospect, to have these collected in a single place. In addition, a number of improved readings to published inscriptions have followed upon the cleaning of stones in the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland, Edinburgh (hereafter NMAS), and the Hunterian Museum, University of Glasgow (hereafter HM), in preparation for re-display, and more recently during preparatory work for the Scottish Fascicule of the *Corpus of Roman Sculpture* (Keppie & Arnold 1984). The following report is divided into three sections: I, improvements to the readings of inscriptions already published in *RIB*; II, a description of stones long held by NMAS or HM, but only recently perceived to be inscribed; III, a résumé of new discoveries made since 1954.

I: IMPROVEMENTS TO THE READINGS OF STONES ALREADY PUBLISHED IN *RIB*

1 *RIB* 2111, Birrens, Dumfriesshire; fragments of commemorative slab (fig 1; pl 26 a & b)

The single fragment published as *RIB* 2111 (Fragment C on fig 1), shows a segment of laurel wreath, together with a small part of the die on which the letter M was read by Richard Wright (*RIB*, *ad loc*). A better reading is AN (pl 00a). Also preserved in NMAS is a second fragment of the same wreath and die, on which the upper serifs of a single letter, perhaps M, can be made out, along with part of the outer moulding of the slab (Fragment D on fig 1). On Roman sculpture, a laurel wreath is frequently supported by flanking figures, most often personifications of Victory, with wings, holding a palm frond and with one foot resting upon a globe, the symbol of her dominion. Birrens has yielded several fragments of Victory-figures, from at least two different slabs (Keppie & Arnold 1984, nos 26 & 27). Two of these fragments, found W of the headquarters building during excavation of the fort-site in 1895, seem likely, from a consideration of style of carving, scale and type of sandstone, to belong with this wreath. Fig 1 offers a reconstruction based on the surviving fragments. The slab, when complete, must have been c 2.06 m long and 0.77 m high. The inscription can be restored to show a dedication in honour of the emperor Antoninus Pius: [i]m[p(eratori) C(aesari)]T(ito) Ael(io) Hadriano]/An[tonino Aug(usto)]Pio p(atri) p(atriciae) pont(ifici) max(imo)] . . . , ie 'For the emperor Caesar Titus Aelius Hadrianus Antoninus Augustus Pius, father of his

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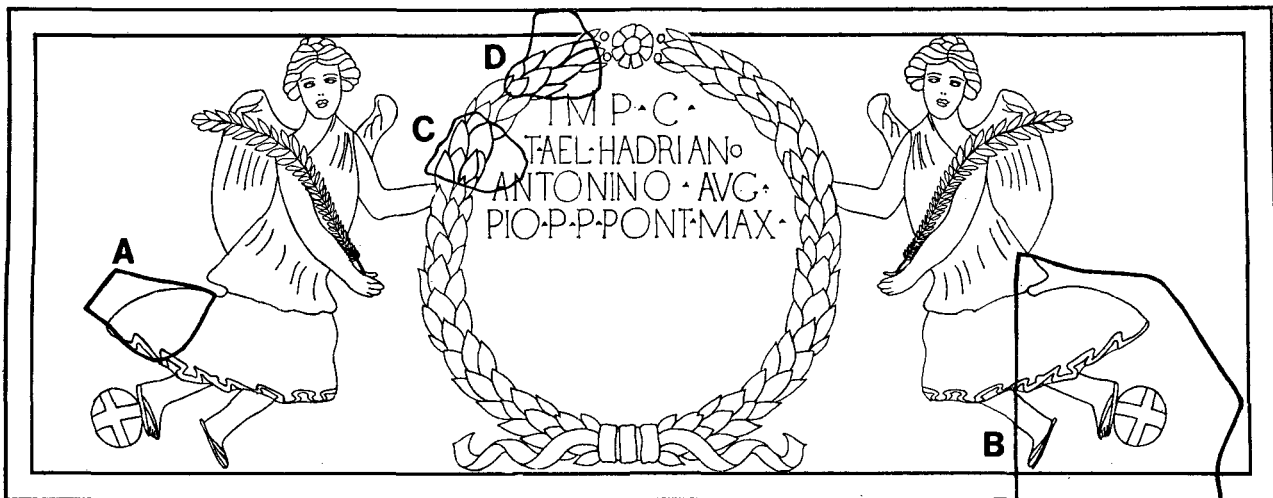


FIG 1 Fragments of commemorative slab from Birrens. The text placed within the wreath is based on *RIB* 2110. Scale 1:12

country, Chief Priest . . .'. A further four or five lines seem lost. Space is available for the name of the military unit responsible for the erection of the slab, perhaps the Second Cohort of *Tungri*, as on *RIB* 2110 and many other stones from Birrens. The slab would thus date to the beginning of the Antonine II phase of occupation of the site (ie AD 158 onwards). However, the surviving left hand edge of Fragment B is neatly dressed, as if for re-use within the Roman period; it is more likely therefore that the slab testifies to building work at the beginning of the Antonine I phase, about AD 142.

2 *RIB* 2125, Newstead, Roxburghshire; altar (fig 2; pl 26c)

The front face of the altar shaft is badly worn, so that only a few letters of the last four lines can be read as: C · A · IN · . / 7 L · / VSL · . It must be likely that the altar was erected by the centurion C. Arrius Domitianus, who served in the Twentieth Legion at Newstead, probably in the first Antonine period of occupation, and who erected altars there to Diana Regina, to Jupiter, and 'for his own and his family's safety' (*RIB* 2122-4). The name or names of the god(s) to whom this altar (*RIB* 2125) was dedicated are totally lost, but the last four lines can be read as C(aius) A[r]rius Domit[i]an[us] / 7 [l]eg(ionis) XX V(aleriae) V(ictricis) / v(otum) s(olvit) l(aetus) [l]ibens m(erito)); ie 'Gaius Arrius Domitianus, centurion of the Twentieth Valiant and Victorious Legion, gladly, willingly and deservedly fulfilled his vow'. The splitting of the *nomen* Arrius between two lines of the inscription is unusual, but *RIB* 2124 provides a convenient parallel.

