



Altar dedicated to *Disciplina* from Chesters Fort.
Scale 20 cm long *Photo: by Guy Pawle, Carlisle Museum*

III

A NEW INSCRIPTION FROM CHESTERS ON HADRIAN'S WALL

Paul S. Austen and David J. Breeze

SUMMARY

The discovery, at Chesters, of an altar dedicated to the Discipline of the Emperor Hadrian provides the earliest epigraphic evidence for the goddess. As dedications to Disciplina were usually placed in the headquarters building there is a strong presumption that the unit mentioned on the inscription, ala Augusta ob virtutem appellata, was the original garrison of Chesters. It seems probable that this unit should not be equated with the ala Augusta Gallorum Proculeiana, as has hitherto been supposed.

THE ALTAR (PSA)

IN MID September 1978 a large fragment of an inscribed Roman altar (pl. XI) was discovered lying loose beside the river 150 m south-east of the corner of the fort at Chesters on Hadrian's Wall (NGR NY 912 699). The stone apparently had been dislodged from the river bank by cattle drinking from the river.

The altar was cut from a single block of coarse buff sandstone, probably carboniferous; when found it was damaged. The fragment measured 0.54 m (maximum width) by 0.79 m (overall height) by 0.40 m (maximum depth); the upper faces of the capital overhang the shaft by a regular 60 mm. The front left-hand corner of the capital is missing, and the shaft is broken diagonally across the fourth line of the text, more surviving of the side panel than the front. Three detached fragments from the front right-hand side corner of the capital were found and re-attached. The front of the altar also exhibits progressive weathering towards the right-hand side, reducing the clarity of the letters of the text, and there are several indentations on the right-hand edge of the shaft: the end of the first line is the only one to be obscured thus.

The capital consists of the usual *focus* positioned between two bolsters. The moulding at the base of the capital is continued on all four sides of the altar, but the capital is otherwise plain. The sides and back of the shaft are plain: the mason produced smooth and even surfaces on these panels, despite the coarseness of the stone. The decorative features such as the moulding, *focus* and bolsters on the capital, and the lettering are all carefully and skilfully executed.

The text consists of four lines; the right-hand side panel extends 140 mm lower

than the front panel, and thus shows the shaft to have been originally a minimum height of 510 mm. There is no indication from the small area that survives of the front panel below the fourth line whether the text as it survives is complete, or whether further lines, which might have contained the name of the commanding officer under whom the altar was set up, have been lost with the bottom of the shaft and the missing base. Within the minimum 140 mm missing from the shaft there would have been room for a further two lines on the regular spacing of the surviving four lines, and of course it is possible that the text was even longer. However, had there been a fifth line it would have had to have been shorter than any of the surviving lines, and could not have extended beyond the first *P* in line 4. It is possible therefore that the surviving text is the complete inscription. It reads:

]ISCIPVLINÆ
IMP · HAD · AVG
ALA · AVG
]B · VIRT · APPEL

Expanded, this reads:

[D]ISCIPVLINÆ | IMP(eratoris) HAD(riani) AVG(usti) |
ALA AVG(usta) | [O]B VIRT(utem) APPEL(lata)

“To the Discipline of the Emperor Hadrian Augustus, (set up by) the cavalry regiment styled Augusta for valour.”

line 1. The initial letter of *Disciplinæ* is missing, lost with the corner of the capital.

However, the restoration is unambiguous. The ligatured *Æ* appears to be present but the E element is partly obscured by the damage to this corner of the stone.

