The Archaeology of Rome and the Roman provinces

Roman epigraphy
Roman Epigraphy

- Epigraphy is the study of inscriptions or epigraphs as writing it is the science of identifying graphemes, clarifying their meanings, classifying their uses according to dates and cultural contexts, and drawing conclusions about the writing and the writers.
- Specifically excluded from epigraphy are the historical significance of an epigraph as a document and the artistic value of a literary composition.
- A person using the methods of epigraphy is called an epigrapher or epigraphist.
- An epigraph is any sort of text, from a single grapheme (such as marks on a pot that abbreviate the name of the merchant who shipped commodities in the pot) to a lengthy document.
- Epigraphy overlaps other competences such as numismatics or palaeography.
Roman Epigraphy

- Egyptian hieroglyphs were solved using the Rosetta Stone, which was a multilingual stele in Classical Greek, Demotic Egyptian and Classical Egyptian hieroglyphs.
- The work was done by the French scholar, Jean-François Champollion, and the British scientist Thomas Young.
Roman Epigraphy

- The media and the forms of the graphemes are diverse: engravings in stone or metal, scratches on rock, impressions in wax, embossing on cast metal, cameo or intaglio on precious stones, painting on ceramic or in fresco.
- Typically the material is durable, but the durability might be an accident of circumstance, such as the baking of a clay tablet in a conflagration.
- Epigraphy is a primary tool of archaeology when dealing with literate cultures.
- The study of ancient handwriting, usually in ink, is a separate field, palaeography.
- The science of epigraphy has been developing steadily since the 16th century. Principles of epigraphy vary culture by culture, and the infant science in European hands concentrated on Latin inscriptions at first.
Roman Epigraphy

- Inscriptions were commonly incised on stone or marble, on metal, or on wood (though this last material has hardly ever survived, except in Egypt), or on terracotta.
- The metal most commonly used for inscriptions was bronze: flat tablets of this were often made for affixing to the walls of temples and other buildings.
- Occasionally such tablets were made of silver or gold; and inscriptions were often incised on vessels made of any of these metals. Inscriptions on metal were nearly always incised, not cast.
- The tools used for making inscriptions varied with the material; most of them were some kind of chisel, usually with a square blade; early inscriptions were sometimes made on hard rock by successive blows with a punch or pointed hammer. Sometimes a circular punch was used for O or a letter of which O formed a part.
- Early inscriptions, which are often amateur work, are frequently very irregular in their cutting. But in almost all examples of later work, the inscriptions are evidently cut by professionals, and there are definite styles and methods belonging to various places and periods.
Roman Epigraphy

- The custom of making different strokes and different parts of curves of varying thickness became common in Roman inscriptions, which developed a monumental style of their own, varying from period to period.
- Inscriptions can often be approximately dated by the style of the cutting as well as by the shapes of the letters; skill in doing this can only be acquired by a careful and minute study of originals and facsimiles.
- Apart from numerals, the use of initials in the place of complete words was not common in early times.
- It became very frequent in Roman inscriptions, which sometimes are made up almost entirely of such abbreviations and can only be understood by those familiar with the formulae.
Roman Epigraphy

- The position or place of inscriptions depends greatly upon their purpose or intention. When they have a direct relation to the sculptures, reliefs or paintings with which they are associated, they often form a kind of pattern to fill the background or vacant spaces between the figures.

- In late Greek or Roman work it is usual to cut any inscription relative to a statue or relief upon the basis on which this is mounted; but short inscriptions such as dedications or artists' signatures are often placed in some inconspicuous position upon the work itself.

- It is often possible to date an inscription approximately by the style of the lettering, or even by the alphabet used.
Roman Epigraphy

• Inscriptions may be roughly divided into two main classes:
• those in which the inscription was subservient to the use or purpose of the object on which it was inscribed, or at any rate had a direct relation to that object — for example, the name of the owner or the record of dedication to a god
• those in which the inscription existed independently for its own sake, or for the sake of the information which it recorded, and the object on which it was inscribed was either made for the purpose, as a slab of marble or plate of bronze, or was made use of, as in the case of a convenient wall or the surface of a rock, or even a potsherd.
• The walls of buildings are often covered with such inscriptions, especially if they are in a conspicuous or convenient position, and so offer an obvious means of publicity.
M. Agrippa, Lucii filius, consul tertium fecit

Marcus Agrippa, son of Lucius, consul for the third time, built this
The Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum (CIL) is a comprehensive collection of ancient Latin inscriptions. It forms an authoritative source for documenting the surviving epigraphy of classical antiquity. Public and personal inscriptions throw light on all aspects of Roman life and history. The Corpus continues to be updated in new editions and supplements.

CIL also refers to the organization within the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities responsible for collecting data on and publishing the Latin inscriptions. It was founded in 1853 by Theodor Mommsen and is the first and major organization aiming at a comprehensive survey.

The CIL collects all Latin inscriptions from the whole territory of the Roman Empire, ordering them geographically and systematically.