3 *RIB* 2165, Bar Hill, Dunbartonshire; altar (fig 3; pl 26d)

The bow and quiver shown in relief on the sides of the altar shaft make it reasonably certain that the dedication was to Apollo, the archer god, as proposed by Hübner (1873, 1061), but almost nothing of the god's name can now be made out. The inscription, in five lines, reads: I / N · CO · . / I · / C · / S · . M · . We may restore the dedication [Apoll]i[n]i in lines 1-2, and identify the formula [v(otum)] s(olvit) [l(aeta) l(ibens)] m(erito) in line 5. It seems clear that the dedication was made by a cohort, and attention is immediately directed towards the known garrisons of Bar Hill in the Antonine period, the First Cohort of *Hamii* and the First Cohort of *Baetasii* (Robertson *et al* 1975, 24-7). The name of either could be made to fit, given the uncertainty over the first letter in line 3, which is crucial. The restoration BAETASI/ORVM C R neatly fills the available space in lines 3-4, but a dedication to Apollo might seem more appropriate to the *Hamii*, a specialist archer cohort.

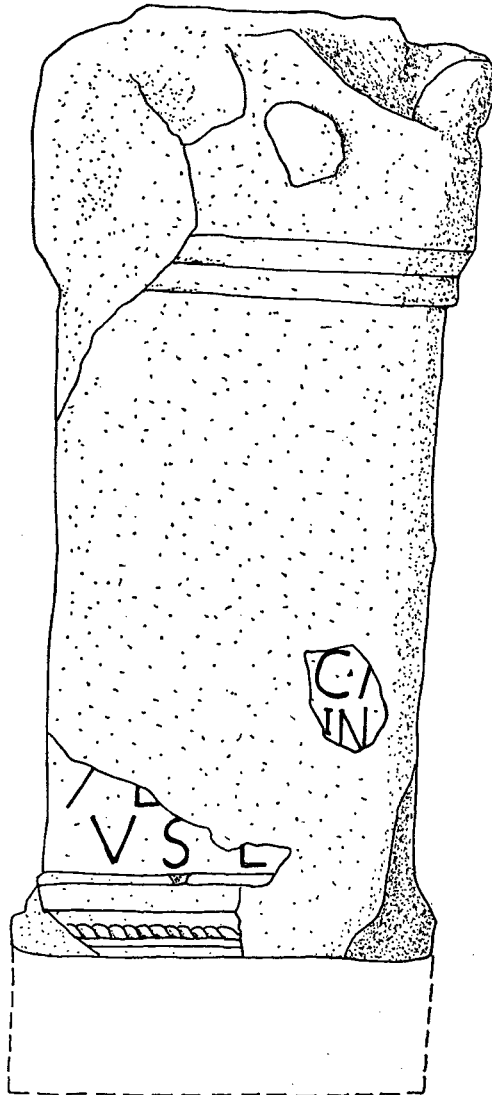


FIG 2 Altar from Newstead (RIB 2125). Scale 1:8

4 RIB 2166, Bar Hill, Dunbartonshire; altar (fig 4)

This altar, to Mars Camulus, was badly burnt in antiquity; recent cleaning has lifted away dirt and some of the staining, sufficient to improve dramatically our appreciation of the content of the inscription, which can now be read as: *Deo Mar(ti)Camulo [m]ilites coh(ortis)[I]/Hamioru[m] . . CIV.SC. ./ . IVI. . ;* ie ‘To the god Mars Camulus soldiers of the First Cohort of *Hamii*’. The letters of the fifth and sixth lines may conceal the name of the prefect or centurion who supervised the erection of the altar, but no complete names can be made out.

The decorative bands round the capitals of both altars – of chevrons and raised circular bosses – are distinctive, and may be matched on RIB 2168, also from Bar Hill. Chevrons are found occasionally elsewhere, and circular bosses (sometimes interpreted as a cable-pattern) are commonplace

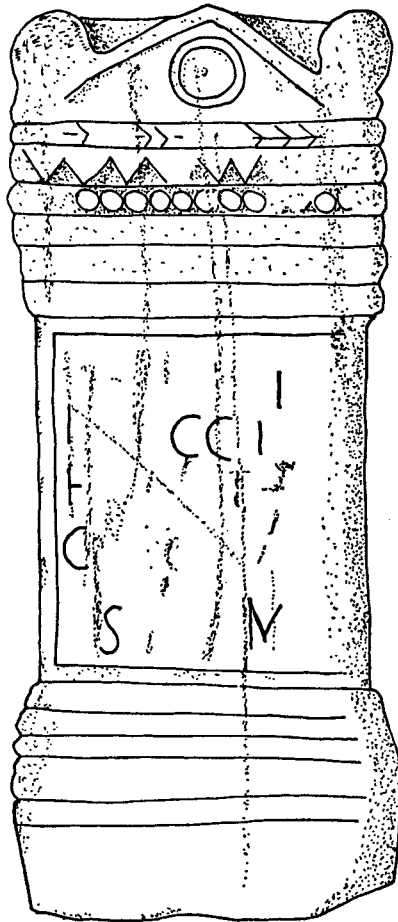


FIG 3 Altar from Bar Hill (RIB 2165). Scale 1:8



FIG 4 Altar from Bar Hill (RIB 2166). Scale 1:8

Closely similar is an altar at Carvoran on Hadrian's Wall, set up in AD 137–8 to Fortuna Augusta by T Flavius Secundus, prefect of the First Cohort of *Hamii* (*RIB* 1778). It may be that the cohort carried forward the same artistic conventions and style to its new posting. Perhaps therefore the three altars, *RIB* 2165, 2166, 2168, should all be assigned to the First Cohort of *Hamii*. (Notice also the chevrons on two of the column-capitals from Bar Hill (Robertson *et al* 1975, 40).)

