TRANSLATION OF INSCRIPTIONS AT AQUAE SULIS

This sheet also serves as an answer sheet for the worksheets on individual tombstones and religious inscriptions. You will notice that many Latin names and words end with different letters on different inscriptions. That is because Latin is an inflected language: rather than relying on the order of words to convey the sense of a sentence, Latin changes the ending of the words.

For example:
- ‘ae’ ‘ā’ ‘is’ (plural ‘orum’ ‘um’) = GENITIVE CASE and means ‘of’ or ‘apostrophe-s’.
- ‘ae’ ‘ā’ ‘is’ (plural ‘is’ ‘ibus’) = DATIVE CASE and means ‘to’ or ‘for’.
- ‘a’ ‘ē’ ‘u’ = ABLATIVE CASE and means ‘from’.

Ligatures (joined letters) and reversed or smaller letters, are common on inscriptions after the 1st Century AD.

TOMBSTONES

See web-page for photographs, powerpoint for line-drawings and decoding leaflets for analysis.

T2

(L'life and Death in Aquae Sulis')

L[ucius] VITELLIUS MA
NTAI [f[ilius] TANCINUS
CIVES HISP[anus] CAURIE[n]S
EQ[jues] ALAE VETTONUM C[iivium]
R[omanorum]
ANN[orum] XXXXVI STIP[endiorum] XXVI
H[ic] S[itus] E[st]

Lucius Vitellius Tancinus, son of Mantaius, a tribesman of Caurium in Spain, cavalryman of the Regiment of Vettones, Roman citizens, aged 46, of 26 years’ service.

Here he lies.

The relief sculpture of a horseman over a defeated enemy is typical of 1st century A.D. tombstones. The cavalry regiment of the Vettones had all been granted Roman Citizenship by the Emperor Vespasian, presumably for their part in the invasion of Britain in 43 A.D.

Notice that rather than taking his father’s first name, Tancinus has the Roman ‘Lucius’.

T3

(L'life and Death in Aquae Sulis')

IULIUS VITA
LIS FABRICIE[n]S
IS LEG[ionis] XX V V
STIPENDIOR
UM IX AN[n]OR[um] XX
IX NATIONE BE
LGA EX COLEGIO
FABRICE[nium] ELATU
S H[ic] S[itus] E[st]

Julius Vitalis, armourer of the 20th Legion Valeria Victrix, of 9 years’ service, aged 29, a Belgic tribesman, with funeral at the cost of the Guild of Armourers.

Here he lies.

The gable top contains a flower - a common symbol of death on this type of 1st century A.D. tombstone. The lack of ligatures (joined letters) is another early feature.

As a member of the Belgic people, Vitalis came either from the territory of the British Belgae in the area of modern Hampshire, in which case he was recruited into the legion very early in the life of the new province, or he was from the Gallic Belgae of Northern France.

The 20th Legion was given the honorary title Valeria Victrix (Courageous and Victorious) following the Boudican rebellion 60-61 A.D. Note the inconsistent spellings of ‘fabriciesis’ and ‘fabricensium’.

T4

(L'life and Death in Aquae Sulis')

NIC[opoli] EMERITUS EX
LEG[ione] XX AN[norum] XLV
H[ic] S[itus] E[st]

... from the Sergian voting-tribe, Antigonus from Nicopolis, a veteran from the 20th Legion, aged 45.

Here he lies.

Gaius Tiberinus, his heir, had this set up.

He was a Roman citizen: "Sergia Tribu” means he had the right to vote in Rome even if in practice he hardly ever went there!

T7

(L'life and Death in Aquae Sulis')

D[is] M[anibus]
MERCATILLA MAGNI L[iberta]
ALUMNA VIXIT AN[num] I
M[enses] VI D[ies] XII

To the Spirits of the Departed; Mercatilla, freedwoman and foster-daughter of Magnus, lived 1 year

6 months, 12 days.

This little girl had been born a slave and then freed and adopted by her former master, who obviously cared a lot about her. Was she his daughter by one of his slaves?
### T8

**('Life and Death in Aquae Sulis')**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latin</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RUSONIAE AVENT[i]</td>
<td>... to Rusonia Aventina, a tribeswoman of the Mediomatrici, <em>Metz in France</em> aged 58. Here she lies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAE [civi] MEDIOMATR[icae]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AN[norum] LVIII H[ic] S[ita] E[st]</td>
<td>Lucius Ulpius Sestius, her heir, had this set up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L[ucus] ULPIUS SESTIUS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H[eres] F[aciendum] C[uravit]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Rusonia's stone shows that women could possess enough status and wealth to have an impressive tombstone.*