Individual contributions have been made by epigraphers such as Georg Fabricius (1516–1571); August Wilhelm Zumpt (1815–1877); Theodor Mommsen (1817–1903); Emil Hübbe (1834–1901); Franz Cumont (1868–1947); Louis Robert (1904–1985).
Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum

- In 1847 a committee was created in Berlin with the aim of publishing an organized collection of Latin inscriptions, which had previously been described piecemeal by hundreds of scholars over the preceding centuries.
- The leading figure of this committee was Theodor Mommsen (who wrote several of the volumes covering Italy).
- Much of the work involved personal inspections of sites and monuments in an attempt to replicate the original as much as possible.
- The Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum, begun by Mommsen and other scholars, has been published in Berlin since 1863, with wartime interruptions. It is the largest and most extensive collection of Latin inscriptions.
- New fascicles are still produced as the recovery of inscriptions continues. The Corpus is arranged geographically: all inscriptions from Rome are contained in volume 6. This volume has the greatest number of inscriptions; volume 6, part 8, fascicle 3 was just recently published (2000).
Some 95,000 Latin inscriptions from Rome are known (excluding the *instrumentum domesticum*) (Ch. 8), and it is important to be able to navigate this sea of information. The collection of inscriptions from Rome coincided with the start of serious epigraphic inquiries (Ch. 2). For modern studies, volume VI of the *CIL* represents the starting point (along with volume XV, which contains inscriptions on *instrumentum domesticum*). The first fascicle covering Rome appeared in 1876, and the publication of *CIL* VI continued well beyond most other volumes in the series, with the last fascicle (VI 4.3) appearing in 1933. Therefore volume VI covers more recent discoveries than most other regional *CIL* volumes. In addition, the “rebirth” of the *CIL* project in recent decades has included Rome in the form of fascicles which contain new texts of certain types together with updates of previous finds of the same category (*CIL* VI 8.2, 1996: emperors; VI 8.3, 2000: senators and *equites Romani*).

The content of *CIL* VI can be divided under seven main headings, which give a rough idea of the range of the epigraphic record of Rome (Table 22.1, which excludes certain minor categories).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 22.1 The main contents of <em>CIL</em> VI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type of inscription</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Inscriptions relating to religious cults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Emperors and the imperial family (dedications, various activities by emperors and their relatives)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Members of the elite: senators and <em>equites</em> (official and private contexts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1 Lower ranking attendants on magistrates (<em>apparitores</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Roman priests, their organizations, the calendar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1 Public slaves (<em>servi publici</em>) assisting Roman priests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Soldiers, military matters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Lower government officials (to which should be added sections 3.1 and 4.1), tradespeople, craftsmen, performers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Common epitaphs, often with little content besides the name and age of the deceased</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum

- The earlier volumes collected and published authoritative versions of all inscriptions known at the time—most of these had been previously published in a wide range of publications.
- The descriptions include images of the original inscription if available, drawings showing the letters in their original size and position, and an interpretation reconstructing abbreviations and missing words, along with discussion of issues and problems. The language of the CIL is Latin.
- In those cases where a previously cited inscription could no longer be found, the authors tried to get an accurate reading by comparing the versions of the published inscription in the works of previous authors who had seen the original. The first volume appeared in 1853.
The CIL presently consists of 17 volumes in about 70 parts, recording approximately 180,000 inscriptions.

Thirteen supplementary volumes have plates and special indices. The first volume, in two sections, covered the oldest inscriptions, to the end of the Roman Republic; volumes II to XIV are divided geographically, according to the regions where the inscriptions were found.

The other volumes cover other topics. Volume XVII, for instance, is entirely devoted to milestones. A volume XVIII is planned, which will contain the Carmina Latina Epigraphica (Latin verse inscriptions). A two-volume "Index of Numbers", correlating inscription numbers with volume numbers, was published in 2003.

The Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften continues to update and reprint the CIL.

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FIG. 4.2 Map of the Roman Empire, showing the areas covered by each regional CIL volume.
Roman Epigraphy

- Latin inscriptions may be classified on much the same lines as Greek; but certain broad distinctions may be drawn at the outset.
- They are generally more standardized as to form and as to content, not only in Rome and Italy, but also throughout the provinces of the Roman Empire.
- One of the chief difficulties in deciphering Latin Inscriptions lies in the very extensive use of initials and abbreviations.
- These are of great number and variety, and while some of them can be easily interpreted as belonging to well-known formulae, others offer considerable difficulty, especially to the inexperienced student.
- Often the same initial may have many different meanings according to the context. Some common formulae such as V.S.L.M. (votum solvit libens merito; „He/She has fulfilled his vow, willingly, as it should”), or H.M.H.N.S. (hoc monumentum heredem non sequetur; „This tomb does not/is not to follow the heir (is not/is not to be part of the inheritance”) offer little difficulty, but there are many which are not so obvious and leave room for conjecture.
- Often the only way to determine the meaning is to search through a list of initials, such as those given by modern Latin epigraphists, until a formula is found which fits the context.
S.P.Q.R.
SPQR is an acronym of a Latin phrase, Senātus Populusque Rōmānus ("The Roman Senate and People" referring to the government of the ancient Roman Republic, and used as an official emblem of the modern-day comune (municipality) of Rome. It appears on Roman currency, at the end of documents made public by inscription in stone or metal, in dedications of monuments and public works, and was emblazoned on the vexilloids of the Roman legions.