5 *RIB* 2179, Auchendavy, Dunbartonshire; commemorative slab (fig 5). Now lost

The text, set within a laurel wreath, has recently been studied by the late Dr R W Davies (1976, 103), who deduced that it was not a tombstone (as in *RIB*), but a dedication to Mars and Victory, erected jointly by soldiers of the Second Legion *Augusta* and an *ala* of auxiliary cavalry. The text reads: /NO. . . . /MART MAL/VICTO MILLE. . . /AVG T ALAEEX. . . /VLERNIS. Dr Davies is to be congratulated for bringing such an enigmatic inscription to the attention of scholars, though it may be doubted whether all the restorations can as yet be counted as satisfactory. More probably the dedication is by the Second Legion alone, which is otherwise known to have provided for a time a garrison at Auchendavy (*RIB* 2175–7, 2180–1). The wreath, which we may suppose to have flaked away from a larger slab, seems more appropriate to a commemorative inscription recording some building work, but savage surgery would be needed to produce such a dedication from the text as reported. Parallels for religious dedications set within wreaths can be adduced (*RIB* 1888, 1398).

6 *RIB* 2187 (Cadder, Lanarkshire); altar (fig 6)

In 1976 the lower half of this altar, first reported to the antiquarian William Camden about 1620 and copied by him into the margin of his own copy of the 1607 edition of his *Britannia* (now in the British Museum) was rediscovered during excavation work at Kilsyth Castle (Keppie 1978, 19). The full text read *Deo/Silvano/L(ucius) Tanicius/Verus/praef(ectus) v(otum) s(olvit) l(aetus) l(ibens) m(erito)*; ie 'To the god Silvanus, Lucius Tanicius Verus prefect, willingly, gladly, and deservedly fulfilled his vow'. The readings of lines 3–5, which give the name of the prefect, are confirmed by the Kilsyth discovery. The findspot suggests that it should derive from nearby Bar Hill fort, rather than Cadder, to which it had been assigned solely because of the position of Camden's marginal note, next to *RIB* 2209, then as now immured at Cawder House. Bar Hill, it may be noted, has already yielded a dedication to Silvanus (*RIB* 2167).

7 *RIB* 2192, Balmuildy, Lanarkshire; commemorative slab (fig 7)

In all five fragments of this massive slab survive, preserving parts of the inscription and flanking sculptured panels. A recent attempt at positioning the fragments has confirmed the traditional restoration of the inscription itself, and established the likely overall dimensions of the slab, which once stood above the north gate of Balmuildy fort (Keppie 1976, 99). The inscription reads: [Im]p(eratori) C(aesari) [T(ito) Ael(io) Hadr(iano) Anto(nin)o [Aug(usto) Pio p(atri) p(atriciae) leg(io)] II/[Aug(usta) fec(it) sub Q(uinto) Lo]llio/[Urbico leg(ato) Aug(usti) pr(o)] pr(aetore); ie 'For the emperor Caesar Titus Aelius Hadrianus Antoninus Augustus Pius, father of his country, the Second Augustan Legion carried out the work, under the command of Quintus Lollius Urbicus, the emperor's pro-praetorian legate'. The inscription was contained within raised mouldings and flanked by *peltae*. To the left was a capricorn, emblem of the legion, and to the right a standard-bearer, probably holding a *vexillum*. There is ample room above and beside these figures for additional motifs; here a pegasus (also an emblem of the legion) and a Victory figure have been restored.

8 *RIB* 2206, Old Kilpatrick, Dunbartonshire; distance slab (fig 8)

A second, unscribed fragment, long preserved in HM, preserves the bottom right hand corner of the slab confirming that in layout and dimensions it matches *RIB* 2198, also the work of the Twentieth Legion. The fragment was illustrated by Sibbald (1707, 52 with fig) and noted in passing by Horsley (1732, 197), but escaped the notice of subsequent commentators (see now Keppie 1979, 19, no 16).

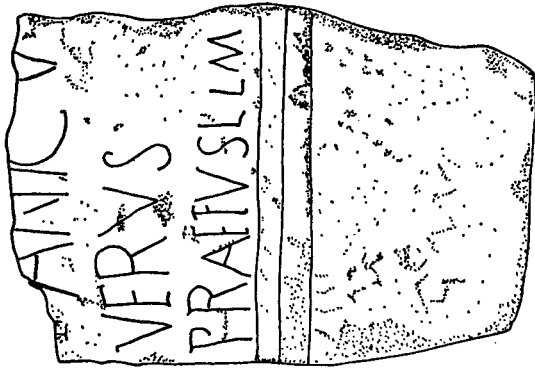


FIG 6 Altar from Kilsyth Castle (RJB 2187). Scale 1:8



FIG 5 Lost inscription from Auchendavy (RJB 2179)

