

EPIGRAPHY - D.C.A. Shotter

The graffiti

The samian vessels

Twenty five graffiti were recognised on fragments of samian vessels; most were names, usually in the genitive (possessive) case, presumably indicating ownership of the vessel concerned.

1. Context 03; Form 18/31 (Central Gaulish, with stamp of Cerialis)
Exterior of lower wall; part-graffito:

I V C V [Presumably an indication of ownership by Iucundus.

2. Context 03; Form 15/17R or 18R (South Gaulish)
Exterior of lower wall; complete graffito:

P C T Presumably an indication of ownership by Pacatus.

3. Context 03; Form 31 (Central Gaulish)
Exterior of outer wall; part-graffito:

] V X Perhaps the ending of a personal name.

4. Context 03/31; Form 33 (Central Gaulish)
Exterior of outer wall; part-graffito:

I C I [

5. Context 03/31/54; Form 18/31R (Central Gaulish, with stamp of Ruttus, *c* AD 140-160/165)
Underside of base; complete graffito:

(or V) Possibly indicating a name or a batch number.

N I I An indication of ownership by Nomius (or Nomaius).

6. Context 19; Form 18/31 (Central Gaulish, with stamp of Cerialis)
Exterior of lower wall; part-graffito:

M C [

7. Context 19; Form 18/31R (Central Gaulish, with stamp of Cerialis)
Underside of base; part-graffito:

] S I [

8. Context 19; Form 36 (Central Gaulish)
Underside of base; complete graffito:

M G Possibly the same name as 6 above, indicating the name Macca.
9. Context 24; Form 18/31R (Central Gaulish)
Exterior of lower wall; part-graffito:

C A E [
10. Context 46; Form 27 (Central Gaulish)
Exterior of lower wall; part-graffito:

A V [
11. Context 50/54; Form 18/31 or 31 (Central Gaulish)
Underside of base; two graffiti:

X Perhaps a batch number.

O C T V [Presumably indicating ownership by Octavius.
12. Context 54; Form 18 (South Gaulish)
Exterior of lower wall; part-graffito:

I / X [
13. Context 54; Form 15/17R or 18R (South Gaulish, with stamp of Masclinus *c* AD 70-85)
Underside of base; complete graffito:
14. Context 65/617/640; Form 15/17 or 18 (South Gaulish)
Underside of base; three complete and part-graffiti:

C T R I X Presumably indicating ownership by Caturix.

] T Presumably part of the same name, but in retrograde.

] A [Possibly a 'doodle', bases upon the same name.
15. Context 75; Form 15/17R or 18R (South Gaulish, with stamp of Celsus, *c* AD 80-110)
Underside of base; part-graffito:

M [

16. Context 102; Form 30 or 37 (Central Gaulish)

Beneath rim on outer wall; part-graffito:

] L V C

17. Context 102; Form 31R (Central Gaulish, stamped] I I I)

Exterior of lower wall; complete, though slightly muddled graffito:

V I C T O R I N I Indicating ownership by Victorinus.

18. Context 102; Form 18/31R or 31R (Central Gaulish)

Exterior of lower wall; part-graffito:

] T V R C M [Presumably indicating ownership by someone with a name
such as Turemumius.

19. Context 163; Form 27 or 35 (South Gaulish)

Exterior of wall; part-graffito:

C I T T [

20. Context 174; Form 36 (South Gaulish)

Underside of base; part-graffito:

21. Context 431; Form 30 or 37 (South Gaulish)

Underside of base; part-graffito:

C M I [

Brenda Dickinson is thanked for her notes on the samian vessels.

The coarse-ware vessel

1. Context 102; Vessel of fabric 1

Exterior of wall; part-graffito:

K L L V [Presumably an indication of ownership by Claudius.

Discussion

Altogether nine different personal names have been recognised on these vessels, Caturix, Claudius, Iucundus (?), Macca (?), Nomius (or Nomaius), Octavius, Pacatus, Turemumius (?), and Victorinus. Of these, some might represent sobriquets of the men concerned, or possibly inherited from earlier generations of their families, Iucundus ('Joyful'), Macca (from *Maccus*, 'Clown'), and Pacatus ('Quiet'). Although

some of these names have been recognised before on inscriptions and graffiti from Roman Britain, some, Nomius, Macca, Caturix, and Turcmumius, appear to be previously unrecorded (Birley 1979; Kajanto 1965).

The lead objects

1. Lead sealing 8704:3999 is a portion of a misshapen sealing with a partially preserved rectangular framed stamp, containing the letters

] X VV

The reverse is blank. It would appear likely that the originator of this sealing belongs to *Legio XX Valenia Victrix*, which is known to have participated in construction work at Ribchester (RIB 592).

2. Lead sealing 6715/1:3999 is of oval shape, the obverse is damaged, but appear to read

A TH

This is likely to refer to the Ala Thracum, a soldier from the unit was buried at Cirencester (RIB 109), and although the unit appears to have been transferred to the Danube in the mid-second century, its continuous presence in Britain at least until A.D. 103 is attested by a Diploma of that year (CIL XVI.48).

The reverse of the sealing is clearer and reads

O V D

This presumably conceals the name of the dispatching officer, 'D' is probably an abbreviation for the rank of *Decurio*, the equivalent in an Ala of a centurion.

3. The *Defixio* 3289:358 is a folded piece of lead-sheet, measuring 39mm by 24mm, when opened. There is a small hole near the top, presumably for fixing to a wall. There seems little doubt that this is a defixio (curse), in which an unnamed person is in this case involving the help of Jupiter in redressing a wrong done to him. It is evident, however that the first curse was unsuccessful, as it has had to be renewed.

The inscription roughly scored on the sheet consists of two lines, damage has occurred due to folding.

(Line 1) V L M VIII

(Line 2) M I D I (VI) V A VIII

This would mean "Eight Thunderbolts (*fulmina*)" and "Renewed (ridi (vi) va) for eight more".