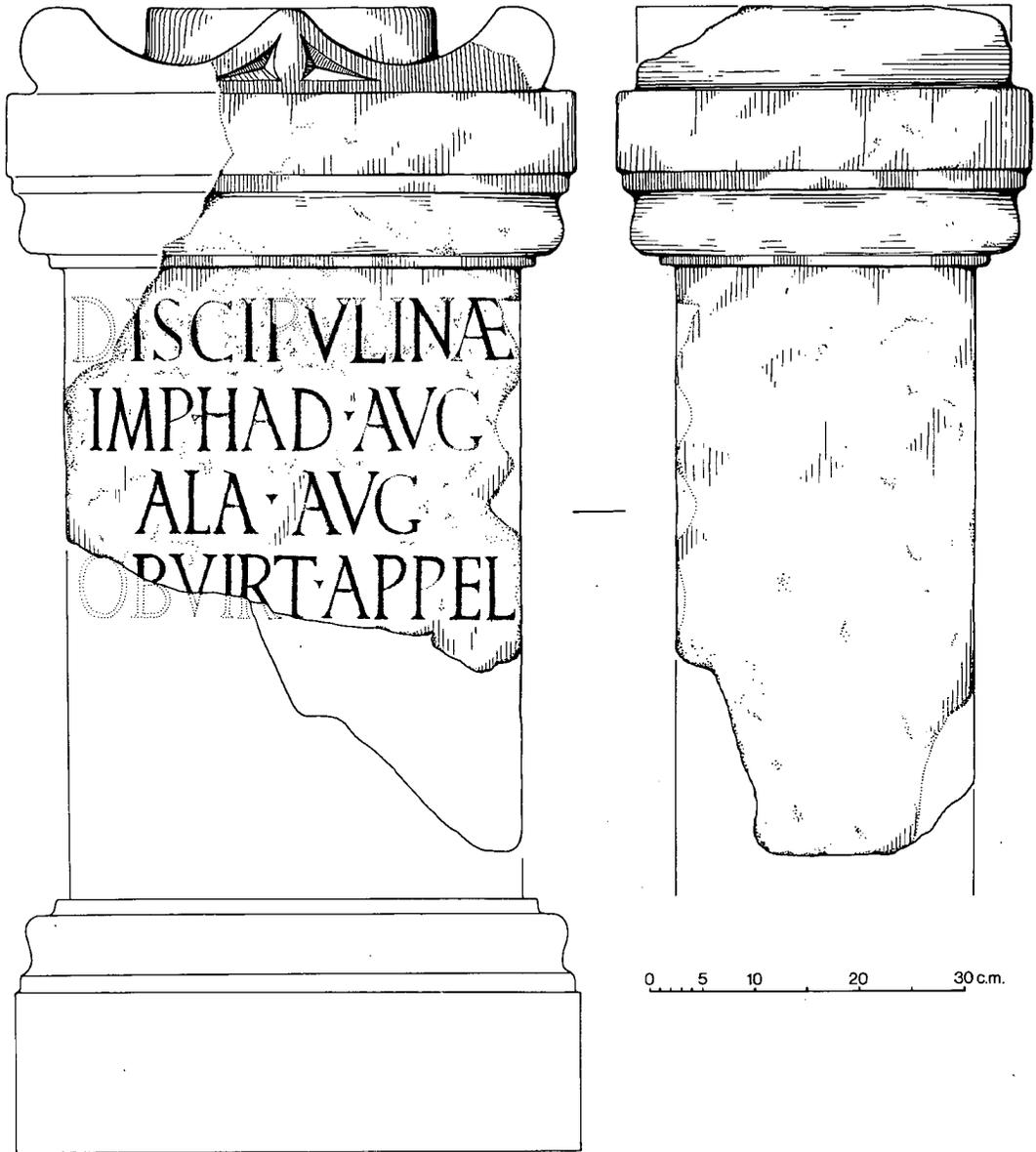
line 2. Although the standard of the execution of the lettering is generally good, the spacing of the three words on this line displays an unevenness.

line 4. *OB*: the upper loop and top of the vertical stroke of the B are discernible. The O was broken off with the base.

The lettering on all four lines is uniformly 60 mm high, and the vertical spacing between the lines regular. The words on lines 2, 3 and 4 are separated by medial stops, but only between words which are within a line and not when the end of the word coincides with the end of the line. Although they are mostly indistinct from weathering, it appears, particularly from that on line 3, that the stops were triangular.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE INSCRIPTION (DJB)

Dedications to *Discipulina* or *Disciplina* are not common in Britain.¹ This is only the eighth such dedication found in the island: the others are from Corbridge (*RIB* 1127 and 1128), Greatchesters (*RIB* 1713), Castlesteads (*RIB* 1978), Birrens (*RIB* 2092), Bewcastle (*RIB* 990) and Bertha (*JRS* 49 (1959) 136 no. 6). Four stones were chance finds, but three were found in archaeological contexts. At Corbridge one altar was discovered on the steps of the strong-room in the headquarters building of the west compound (*RIB* 1127). At Bewcastle the stone was found in the fill of the strong-room in the headquarters building. The fine altar from Birrens was recovered from the well of the headquarters building. It may also be noted that the altar at



Altar dedicated to *Disciplina* from Chesters Fort.

Greatchesters was seen within the fort in 1807.² It is quite clear therefore that altars dedicated to *Disciplina* were of an official nature, being erected in the centre of state religion in the fort, the *aedes* of the headquarters building. The altar at Chesters may have been removed from the fort with other stones and used to strengthen the river banks.