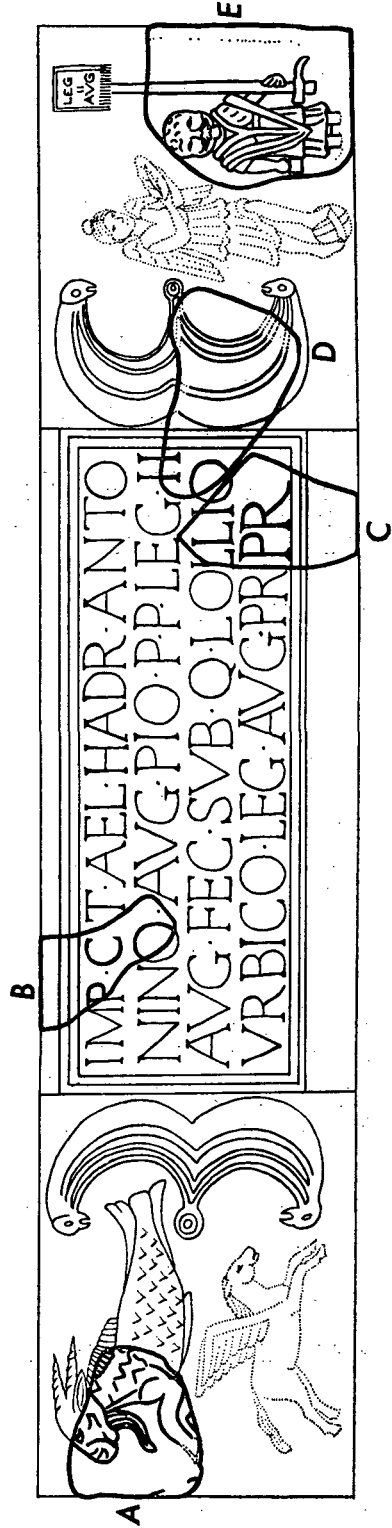


FIG 7 Fragments of commemorative slab from Balmuildy (RJB 2192). Scale 1:20 (approx.)



FIG 8 Fragments of distance slab from Old Kilpatrick (RIB 2206). Scale 1:8

9 RIB 2214, no provenance; altar (fig 9; pl 27a)

Only the capital and upper part of the altar shaft survive. The inscription reads: . PERI VE./ . . . II AV. . . / V. / . . . It is evident that the altar records a dedication by a detachment of the Second Legion, so that lines 1/2 should be read as *ve[x]ill(atio) leg(ionis) II Au[g(ustae)]* or *ve[x]illatio/legion(is) II Au[g(ustae)]*, but it is not clear which deity is being venerated. Haverfield suggested [DEO VET]ERI for the beginning of line 1 (*Ephemeris Epigraphica* ix, 630), but there is insufficient room for six additional letters; moreover, the letter before ERI must be read as P or B or R. Robert Stuart offers a sketch of the altar, perhaps made not long after its discovery, when the beginning of line 1 was evidently better preserved (1852, pl xv). He read the first line as IIBNRIVI, which we can split up into IIBNRI VI, but the altar is not referred to in his text, so that we do not know what, if anything, he made of these letters. The first two vertical strokes, which have now flaked away, could have concealed the letters TI, allowing a restoration to TIBERI (ie 'To the river-god Tiber'). This is improbable, to say the least; an alternative reading, though equally unconvincing, is CERERI (ie 'to the goddess Ceres', protectress of crops and agriculture).

10 RIB 2312. Bar Hill, Dunbartonshire; milestone? Now lost

The upper part of a round pillar, flat on top, and bearing an inscription set within an oblong panel, was first seen at Bar Hill about 1726. It has long been interpreted as a milestone. The inscription reads: *Imp(eratori) Caes(ari) T(ito) Ae(lio) Hadri(ano) Antonino Aug(usto) Pio p(atr) p(atr)iae/vexillation[e]s/* 'For the emperor Caesar Titus Aelius Hadrianus Antoninus Augustus Pius, father of his country, detachments . . .'. Milestones of this period normally bear details of the emperor's regnal year and consulships (Gichon & Isaac 1974, 117). It is much more likely that the pillar was in origin one of the column-shafts which ornamented the courtyard of the headquarters building at Bar Hill or stood along its main façade. The inscription should thus be seen as commemorating some construction work, and may have been, like RIB 2171, a record of the activities at Bar Hill of legionary detachments drawn from *II Augusta* and *XX Valeria Victrix* (see Robertson *et al* 1975, 35).



FIG 9 Altar (RIB 2214). Scale 1:8

11 RIB 2313, Ingliston, West Lothian; milestone

The missing upper portion of the milestone published as RIB 2313 has been located in the cellars of NMAS. (See Wright & Hassall 1973, 336–7; *l'Année Épigraphique* 1975, 581; Maxwell 1983.) The inscription is now seen to read: [Imp(eratori) Caes(ari) T(ito) Ael(io)/Hadr(iano) Anto/n[i]no Aug(usto) Pio/p(atr) p(atr)iae co(n)s(uli) II[I]/(two lines erased)/[co]h(ors) I Cugernor(um)/[Tri] monti(o) m(ilia) p(assuum)]. ; ie 'For the emperor Caesar Titus Aelius Hadrianus Antoninus Augustus Pius, father of his country, the First Cohort of *Cugerni* (set this up). From Trimontium (Newstead) . . . miles.' The milestone provides a record of the building or refurbishment of a road running northwards from Newstead early in the reign of Antoninus Pius, not under the emperor Septimius Severus as hitherto generally supposed (see RIB *ad loc*). If the milestone was found more or less *in situ*, the road must have been heading towards the eastern terminus of the Antonine Wall. There has been some doubt as to the precise year to which the milestone must be assigned. If *cos. II* is read in line 4, then the date is AD 139; if *cos. III*, the date range is 140–4. The latter reading is much the more likely. Attention must be focused on lines 5–6, now erased, which presumably once bore the names and titles of a governor of Britain. Despite a recent suggestion that the governor was Lollius Urbicus himself (Davies 1977, 390), the latter's name does survive unerased on three other stones from North Britain, and it must be more likely that the Ingliston milestone once bore a reference to Lollius' immediate successor, who presumably held office c 143–6 (Birley 1981, 115).