### T11

**('Worshipping the Gods')**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latin</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D[is] [M]anianus</td>
<td>To the Spirits of the Departed; Gaius Calpurnius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G[aius] CALPURNIUS</td>
<td>Receptus, priest of the goddess Sulis, lived 75 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RECEPTUS SACER</td>
<td>Calpurnia Trifosa, his freedwoman and wife, had this set up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOS DEAE SU</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIS VIXIT AN[nos] LXXV</td>
<td>This tombstone is shaped like an altar, presumably in reference to his position as a priest, and it is carved with good, clear Classical lettering, with several reversed letters and ligatures. The ER of 'sacerdos' in small writing may indicate a mistake in the original carving. Trifosa (this Greek name means 'Delicious') was originally his slave, and he obviously freed her in order to marry her, when she also took the female version of his name: 'Calpurnia'.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|CALPURNIA TRIFO|**RELIGIOUS STONES**

See web-page for photographs, powerpoint for line-drawings and decoding leaflets for analysis.

N.B. Many of these stones have been dedicated to fulfil an earlier promise that the dedicator had made to the god or goddess: Roman religion was based on a contract between the god and the worshipper. After making a sacrifice and adding a request, the worshipper would promise to give the god(dess) an offering when the request had been granted. This is why many stones contain the formula V S L M, which means that the worshipper is keeping his or her promise.

### R1

**('Temple Courtyard')**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latin</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DEAE SULI</td>
<td>To the goddess Sulis, Lucius Marcius Memor, a Haruspex gave [..] as a gift.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LUCIUS MARCIUS MEMOR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HARUSPEX</td>
<td>This inscription can be seen in situ in the Temple Courtyard. D D implies that he had offered a gift to the goddess: probably a statue which stood next to this dedication stone. A 'haruspex' was a senior priest who interpreted the will of the gods by examining the entrails of sacrificed animals. This stone stands very close to the sacrificial altar - Memor's place of work - a very prestigious position! Memor is the only haruspex recorded from Britain. Presumably the original abbreviation of his unusual profession to HAR was not recognised by readers, so VSP was added later to make it clearer (even though it spoils the symmetry).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D[ono] D[edit]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### R2

**('Worshipping the Gods')**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latin</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DEAE SULI MI</td>
<td>To the goddess Sulis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NERVAE</td>
<td>Minerva, Sulinus, Maturus's son kept his promise happily and deservedly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SULINUS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATU</td>
<td>Peregrinus, Secundus's son, a Treveran citizen, <em>Trier in Germany</em> to Loucetius Mars and Nemetona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RI FIL[ius]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V[otum] S[olvit] L[ibenter] M[erito]</td>
<td>Loucetius Mars, like Sulis Minerva, is a conflation of a Celtic and Roman deity. The Roman god Mars was popular in</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### R3
Britain and Gaul and he was known by a number of Celtic epithets. The name ‘Loucetius’ means ‘light’ and it is likely that this Mars is connected with healing through the equation of light with the sun and the connections between light, clearness and water. Roman gods were often given Celtic consorts (a relief of Mercury and Rosmerta can also be seen at Bath). Loucetius Mars’ Celtic consort, Nemetona, is a goddess associated by her name with sacred groves. A vast religious and healing complex at Trier was dedicated to Lenus Mars and his consort, Ancamma, so Peregrinus may have identified similarities between these deities from his home and Loucetius Mars and Nemetona in Bath.

R4  ('Worshipping the Gods')

| DEAE SULI | To the goddess Sulis,                  |
| [pr]O SALUTE ET | for the welfare and                               |
| [i]NCOLUMITATE | safety                                            |
| AUFIDI MAXIMI | of Aufidius Maximus,                           |
| AUFIDIUS LEMNUS | Aufidius Lemnus,                               |

Stones R4 and R5 are both dedicated by freedmen of Marcus Aufidius Maximus, requesting his well-being. From the size and style of these two altars as well as the subject-matter, it can be assumed that they were erected at the same time. If so, it is interesting to note that they have been inscribed by different hands, each using a different lettering style and different abbreviations - including the format of the names. Notice > for ‘centurion’.

* The sculptor has made a mistake by giving the praenomen ‘Marcus’ to the freedman rather than to his ex-master. The 6th Legion was transferred to Britain in c.122 A.D. so these altars cannot be earlier than this date. It is known that the Emperor Hadrian visited Britain in 122 A.D. and it is possible that he visited Bath. Perhaps the tholos, or circular temple (remains of which are displayed in the museum), may have been built to honour his visit and love of all things Greek.

It is tempting to see the manumission of Lemnus and Eutuches as part of the celebrations.