On many inscriptions the dedication is simply *Disciplinæ Augusti*, either in full or abbreviated, but in the case of the two inscriptions from Corbridge and the altar from Birrens the unit is also mentioned. In Britain the goddess' name is spelt *Discipulina*, not *Disciplina*, on the three dedications where it is unabbreviated, though elsewhere the spelling varies.³

The inscription from Chesters is particularly important because this is the earliest epigraphic record of *Disciplina*, though the goddess first appears on coins in the latter years of Hadrian's reign. The only dated dedication in Britain is that from Castlesteads which can be assigned to the reign of Severus, Caracalla and Geta, 209–11. However, several other dedications can be approximately dated. The slab erected by soldiers of *cohors I Vardullorum* at Corbridge was probably set up in the mid-second century (*RIB* 1127), while the altar found in the west compound headquarters building at Corbridge and dedicated to *Discipulina Augustorum* by the whole of legion II Augusta is more likely to date to the time of the Severi than the joint reigns of Marcus and Verus in the 160s or Marcus and Commodus in the 170s (*RIB* 1128).⁴ The altar at Birrens is by *cohors II Tungrorum* and therefore probably dates to the last years of the reign of Antoninus Pius, though if this unit was in garrison from 158, when it rebuilt the fort at Birrens, to the abandonment of the site the dedication could date to any time between 158 and the early 180s. The slab found at Bertha near Perth in 1958 is best assigned to the second occupation of the fort, under Antoninus Pius. Finally the altar from Bewcastle was found in the fill of the strong-room and therefore presumably originally stood in the third-century headquarters building.

It may be noted that there are seven dedications to *Disciplina* from North Africa.⁵ The dated examples all fall within the last years of the second century or the third century.

As inscriptions to *Disciplina* were official dedications, usually placed in the *aedes principiorum*, the appearance of such a dedication at Chesters strongly suggests that the unit recorded on it was stationed at the fort. The inscription is securely dated to the reign of Hadrian and therefore would appear to demonstrate the original garrison of the fort.

Inscriptions have recorded the presence of several units at Chesters. Building stones erected under Antoninus Pius (138–61) by legion VI Victrix (*RIB* 1460–61) do not necessarily imply that part of this legion was in garrison during his reign but the fragmentary diploma of 146 (*CIL* XVI 93) found at the fort implies that there was an auxiliary unit in garrison there at the time: unfortunately the name of the unit would have been on the missing part of the document. A building inscription recording the presence of *cohors I Delmatarum quingenaria equitata* (*JRS* 46 (1956) 229, no. 14) was found re-used in the headquarters building. The tombstone of a daughter of

the commanding officer of *cohors I Vangionum milliaria equitata* found at Chesters suggests that this unit was in garrison and her mother's name, Aurelia Eglectiane, points to a date after 161 when the *nomen* Aurelius became much more common (*RIB* 1482). Several inscriptions attest the presence at Chesters of *ala II Asturum* from the 180s into the third century (e.g. *RIB* 1463–6) and the same unit is recorded as the garrison of the fort in the *Notitia Dignitatum* (*Occ* xl 38). None of these units can, on present evidence, have been the original garrison of the fort so there is nothing to prevent *ala Augusta ob virtutem appellata* being the Hadrianic garrison of Chesters.

The new inscription demonstrates that the honorific title *Augusta ob virtutem appellata* was granted to an *ala* during or before the reign of Hadrian: the erection of the altar can be dated no closer than the occupation of the fort under Hadrian, that is about 125–38.⁶ Such a title would have been granted on the occasion of gallantry which is most likely to have taken place during warfare. The case for warfare in Britain late in Hadrian's reign has recently been examined and found wanting.⁷ It would seem most probable therefore that the title was awarded before 125–8, possibly as a result of the warfare in Britain early in Hadrian's reign,⁸ but equally possibly before that and perhaps even in a province other than Britain.

The granting of the title *Augusta* need have had no connection with the Emperor Augustus or even the Julio-Claudians, as this honour continued to be awarded after the end of that dynasty. For example, *ala I Flavia Augusta Britannica* cannot have been raised until after 43 and *cohors II Augusta Dacorum* until after 106. However, such grants of honorific titles to whole units were rarely made before the Flavian period; they were in fact at their most common in the period from the accession of Vespasian in 69 to the death of Hadrian in 138.⁹ There was plenty of fighting in Britain in these years which could have been the occasion for the grant. When this honorific title was awarded the unit presumably dropped its original title.