II: STONES AND FRAGMENTS IN SCOTTISH MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

1 No provenance; altar, HM Inv no F 34 (fig 10; pl 27b)

The capital and upper half of the shaft of an altar in buff sandstone (0.43 × 0.39 × 0.27 m), presented to the Hunterian Museum before 1897. Its most likely provenance must be an Antonine Wall fort. The first line of the inscription can be read with difficulty, as DEO NEP or DEO MER; the dedication was therefore to Neptune, or to Mercury, but the letters are so worn that no final decision seems at present possible.

2 Ardoch, Perthshire; fragments of sculptured slab, NMAS Inv nos FQ 189–95 (see Anderson 1898, 466)

Among a group of seven small fragments showing fruit clusters and tendrils, evidently from the borders of a sculptured slab, are two which preserve letters of an inscription: the single letter P on FQ 191, and parts of two letters, perhaps LA, on FQ 193. The nature of the dedication cannot be known.

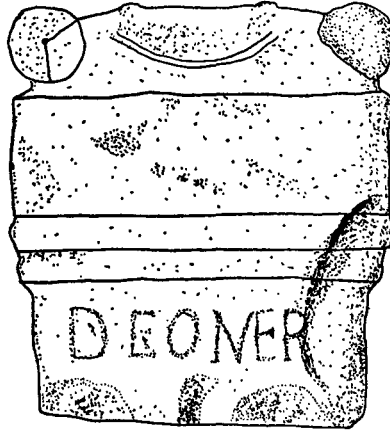


FIG 10 Altar to Neptune or Mercury. Scale 1:8

3 Birrens, Dumfriesshire; fragment of sculptured slab, NMAS Inv no FP 51

Incised with a sharp point into the front face of a fragment of red sandstone are the letters C.../IL...

III: ROMAN INSCRIBED STONES FOUND IN SCOTLAND 1955–83

(a) SOUTH OF THE ANTONINE WALL

1 Birrens, Dumfriesshire, during excavation of the intervallum street, NE fort quadrant, 1963. Fragment of an altar in red sandstone; Wright 1964a, 178 no 6; *l'Année Épigraphique* 1964, 174; Robertson 1975, 95, no 1, fig 25.1

The inscription reads ... *coh(ors) I Nervana Ger]man[orum](milliaria)* ... ; ie 'The First Cohort *Nervana Germanorum*, one thousand strong ...'. This auxiliary unit was already known to have been at Birrens (see *RIB* 2097), and the findspot of this fragment below an Antonine II street confirms the current view that the cohort must have formed the garrison in the Hadrianic or Antonine I phases.

2 Birrens, Dumfriesshire, unstratified in the SW quadrant of the fort, during excavation, 1962; fragment of an altar in red sandstone; Wright 1963, 162 no 11; Robertson 1975, 95 no 2, fig 25.2

The inscription reads: ... ATRI.../...ESI; it is possible that the dedication was to the [*m]atri[bus camp]est[ribus]*; ie 'To the mothers of the parade-ground'.

3 Birrens, Dumfriesshire, unstratified, during excavation of Building IX/X, 1967; flooring slab in red sandstone; Wright 1968a, 209, no 28, pl xix.2; *l'Année Épigraphique* 1968, 254; Robertson 1975, 95, no 3, pl 10, fig 25.3

The inscription, incised with a sharp instrument, reads: *Cistumuci loco Mabomi*; below is the incised outline of a dog or serpent. The inscription is thought to refer to a Cistumucus, from (or belonging to) *Locus Maponi*, a place-name inferred from the Ravenna Cosmography. But the readings are far from secure, and the existence of a *Locus Maponi* has recently been queried (Rivet & Smith 1979, 395–6). The dedication could be in honour of Maponus himself, a local deity of hunting and the woodland, sometimes equated with Apollo. A dog was Maponus' frequent companion.

4 Bothwellhaugh, Lanarkshire, during excavation of the extra-mural bathhouse, 1975; fragment of commemorative slab; Wright *et al.* 1976, 382 no 15, pl xxxviiiB; Keppie 1981, 72–3 no 8, pl 13, fig 18

The inscription, which was probably arranged in six lines, reads: (four lines lost)/I / COH. ; ie '(In honour of the emperor) the . . th cohort of'. The slab presumably commemorated the building or rebuilding of the extra-mural bathhouse in the Antonine period by a cohort of auxiliaries, but its name unfortunately does not survive.

5 Easter Langlee, Roxburghshire, during quarrying, 1965; building stones from a substantial masonry structure; Wright 1966, 218 no 6; Steer 1966, 320–1, pl xlv.1–2; *l'Année Epigraphique* 1966, 223

Five of the stones bore roughly incised inscriptions, which read (a) COH I, (b) III, (c) CX, (d) CX, (e) MIII. These were presumably records of work done or loads transported. The nature of the building from which the stones derived was not established; it could have been a tomb or even a triumphal monument (see Steer 1966).