R5  ('Worshipping the Gods')

| [d]EAE SULI | To the goddess Sulis,                  |
| PRO SALUTE ET | for the welfare and                               |
| INCOLUMITA | safety                                            |
| [te] MAR[ci] AUFID[i] | of Marcus Aufidius,                           |
| [m]AXIMI > LEG[ionis] VI VIC[tricis] | Maximus, Centurion of the 6th Legion Victrix (Victorious), |
| [a]UFIDIUS EU | Aufidius Eutuches,                               |
| TUCHES LEB[erus] | his freedman (notice spelling mistake!) |

See the note on R4 above.

R6  ('Worshipping the Gods')

| [dia]NA[e] SACRATI | To Diana, most hallowed, |
| SSIMA[e] VOTUM SOLVIT | he fulfilled his vow, |
| VETTIUS BE | (in better English: Vettius |
| NIGNUS LIB[erus] | Benignus, a freedman. |

It is possible that the carved stone relief nearby showing a dog looking up at a draped figure holding a bow, may be a representation of Diana, the Roman goddess of hunting.

R7  ('Life and Death in Aquae Sulis')

| PRISCUS | Priscus, |
| TOUTI FIL[ius] | Toutius' son, |
| LAPI[BAR]IS | a stonemason, |
| GIVES CAR[nu]TENUS SU[li] | tribesman of the Carnutes (Chartres in France), to Sulis |
| DEAE V[otum] solvit [libenter] [merito] | the goddess. He kept his promise happily and deservedly. |

A Lapidarius was a stone mason who specialised in figures and relief carving, and the elegant, calligraphic writing in two sizes of well-spaced lettering with frequent leaf-stops is fitting for a man of his profession. Priscus came from Chartres, which is another stone-working region.

It is tempting to speculate that this altar could also serve as an advertisement for Priscus if he had decided to start working in Bath.
To the goddess Sulis
Minerva and to the
Divinities of the (two) Emperors, Gaius
Curiaius
Saturninus,
a Centurion, of the 2nd Legion Augusta (The Emperor’s),
on behalf of himself and (‐que)
his family,
he kept his promise happily and deservedly.

The dedication to the ‘numen’ of emperors was popular in Roman Britain, especially amongst the military. (see also inscription P4). The word ‘numen’ conveys the essence or quality of divinity rather than an actual god. Whilst alive, the emperor was believed to embody many divine-like virtues which were also personified with their own ‘numina’ and you can see examples of these on coin-reverses of the period. Worship of the ‘numen’ of the emperor(s) was part of a more widespread imperial cult which included the deification of dead emperors.

This inscription must post-date the first co-emperorship, between Marcus Aurelius and Verus in 161-9 A.D.

... Novantius’ son
on behalf of himself and his family,
after a vision/dream, set [this] up.

We do not know this person’s name, since the inscription is incomplete; the rest must have been carved on a separate block which stood on top of this one.

This format for a dedication is unusual. Sacred sleep, leading to dreams, may have been part of the cure at Bath as at other healing sanctuaries, especially those dedicated to the cult of Aesculapius (Roman god of healing). It is possible that the building next to the spring, decorated with the Luna pediment and the façade of the Four Seasons, was used for this purpose.

Like stone R1, the format of this inscription suggests that it accompanied a separate offering: probably a statue. ‘Suleviae’ was the local name given to the three Celtic Mother-goddesses in the Danube basin. Depictions of un-named Mother Goddesses are common throughout Britain, Gaul, Germany and north Italy. Sometimes they are tied to a specific locality, such as the ‘Matres Gleniae’ worshipped with a male god, Glenis, at Glenum (St Remy-en-Provence). It is interesting to speculate whether Sulinus used this Germanic name because of links to their home-area or whether he was making a link either to his own name or to that of the goddess Sulis. Perhaps he was using this altar as an advertisement for himself and hoping to appeal to customers who came from that part of the Empire.

Two men called Sulinus are recorded from Bath. This one was a stone-mason, specialising in lettering on inscriptions, but he has mis-spelled the name of his profession, which should read ‘sculptor’!

N.B. P4, P5 and P11 also have religious significance.

PUBLIC INFORMATION, PUBLICITY & PROPAGANDA

See web-page for photographs and information, and powerpoint for line-drawings.

Vesuvian in his 7th year of Consulship.

This building inscription refers to the year 75 A.D.

This lead pig (ingot) can be dated by the inscription to 117-38 A.D.
### P3a-b

| [c]LAUDIUS LIGUR | Claudius Ligur  
| .. AE NIMIA VETUSTATE | ... excessive age  
| [c]OLLEGIO LONGA SERIA [annorum] | the guild in long sequence of years ...  
| [sua pec]UNIA REFICI ET REPINGI CUR[avit] | at his own cost had it repaired and repainted ..  
| G[ius] PROTACIU[s] | Gaius Protacius  
| d[EEAE SULIS MI] [nervae] | of the goddess Sulis Minerva ..  