There is only one other unit in the empire known to have included *ob virtutem appellata* among its titles, *cohors I Breucorum civium Romanorum Valeria Victrix bis torquata ob virtutem appellata*, which was stationed in Raetia in the second century. On four diplomas, ranging in date from 107 to 166, the unit is listed without any honorific appellation (*CIL* XVI 55, 117, 121 and 183), but on a fifth, dated to 121/5, *CR* appears,¹⁰ while the full title listed above is given, though in abbreviated form, only on inscriptions (*CIL* III 5918a with 11931 = *IBR* 276; *CIL* III 11932 = *IBR* 277).

The *ala Augusta ob virtutem appellata* has long been known to have been stationed at Old Carlisle from the 180s into the mid-third century (*RIB* 893–5, 897, 905; cf. also 903). Three other *alae Augustae* are attested in Britain: *ala Augusta Gallorum Petriana*, *ala Augusta Gallorum Proculectiana* and *ala Augusta Vocontiorum*. These are all recorded on diplomas of the early second century (e.g. *CIL* XVI 69) while the earliest reference to *ala Augusta ob virtutem appellata* was 188 (*RIB* 893). It has therefore been assumed that *ala Augusta ob virtutem appellata* should be equated with one of the other three *alae Augustae*, the ethnic epithet being dropped when the honorific title was awarded. *Ala Petriana* was the generally accepted candidate until 1931 when Eric Birley pointed out that *ala Petriana* and *ala Vocontiorum* both had the honorific title *civium Romanorum*, which is not recorded on any of the

inscriptions from Old Carlisle, and that *ala Augusta ob virtutem appellata* should therefore probably be equated with *ala Augusta Gallorum Proculeiana*.¹¹ *Ala Gallorum Proculeiana* is recorded on the diplomas of 122, 135, 146 and on the fragmentary Walcot diploma, which has now been tentatively dated to the period 117–20¹² (*CIL* XVI 69, 82, 93 and 88), but is not attested at any fort. The first reference to *ala Augusta ob virtutem appellata* was, up to 1978, in 188 (*RIB* 893), so there was no overlap in the use of the titles.

The appearance of *ala Gallorum Proculeiana* on one diploma without the honorific epithet but after the title was granted to an *ala* casts doubt on Birley's suggestion. All the *alae Augustae* appear on the British diplomas, though their titles are usually much abbreviated and often, as a result of the fragmentary state of the documents, incompletely known:

	INTVS	EXTRINSECUS
<i>CIL</i> XVI 43 (AD 98)		<i>Gallorum Petria}na CR</i>
<i>CIL</i> XVI 88 (AD 117/120)]r <i>Proculeian</i>
<i>CIL</i> XVI 69 (AD 122)		<i>Gallor Petriana</i> ∞ <i>CR</i>
	<i>Augusta Galoru</i>	<i>Aug Gallor</i>
	<i>Augus Vocontioru Civiu</i>	<i>Aug Vocontior CR</i>
	<i>Romanorum</i>	
<i>CIL</i> XVI 70 (AD 124)	<i>Petrian[</i>	<i>Petrian[</i>
<i>CIL</i> XVI 82 (AD 135)	<i>Aug Gal[</i>	
	<i>Petro</i> ∞	
<i>CIL</i> XVI 93 (AD 146)]Gal <i>Proc</i>	<i>Aug Gall Procul</i>

Ala Vocontiorum in its single appearance has its full title recorded, but *ala Augusta Gallorum Proculeiana* in one instance appears minus *Proculeiana* while *ala Petriana* in none of its three diplomas includes *Augusta* in its title and on only one occasion includes its honorific epithet *civium Romanorum*. There is thus considerable variation in the way units' titles are recorded on diplomas—the abbreviations often changing from one side of the diploma to the other—but in no instance does *ob virtutem appellata*, or an abbreviation of the title, appear. Further, while honorific titles such as *civium Romanorum* (e.g. *CIL* XVI 88), *pia fidelis* (e.g. *CIL* XVI 57), *victrix* (e.g. *CIL* XVI 97) and *torquata* (e.g. *CIL* XVI 169) appear on diplomas, *ob virtutem appellata* is not apparently recorded on an existing diploma.

It can be seen that the evidence from diplomas cannot be used to distinguish between *ala Augusta ob virtutem appellata* and *ala Augusta Gallorum Proculeiana* because of its fragmentary nature and because—as far as is known—*ob virtutem appellata* was not recorded on diplomas. In view of the known inconsistencies in naming units in diplomas it is not impossible that the *ala Augusta Gallorum* on the diploma of 122 is not, as is usually supposed, *ala Gallorum Proculeiana* but *ala Augusta ob virtutem appellata*. However, this suggestion is incapable of proof and perhaps, in the light of the discussion below, unlikely.