6 Inveresk, Midlothian, during grave-digging in the *praetentura* of the Antonine fort, 1976; lower half of altar in grey sandstone; Hassall & Tomlin 1977, 433 no 30; *l'Année Epigraphique* 1977, 525; Maxwell 1983

The altar bore two inscriptions superimposed: the primary text reads: . . . *Q(uintus)/Lusius/Sabinian(us) proc(urator) Aug(usti)*; ie 'Quintus Lusius Sabinianus, imperial procurator'. The secondary inscription reads: . . *la/ra ex nu/ntio dic(atam) ar(am)/pos(uit) l(aeta) l(ibens) m(erito)*; ie '. . lara gladly, willingly and deservedly set up the altar which is dedicated as a result of a (divine) message'. It was already known that Lusius Sabinianus, a senior financial official of the imperial government, has spent some time at Inveresk: an altar dedicated by him to Apollo Grannus was found there in the mid 16th century (*RIB* 2132). His precise role and activities remain unknown (Birley 1981, 294). The secondary text testifies to the re-use of the altar, presumably after an interval, by a lady, probably named Hilara, but the deity to whom it was rededicated is not known.

7 Cramond, Midlothian, during excavation between Buildings A and B, 1971; lower half of an altar in buff sandstone; Wright & Hassall 1972, 355 no 16; Rae & Rae 1974, 196, pl xvii.A

The surviving final line of the inscription reads: IVLI INVE; no satisfactory explanation has been offered, and the letters could be part of a secondary inscription.

8 Cramond, Midlothian, during excavation of a rubbish pit N of the fort, which contained both Roman and medieval material, 1975; upper half of an altar, in greyish buff sandstone; Wright *et al.* 1976, 382 no 16

The inscription reads: PRO/CAR. The outlines of the capital are poorly indicated, and there could be some doubt about a Roman date. The name of the deity being venerated has not been established.

9 Cramond, Midlothian, during excavation of the outer ditch on the E side of the fort, 1977. Upper half of an altar in grey sandstone; Hassall & Tomlin 1978, 475 no 15

The inscription reads: D M/CON/. . . ; the letters are best expanded to *Deo Marti Condati*, ie 'To the god Mars Condates'. The worship of Mars Condates seems to belong in the north and east of Roman Britain.

(b) ON THE LINE OF THE ANTONINE WALL

10 Carriden, West Lothian, by ploughing E of the fort-site, 1956; altar in buff sandstone;

Richmond & Steer 1957, 1–6, pl 1.1; *l'Année Épigraphique* 1958, 105 = *l'Année Épigraphique* 1962, 249; Salway 1965, 161–2

The inscription reads: *I(ovi) O(ptimo) M(aximo)/vikani consis/tentes/castel[lo]/Veluniate cu[ram]/ agente Ael(io) Man[sueto] v(otum) s(olverunt) l(aeti) l(ibentes) m(erito)*; ie ‘To Jupiter best and greatest, villagers residing at the fort of Veluniate gladly, willingly and deservedly fulfilled their vow; Aelius Mansuetus saw that the job was carried out’. The altar testifies to the presence at Carriden of a *vicus*, or partially self-governing civilian community of the type common on Hadrian’s Wall. The place-name Veluniate was already known: it appeared at the beginning of a list of places between Forth and Clyde in the Ravenna Cosmography, a list which we can now see runs from E to W (Rivet & Smith 1979, 490). Aerial reconnaissance has revealed a complex pattern of cultivation ditches E of the fort in the field where the altar itself was recovered, thereby precluding the suggestion (Richmond & Steer 1957, 3) that the altar stood beside a parade ground.

11 Westerwood, Dunbartonshire, during ploughing W of the fort-site, 1963; altar in buff sandstone; Wright 1964, 178, pl xvi.1; *l'Année Épigraphique* 1964, 175; Salway 1965, 260 no 112; Wright 1968b, 192, pl 23a

The inscription reads: *Silvanis[et]/Quadrui[s] Ca[e]lestib(us) sacr(um)/Vibia Pacata/Fl(avii) Verecu[nd]i/7 leg(ionis) VI Vic(tricis)/cum suis v(otum) s(olvit) l(ibens) m(erito)*; ie ‘To the celestial goddess of the Woodland and the Crossroads, sacred, Vibia Pacata, wife of Flavius Verecundus, centurion of the Sixth Victorious Legion, willingly and deservedly fulfilled her vow along with her family’. The centurion’s family was evidently resident in or beside the fort. He may well have been serving as its commander.

12 Bearsden, Dunbartonshire, close to the N granary, during excavation, 1976; centurial stone in buff sandstone; Hassall & Tomlin 1977, 433 no. 32, pl xxix.A; *l'Année Épigraphique* 1977, 526; Breeze, forthcoming

The inscription reads: *Leg(ionis) XX V(aleriae) V(ictricis)/(centuria) Quint(. . .) fec(it)*; ie ‘Quint. s’ century of the Twentieth Valiant and Victorious Legion, made (this)’. The stone, presumably once built into one of the stone buildings of the fort, indicates that some part of the fort was built by men of the Twentieth Legion.

13 Hutcheson Hill, W of Bearsden, during ploughing, 1969; distance slab in yellow-buff sandstone; Steer & Cormack 1969, 122–6; Wright 1970, 309 no 19 pl xviii, xxxviii; *l'Année Épigraphique* 1971, 225; Keppie 1979, 16 no 11, pl 4–5

The slab is carved to show a triumphal archway, below which bound captives are reluctant witnesses to a celebration of Roman success, in which Britannia (or Victory) presents a wreath to the eagle-standard of the Twentieth Legion, held by its bearer. The inscription reads: *Im[p(eratori)] C(aesari)/T(ito)Ae(lio)/Hadri(ano)/Anto(nino)/Aug(usto)/Piop(atri) p(atriciae)/vex(illatio) leg(ionis)/ XX V(aleriae) V(ictricis)/fec(it)/p(er) p(edum) III*; ie ‘for the emperor Caesar Titus Aelius Hadrianus Antoninus Augustus Pius, father of his country, a detachment of the Twentieth Valiant and Victorious Legion built (the Wall) over a distance of 3000 feet’. The sector (no 10 in the E–W sequence; see Keppie 1979) ran from Castlehill westwards to Hutcheson Hill.