This building inscription can be seen at high level in the 'Worshipping the Gods' section. It is thought that the facade, representing the four seasons, came from a building which originally faced onto the Temple Courtyard and therefore had a religious function. Local officials were expected to pay for building and reconstruction work so they liked to position their names prominently so that voters would remember who they were. The inscription has fine, classical lettering with complex ligatures and triangular interpuncts.

### P4

| LOCUM RELI | This holy place,  
| GISUM PER IN | by  
| SOLENTIAM E | vandalism  
| RUTUM | wrecked,  
| VIRTUTI ET N[umini] | To the Virtue and Deity  
| AUG[iusti] REPURGA | has restored it.  
| TUM REDDIDIT | Gaius Severius  
| G[ius] SEVERIUS | Emeritus, the Centurion  
| EMERITUS | of the Emperor  
| REG[ionarius] | in charge of the area.  

A district under military rule is called a 'regio', so the centurion (> in charge of this area must have had responsibility for maintaining its buildings.  
See R8 for an explanation of 'numini' (numen).  
VIRTUS and NUMEN both end in 'i' because they are in the DATIVE case = 'TO' the virtue and deity ...  
AUGUSTUS ends in 'is' because it is in the GENITIVE case = 'OF' the Emperor.  
It is possible that the vandalism (insolentia) referred to was carried out by Christians against this pagan sanctuary.  
If this is the case, the inscription can be dated to the latest period of Roman occupation.  
Incised guidelines can still be seen on this inscription: why didn't the stonemason just use chalk?  
N.B. Emeritus is this centurion's name, but you will see on the Tombstones decoding leaflet that the word can also mean a Veteran, or retired soldier.

### P5

| ANTONINI PII FELICIS INVICT | Antoninus Pius Felix Invictus  
| TI AUG[iusti] NAEVII AUG[iusti] | Augustus; Naevius, an Imperial  
| LIB[ertus] ADIUT[or] PROC[uratorum] PRINCI | freedman, assistant of the procurator,  
| PIA RUINA OP[p]RESS[a] A SOLO RES | restored from ground-level these ruined  
| TITUIT | headquarters.  

This building inscription is thought to belong to the centre of an Imperial estate in the Bath area which possibly exploited Bath stone. The Emperor referred to is better known to us by his nickname of Caracalla (211-14 A.D.) but it is interesting to see his eight names written out here! All his names are in the Genitive case, ending in 'is' or 'i' = 'OF'.  
Although Naevius was an exslave, Imperial freedmen were given a lot of responsibility and power and had important jobs in the imperial bureaucracy. (This inscription is currently in storage at the museum.)

### P6


The stag shown on this lead seal is taken to be the badge of the province.

### P7

| IUNIANI ... | Junianus's ...  
| AD CLARITATEM | For clarity (of vision)  

This (reversed) stamp shows the name of an eye-ointment maker, and what the product promises to do for the eyes.  
This artefact was discovered in Bath last century when the line-drawing was made, but it has since been lost.
Potter’s mark on a shard of Samian pottery. We know from stylistic features and comparisons with other pots that Passienus worked in La Graufesenque (near Millau) during the reigns of the Emperors Nero and Vespasian.

| EST CIVITAS | Citizenship (or Town) |
| VMIIS QUAS POS | |
| VLI SINGULAS | |
| XVII K OCTOBRE | 15th September (17 days before the Kalends of October) |
| TILA RTI DIOCELE | |
| PROCULEIANCVIP | |
| PINQUOS | |
| LE | |

reverse side

| RINETITIE | |
| ITANNSVBI | |
| RIBVSVESTIPE | |
| EST. MISSION | |
| ITIPISIS II | |

Soldier’s discharge Diploma, granting him citizenship as from 15th September. We do not know the year, but it must be before the 3rd century, when Roman citizenship was granted to all citizens of the Empire.

We do not know why Martinus wrote his name on this piece of pottery. Perhaps it was his personal bowl.

| DEAE S[uli] M[inervae] | To the goddess Sulis Minerva |
| DEAE SUL[i] MIN[ervae] | To the goddess Sulis Minerva |

The majority of Roman pewter vessels have been found in late hoards, but they may have been made much earlier. These ‘paterae’ were excavated from the Sacred Spring and it is not possible to date them accurately. Finds of stone moulds for making pewter vessels suggest a local industry. Paterae such as these were used for pouring libations of wine or Spring water. The inscriptions show that they were dedicated to the deity. The pewter vessels from the Spring are all rather battered and worn - perhaps they were decommissioned by throwing them into the Sacred Spring.

CURSES

Selected Curses are transliterated and translated on the Curses Powerpoint, with line-drawings.