The annual dedications to *Iuppiter Optimus Maximus* are the nearest equivalent, epigraphically, to the diplomas, being official dedications by the unit. These inscriptions, however, do not always give the full title of the unit. For example, not one

of the series of IOM dedications erected by *cohors. I Hispanorum milliaria equitata* at Maryport between about 122 and 140 record *milliaria* in the titles of the unit and few record that it was *equitata* (RIB 814–29). Nevertheless, if the full title of the unit stationed at Old Carlisle was *ala Augusta Gallorum Proculeiana ob virtutem appellata* it might be expected that at least one inscription would give a hint of this (RIB 893–5, 897). On the four IOM dedications which have survived, the title of the unit is given as: *ala Augusta ob virtutem appellata* (RIB 893 dating to 188; RIB 894 dating to 191), *ala Augusta* (RIB 895 dating to 197) or *ala Augusta Gordiana ob virtutem appellata* (RIB 897 dating to 242). On other inscriptions relating to this unit no other epithet than *ob virtutem appellata* is given (RIB 905, though the inscription is fragmentary, 907 and 946). The lack of any relationship between the titles of *ala Augusta Gallorum Proculeiana* on diplomas and *ala Augusta ob virtutem appellata* on inscriptions suggests that the two units should not be equated.

The same argument can be applied to the other two *alae Augustae* attested in Britain, *ala Augusta Gallorum Petriana* and *ala Augusta Vocontiorum*. The first is recorded most fully on the diploma of 122 as *ala Gallor Petriana* cR. An inscription erected in Carlisle records a fuller title, *ala Augusta Petriana torquata milliaria civium Romanorum* (RIB 957), while an inscription from Italy records that the unit was *bis torquata* (CIL X 1569 = ILS 2728): it can be reasonably inferred that these honours were granted before the early years of Hadrian.¹³ The *ala Vocontiorum* is recorded at Newstead on an inscription considered to date to Antonine I (about 140–58) simply as *ala Aug(usta) Vocontio(rum)* (RIB 2121). There is no apparent relationship between the titles of either unit and *ala Augusta ob virtutem appellata*.

There is a considerable variety in the form in which a unit's titles appear on diplomas and inscriptions, but the complete lack of any relationship between the titles of *ala Augusta ob virtutem appellata* and *ala Augusta Gallorum Proculeiana*—save *Augusta*—in spite of the overlap in the use of the titles now revealed, does suggest that the new inscription from Chesters records a fourth *ala Augusta* in Britain. Indeed it may be that the *ala Augusta ob virtutem appellata* used the honorific epithet so much on inscriptions to emphasize its separate identity from the other *alae Augustae* in Britain. It may seem unlikely that such a unit could have escaped mention on diplomas in the late first and early second century—unless *ala Augusta Gallorum* on the diploma of 122 is indeed *ala Augusta ob virtutem appellata*—but several units only appear on one diploma out of the eight which relate to Britain, while it is possible that three units failed to appear on any diplomas though in the province at the time: presumably by coincidence they failed to discharge any men in the years for which we have diplomas.

Cohors VI Thracum was at Gloucester in the first century (RIB 121) and in the third century was stationed somewhere in the northern British province of Britannia inferior¹⁴ but it is not recorded on any diploma from the province. It is of course quite possible that the unit left the island in the late first century to return in the late second or early third century, but equally possible that it did not.

Tacitus records the presence of two Tungrian cohorts in the army of Agricola at Mons Graupius.¹⁵ These are generally considered to be identified with *cohortes I* and

II Tungrorum milliariae, which formed part of the garrison of Britain from the second to the fourth centuries. Diplomas relating to the province of Raetia demonstrate that soldiers from *cohortis II Tun]gror(um) (milliariae) vexi(llatio)* were discharged there in 121/5, 147 and probably in 153.¹⁶ No men were discharged from the cohort in 157 and, while this may be coincidental, the unit was back to full strength in 158 when it is recorded building at Birrens. It is presumed that while the detachment was serving in Raetia the main part of the cohort remained in Britain—it is not attested anywhere else—but it does not appear on a diploma. The third unit is *cohors I Pannoniorum*. This is recorded on a tombstone found at Cawfields Milecastle, no. 42, on Hadrian's Wall (*RIB* 1667), though it is possible that the number should be restored to *II*. However, P. Septimius Paterculus served as prefect of *cohors I Pannoniorum* in Britain in the early second century (*ILS* 2732 = *CIL* IX 2649). This unit is not recorded on a diploma relating to Britain.