14 Old Kilpatrick, Dunbartonshire, during digging of a garage inspection-pit, 1969; altar in pinkish-buff sandstone; Wright 1970, 310 no 20, pl xxxv.B; Barber 1971, 117; *l'Année Épigraphique* 1971, 226

The inscription reads: *I(ovi) O(ptimo) M(aximo)/coh(ors) I Bae(tasiorum)/c(ivium) R(omanorum) cui pr(ae)est Publicius/Maternus praef(ectus)/c(uram) a(gente) Iulio Candido 7 leg(ionis) I Italicae/ v(otum) s(olvit) l(aeta) l(ibens) m(erito)*; ie ‘To Jupiter best and greatest, the First Cohort of *Baetasii*, Roman Citizens, whose praefect is Publicius Maternus, gladly, willingly and deservedly fulfilled its vow; Julius Candidus, centurion of the First Italic Legion saw that the job was carried out’. The cohort has long been known as the one time garrison at Bar Hill fort (above, p 392); evidently it

served also for a while at Old Kilpatrick. It is possible that the centurion Julius Candidus was commanding a detachment at Old Kilpatrick, while the main body of the cohort, along with its prefect, was elsewhere. Candidus was a centurion in *legio I Italica*, which was stationed in the Antonine period on the Lower Danube. He may have been seconded to the garrison of Britain, but we do not know the circumstances (Breeze & Dobson 1970, 120 n 48). The view that the altar should be assigned to the Severan period (Birley 1983, 76) does not convince.

(c) NORTH OF THE ANTONINE WALL

15 Bogton, Stirlingshire, c 1 km W of Camelon fort, in a roadside wall, 1967; lower half of an altar in buff sandstone; Wright 1968a, 209 no 29; *l'Année Épigraphique* 1968, 255; Maxwell 1970, 285–7, pl 23

The surviving final two lines of the inscription read: [p]ro se et suis/v(otum) s(olvit) l(aetus) l(ibens) m(erito); ie . . . on behalf of himself and his family gladly, willingly and deservedly fulfilled his vow'. The names of the dedicator (who could be male or female), and the god or gods to whom the altar was set up, have not survived.

16 Bertha, Perthshire, from the bed of the river Almond, 1958; dedication slab in buff sandstone; Wright 1959, 136 fig 28; *l'Année Épigraphique* 1960, 209

The inscription reads *Discipul/inae/Augusti*; ie 'To the discipline of the emperor'. The cult of military discipline was strongly favoured by Hadrian and other emperors from the 2nd century AD onwards. Presumably this dedication dates from the Antonine period of occupation of Scotland.

17 Carpow, Perthshire, during excavation of the E gate, 1964; fragments of commemorative slab in red sandstone; Wright 1964b, 202–5, pl x.1–2; 1965, 223 no 10, pl xix.1–2; *l'Année Épigraphique* 1965, 218; Coutts 1971, 81 no 187 a–b; Jarrett & Mann 1970, 201; Wright 1974, 289–92

The inscription reads: [I]mp e[st] d[omi]nus n[oster] M[arcus] A[urelius] A[ntoninus]/[Piu]s F[elix] . . . ; ie 'The emperor and our lord Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, the Pious and Fortunate . . .'. The inscription seems likely to have been arranged in four lines. Small fragments, probably from the same slab, show (a) the letter V, (b) the horizontal bar of a single letter, and (c) the letters AV. The inscription was flanked to the left by a sculptured panel showing a Victory-figure, a capricorn and two pegasi. Below is a subsidiary inscription which reads: . . .]p (. . .)fe[ci]t; ie ' . . . p . . . built(?)'. The presence of the capricorn and the pegasi indicate that the slab was the work of men of the Second Augustan Legion (fragment (c) could preserve part of its title *Augusta*), who were presumably responsible for the building of the E gate. The inscription is datable to the reign of Caracalla (M. Aurelius Antoninus Pius Felix), and so belongs best in the period AD 211–12, shortly before Roman forces withdrew from Scotland at the close of the Severan period of occupation.

18 Carpow, Perthshire, during excavation of the E gate, 1965; small fragments of a commemorative slab in red sandstone (but not the same slab as no 17); Wright 1966, 219 no 8; Coutts 1971, 81 no 187c

Two fragments are inscribed, with the letters (a) L and (b) P.

19 Carpow, Perthshire, during excavation of the S gate, 1970; fragments of a commemorative slab in red sandstone; Wright & Hassall 1971, 292 no 15, pl xl; Coutts 1971, 81 no 187e; *l'Année Épigraphique* 1975, 582

Small fragments show (a) the letters [leg(io)]II A[ug(usta)]; ie 'the Second Augustan Legion', and (b) a leaf-stop followed by L. A substantial, but unscribed fragment preserves part of the sculptured panel flanking the inscription to the right; it shows a *pelta*-motif carved to represent plumage and with an eagle-head terminal.