On balance it would therefore seem likely that *ala Augusta ob virtutem appellata*, the garrison of Chesters under Hadrian and later of Old Carlisle, was a fourth *ala Augusta*. It may have been stationed in Britain before the reign of Hadrian and by chance not been recorded on the known diplomas. Alternatively it could have come to Britain in the early second century, possibly from Germania inferior with legion VI Victrix, though there is no evidence for an *ala Augusta ob virtutem appellata* in that province in the first century, or later,¹⁷ or in any other province of the empire.

Some evidence has been adduced to suggest that this *ala Augusta* was in Britain before the reign of Hadrian. B. J. N. Edwards has recently discussed a tombstone from Lancaster (*RIB* 606).¹⁸ Newly discovered evidence reveals that the unit recorded on this inscription was almost certainly an *ala Aug(usta)*. The inscription reads: *dis manibus L. Iul. Apollinaris Trever. an. XXX eq. alae Au[g.] h. [s.e]*. The fact that *dis manibus* is written out in full and *h.s.e.* appears at the end of the inscription strongly suggests that it dates to before the end of the first century when *dis manibus* tended to be abbreviated to *d.m.* All three *alae Augustae* attested in Britain were originally recruited in Gaul, so the appearance of a Trever in the unit might not be unexpected. However, two other Gauls, including a Trever, are known to have been serving in non-Gaulish units in Britain at this time, so it is perhaps more probable that Apollinaris was recruited in Gaul and sent to Britain to join a unit already stationed there.¹⁹ Lancaster may have been founded under Agricola, so the inscription could date to any time between about 79 and 125. Edwards suggests that it is possible that *ala Augusta* at Lancaster was *ala Augusta ob virtutem appellata*. This is a tempting attribution but not proven. It might be expected that more of the unit's title than *ala Augusta* would appear on the tombstone and there is hardly room for more than one letter—two at the most if ligatured, though this is unlikely in the first century—after *Au[g]* unless the two down strokes interpreted as an *H* were in fact part of the titles of the unit. As this is a privately erected inscription, a tombstone, the full title of the unit may not have been given but only the title used in common parlance. In that case the inscription is more likely to refer to *ala Augusta ob virtutem appellata* than any other *ala Augusta*.

Finally it may be noted that a lead seal found at Chesters (*EE* VII 1152 3) is

stamped *ala Aug(usta)*. The lack of the honorific epithet is of no significance on a seal. The seal by itself is not evidence that this unit was in garrison at Chesters, as seals do not usually refer to the unit in garrison, for they would have arrived at the fort attached to goods in transit. However, this seal could have been lost at Chesters before it was attached to goods leaving the site.

TABLE 1 The garrison of Chesters

Hadrian (c. 125–140)	<i>ala Augusta ob virtutem appellata</i>
Antoninus Pius (c. 140–158)	an unknown auxiliary unit, possibly <i>cohors I Delmatarum equitata</i>
Antoninus Pius (c. 158–163)	<i>cohors I Delmatarum equitata</i> (or earlier under Pius or under Marcus) or an unknown unit
Marcus (c. 163–180)	<i>cohors I Vangionum milliaria equitata??</i>
Commodus onwards	<i>ala II Asturum</i>

TABLE 2 The movement of *ala Augusta ob virtutem appellata*

Agricola–Trajan	Lancaster?
Hadrian	Chesters
Commodus onwards	Old Carlisle

The discovery of this inscription confirms Professor Eric Birley's suggestion that the original garrison of Chesters was an *ala*.²⁰ This fort covered 5.75 acres (2.3 ha) measured over the ramparts. This is considerably larger than other forts, Rudchester (4.5 acres: 1.8 ha) and Halton Chesters (4.3 acres: 1.7 ha), which Birley has suggested were constructed to house *alae quingenariae* on the basis that all these forts project north of Hadrian's Wall, thus allowing cavalry easy movement.²¹ The confirmation of Birley's suggestion for the garrison of Chesters thus tends to detract from his proposal that other, smaller, forts on the Wall were garrisoned by cavalry units. Indeed Dr. B. Dobson has pointed out to me that when an *ala* is stationed at Halton Chesters in the late second or early third century the fort is enlarged to 5.4 acres (2.16 ha), presumably to provide the extra space required by this size of unit.

The lack of cavalry units on Hadrian's Wall during Hadrian's reign has been remarked on elsewhere.²² The new inscription furnishes the first definite evidence for the presence of a cavalry unit on the Wall under Hadrian. It is presumed that in view of its large size (9.32 acres: 3.7 ha) the garrison of Stanwix was *ala Petriana* from the beginning, though in fact the size of the fort may reflect later and not Hadrianic dispositions. It has been suggested that Benwell was constructed to house an *ala quingenaria*, but there are difficulties in accepting this hypothesis.²³ The *ala Sabiniana* has been proposed as the original garrison of South Shields on the basis of the discovery of a tile and a lead seal there.²⁴ However, coincidentally a few months before the Chesters inscription came to light, excavations by Mr. R. Miket at South Shields demonstrated that the Hadrianic fort was smaller than its well known successor

of 5 acres (2 ha).²⁵ The Hadrianic fort of 3.9 acres (1.6 ha) is too small to have held the whole of *ala Sabiniana*, a unit which it appears required a fort of 5.4 acres (2.16 ha) at Halton Chesters some years later.

Chesters therefore joins the small group of forts on Hadrian's Wall whose original garrison is known or at least may be inferred with reasonable certainty: Greatchesters, probably built for *cohors VI Nerviorum*; Carvoran, constructed in the late 130s by *cohors I Hamiorum*; Birdoswald conceivably built by *cohors I or II Tungrorum*, and Stanwix, discussed above; in addition it is possible that Castlesteads was built for *cohors IV Gallorum*.²⁶ The only fort where the evidence is as definite as Chesters is Carvoran, not a true Wall fort.

The near certainty that the fort at Chesters was designed for an *ala quingenaria*, the realization that South Shields cannot have been designed for an *ala* and recent work on Maryport and its inscriptions²⁷ have all combined to modify proposals relating to fort type sites on Hadrian's Wall put forward in the pages of this journal 10 years ago.²⁸ Current excavations at Wallsend, directed by the Society's President, Mr. C. M. Daniels, will undoubtedly lead to amendments to the details, but there is now a slightly greater degree of certainty in the determination of type sites than there was in 1969. The new proposals are set down below. It must be emphasized that these relate only to Hadrian's Wall. Forts on this frontier complex seem to have been constructed for single, complete auxiliary units. Both before and after the Hadrianic period many forts were constructed either for legionary or auxiliary detachments or for a composite garrison. Care has therefore to be exercised in transferring Hadrianic type sites to other periods and other areas, though they do have a relevance in indicating the possible or probable garrison of excavated or unexcavated forts.

TABLE 3 Fort type-sites on the Hadrianic frontier

	hectares	acres	number of barrack and stable blocks required by unit
<i>cohors quingenaria peditata</i>			
Greatchesters	1.34	3.36	6
<i>cohors quingenaria equitata</i>			
Halton Chesters	1.72	4.3	10
<i>cohors milliaria peditata</i>			
Housesteads	2	5	10
<i>cohors milliaria equitata</i>			
Maryport	2.64	6.5	18
<i>ala quingenaria</i>			
Chesters	2.35	5.75	16
<i>ala milliaria</i>			
Stanwix	3.73	9.32	24

It will be seen that there is a close correlation between the size of the fort and the number of barrack and stable blocks required by the unit. This is altogether more satisfactory than the earlier proposals.

The significance of the new discovery can hardly be overstated. It records the earliest epigraphic dedication to *Discipulina*. It suggests most strongly that *ala Augusta ob virtutem appellata* should not be equated with any of the other three *alae Augustae* stationed in Britain as had hitherto been supposed, but is a fourth *ala Augusta*. Further, the inscription provides the name of the original garrison of Chesters and the first definite evidence for the original garrison of a Wall fort. This in turn has a bearing on the original garrisons of other Wall forts.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors wish to thank Major J. E. Benson, on whose property the altar was found, for kindly donating it to Chesters Museum; the Trustees of Chesters Museum for permission to examine the stone; Mr. Guy Pawle of Carlisle Museum for photographing the altar; Mr. J. Thorne of D.O.E. for preparing the line illustration; Dr. F. W. Anderson for identifying the stone; and Professor E. Birley, Dr. B. Dobson, Dr. L. J. F. Keppie, Dr. V. A. Maxfield, Dr. M. Roxan and Dr. R. S. O. Tomlin for reading all or part of the paper in draft, commenting thereon and most generously placing their knowledge of the Roman army at our disposal.

The inscription will be published in "Roman Britain in 1978" as *Britannia X* (1979)

The altar will be displayed in the site museum at Chesters.

NOTES

¹ E. Birley, "The Religion of the Roman Army: 1895-1977", in W. Haase (ed.), *Aufstieg und Niedergang der Römischen Welt*, II, xvi, 2 (Berlin/New York) 1513-15 is the most important recent discussion of this goddess.