DISCUSSION

The inscribed stones found in Scotland since the publication of *RIB I* have been of exceptional interest, and have added considerably to our knowledge. A particularly fine distance slab, and records of work carried out by the army both N and S of the Antonine Wall have improved our appreciation of its constructional activities. Several new altars have come to light: those from Old Kilpatrick and Westerwood give further credence to the view that legionary centurions were stationed at forts on the Wall, perhaps in command of part-units of auxiliaries, or of small groups of legionaries. A *vicus* is attested at Carriden, the Latin name of which is now securely known. The problem of the date of the Ingliston milestone has been resolved. The realization that *RIB* 2166 from Bar Hill was erected by men of the First Cohort of *Hamii* – and the possible attribution to that cohort of other altars and stonework from Bar Hill – should prompt some reconsideration of the vexed question of the sequence of garrisons there (Robertson *et al* 1975, 24). The preceding pages have dealt with new discoveries of, and improvements in our knowledge of, inscriptions on stone. The projected *RIB II* is also to catalogue inscriptions on glass, wood, pottery, tiles and other materials (ie the *instrumentum domesticum*); here too recent discoveries from Scotland have added to our knowledge (see annual reports in *J Roman Stud* and – from 1970 onwards – in *Britannia*). Particular mention may be made of tiles from Carpow, bearing the names and titles of the Sixth Legion, which is described as *Vic(trix) B(ritannica) P(ia) F(idelis)*. That legion evidently played a part, along with the Second Legion (above, nos 17–19), in the construction of the vexillation-fortress (Birley 1963, 200).

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a Fragment of commemorative slab from Birrens (RIB 2111)



b Fragment of commemorative slab from Birrens (RIB 2111)

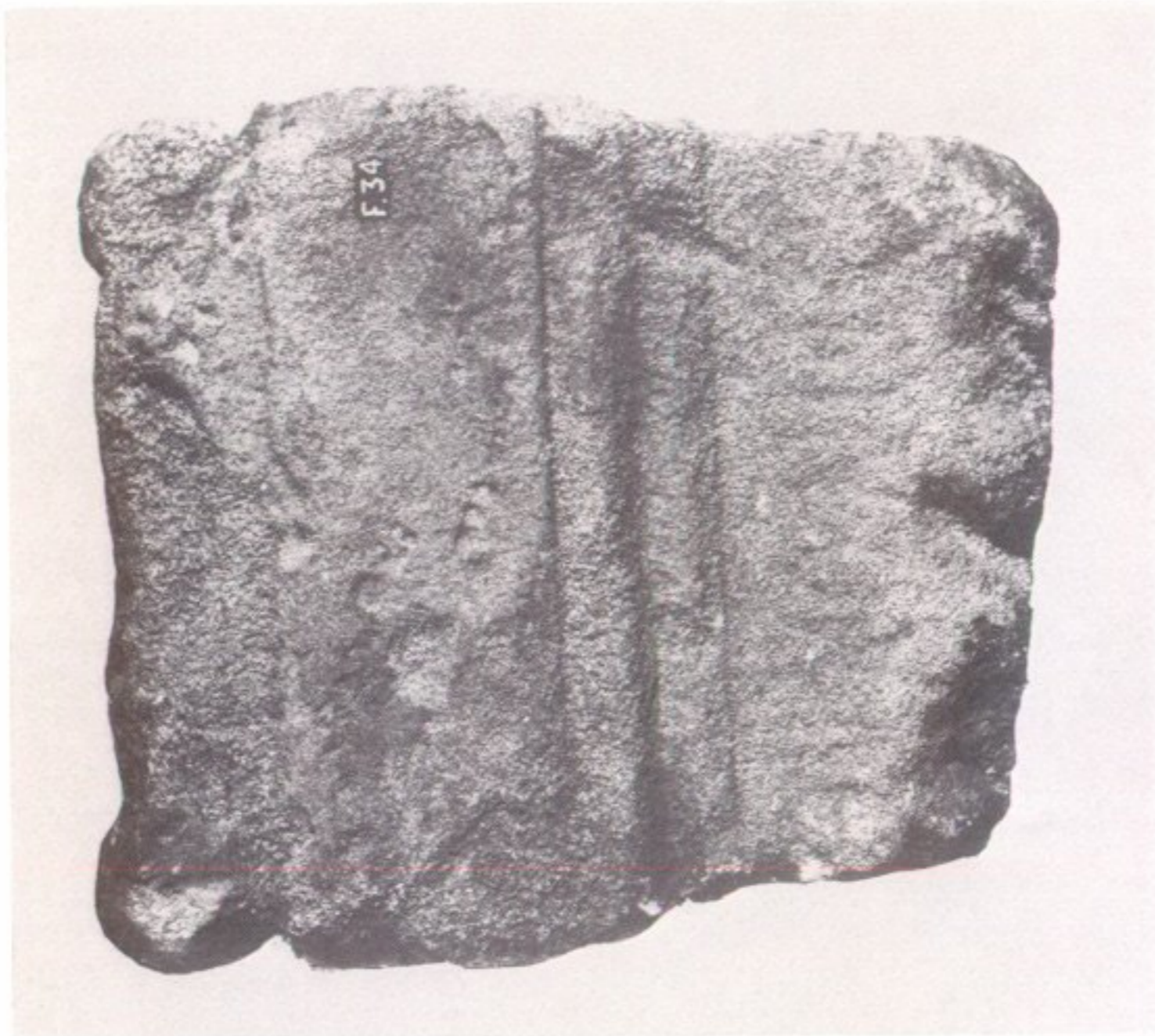


Altar from Newstead (RIB 2125)

KEPPIE | Inscriptions



Altar from Bar Hill (RIB 2165)



Altar to Neptune or Mercury



Altar (RIB 2214)