² R. C. Bosanquet, "Dr John Lingard's Notes on the Roman Wall", *AA⁴*, 6 (1929), 153. There seems to be no reason to place the findspot "near the sacellum", *contra* I. A. Richmond, "Roman legionaries at Corbridge, their supply-base, temples and religious cults", *AA⁴*, 21 (1943), 166.

³ E. Birley, *op. cit.* (note 1), 1513-14.

⁴ I. A. Richmond, *op. cit.* (note 2), 167; E. Birley, "Excavations at Corstopitum, 1906-1958", *AA⁴*, 37 (1959), 18.

⁵ E. Birley, *op. cit.* 1514-15 for references.

⁶ D. J. Breeze and B. Dobson, *Hadrian's Wall* (revised ed., London, 1978), 68 and 77-8.

⁷ M. G. Jarrett, "An Unnecessary War", *Britannia*, VII (1976), 145-51.

⁸ *Scriptores Historiae Augustae*, Hadrian, 5.

⁹ V. A. Maxfield, *The Dona Militaria of the*

Roman Army (unpublished Durham University PhD thesis 1972), 119-20.

¹⁰ M. Roxan, *Roman Military Diplomas, 1954-1977* (University of London, Institute of Archaeology, Occasional Publication No. 2, 1978), 25.

¹¹ E. Birley, "Three Notes on Roman Cumberland: Bewcastle, Bowness-on-Solway and Petrianae", *CW²*, 31 (1931), 145-6.

¹² M. Roxan, *op. cit.* (note 10), 20 and 24.

¹³ V. A. Maxfield, *op. cit.* (note 9), 112-13.

¹⁴ M. G. Jarrett, "Thracian Units in the Roman Army", *Israel Exploration Journal*, 19, no. 4 (1969), 223.

¹⁵ Tacitus, *Agricola*, 36.

¹⁶ E. Birley, "A Note on the Second Cohort of Tungrians", *CW²*, 35 (1935), 56-60. R. W. Davies, "A Note on a Recently Discovered Inscription from Carrawburgh", *Epigraphische Studien*, 4 (1968), 108-9. M. Roxan, *op. cit.* (note 10), 32 and 59. M. Roxan, "A Note on the Gnotzheim diploma fragment", *Bayerische Vorgeschichtsblätter*, 44 (1979) forthcoming.

¹⁷ G. Alföldy, *Die Hilfstruppen der Römischen Provinz Germania Inferior, Epigraphische Studien*, 6 (1968).

¹⁸ B. J. N. Edwards, "Roman Finds from Con-trebis", *CW*², 71 (1971) 23-5.

¹⁹ B. Dobson and J. C. Mann, "The Roman Army in Britain and Britons in the Roman Army", *Britannia*, IV (1973), 199.

²⁰ E. Birley, "The Beaumont Inscription, the Notitia Dignitatum and the Garrison of Hadrian's Wall", *CW*², 39 (1939), 213. For an alternative suggestion of the original garrison, now shown to be incorrect, see D. J. Breeze and B. Dobson, *op. cit.* (note 6), 48 and D. J. Breeze and B. Dobson, "Fort Types on Hadrian's Wall", *AA*⁴, 47 (1969), 15-32.

²¹ E. Birley, *Research on Hadrian's Wall* (Kendal, 1961), 171.

²² D. J. Breeze and B. Dobson, *op. cit.* (note 6), 47.

²³ F. G. Simpson and I. A. Richmond, "The Roman Fort on Hadrian's Wall at Benwell", *AA*⁴,

19 (1941) 25-33; D. J. Breeze and B. Dobson, "Fort Types on Hadrian's Wall", *AA*⁴, 47 (1969), 20-21 for the difficulties.

²⁴ E. Birley, *op. cit.* (note 20), 221-2.

²⁵ I would like to thank Mr. Miket for allowing me to cite this information in advance of his detailed publication.

²⁶ J. P. Gillam and J. C. Mann, "The Northern British Frontier from Antoninus Pius to Caracalla", *AA*⁴, 48 (1970), 8.

²⁷ M. G. Jarrett, *Maryport, Cumbria: A Roman Fort and its Garrison* (Kendal 1976). Mr. J. Casey argues in his coin report (p. 47) that the "coin sequence would seem to indicate occupation from the Flavian period...", but the visible fort was shown by the excavations to have been founded in the Hadrianic period and it is a logical presumption that it was constructed specifically for *cohors I Hispanorum milliaria equitata*, its Hadrianic garrison.

²⁸ D. J. Breeze and B. Dobson, *op. cit.* (note 23), 15-32.