The phrase commonly appears in Roman political, legal and historical literature, including the speeches of Cicero and Ab Urbe Condita Libri ("Books from the Founding of the City") of Livy.

In Latin, Senātus is a nominative singular noun meaning "Senate". Populusque is compounded from the nominative noun Populus, "the People", and -que, an enclitic particle meaning "and" which connects the two nominative nouns. The last word, Rōmānus ("Roman") is an adjective modifying the whole of Senātus Populusque: the "Roman Senate and People", taken as a singular whole.

Thus, the sentence is translated literally as "The Roman Senate and People", or more freely as "The Senate and People of Rome".

FIG. 10.1 Dedicatory inscription from the Arch of Titus, Rome.
The Senate and the People of Rome to the late revered Titus Vespasian, Augustus, son of the late revered Vespasian.

The Arch of Titus (Italian: Arco di Tito; Latin: Arcus Titi) is a 1st-century A.D. honorific arch, located on the Via Sacra, Rome, just to the south-east of the Roman Forum. It was constructed in c. A.D. 82 by the Emperor Domitian shortly after the death of his older brother Titus to commemorate Titus' victories, including the Siege of Jerusalem (70 CE). The arch has provided the general model for many triumphal arches erected since the 16th century—perhaps most famously it is the inspiration for the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, France.
The title's date of establishment is unknown, but it first appears in inscriptions of the Late Republic, from c. 80 BC onwards. Previously, the official name of the Roman state, as evidenced on coins, was simply ROMA.

The abbreviation last appears on coins of Constantine the Great (ruled AD 312-337), the first Christian Roman emperor.

The two legal entities mentioned, Senātus and the Populus Rōmānus, are sovereign when combined.

This signature continued in use under the Roman Empire. The emperors were considered the representatives of the people even though the senātūs consultā, or decrees of the Senate, were made at the pleasure of the emperor.

FIG. 10.6 Marble copy of the “shield of virtues” (clipeus virtutum) from Arelate, Gallia Narbonensis. Musée lapidaire d’art païen, Arles.
The Roman people appear very often in law and history in such phrases as dignitās, maiestās, auctoritās, libertās populi Rōmānī, the "dignity, majesty, authority, freedom of the Roman people". They were a populus līber, "a free people". There was an exercitus, imperium, iudicia, honorēs, consulēs, voluntās of this same populus: "the army, rule, judgments, offices, consuls and will of the Roman people".

The Romans believed that all authority came from the people. It could be said that similar language seen in more modern political and social revolutions directly comes from this usage.

People in this sense meant the whole government. The latter, however, was essentially divided into the aristocratic Senate, whose will was executed by the consuls and praetors, and the comitia centuriāta, "committee of the centuries", whose will came to be safeguarded by the Tribunes.

One of the ways the emperor Commodus (180-192) paid for his donatives and mass entertainments was to tax the senatorial order, and on many inscriptions, the traditional order is provocatively reversed (Populus Senatusque...).
Roman Epigraphy

- The commonest materials are stone, marble and bronze; but a more extensive use is made of stamped bricks and tiles, which are often of historical value as identifying and dating a building or other construction.
- The same applies to leaden water pipes which frequently bear dates and names of officials. Terracotta lamps also frequently have their makers' names and other information stamped upon them.
- Arms, and especially shields, sometimes bear the name and corps of their owners. Leaden discs were also used to serve the same purpose as modern identification discs. Inscriptions are also found on sling bullets — Roman as well as Greek; there are also numerous classes of tesserae or tickets of admission to theatres or other shows.
A. Public Inscriptions

A.1. Honorific Inscriptions
   A.1.1. Standard honorific inscriptions
   A.1.2. Building inscriptions
   A.1.2.1. Milestones and boundary-markers

A.2. Funerary inscriptions
   A.2.1. Standard epitaphs
   A.2.2. Carmina Latina epigraphica

A.3. Inscriptions with religious content
   A.3.1. Sacred laws and votive inscriptions (tituli sacri)
   A.3.2. Acts of the Arval Brethren (acta fratum Arvalium)
   A.3.3. Inscriptions on rock

A.4. Official inscriptions (texts issued by state or local authorities)
   A.4.1. Laws, decrees, senatus consulta
   A.4.2. Tablets recording military discharge, hospitium and patronage agreements
   A.4.3. Calendars and fasti

A.5. Various dipinti

B. Private and Domestic Inscriptions

B.1. Domestic inscriptions in mosaics and wall-paintings
B.2. Graffiti
B.3. Texts on everyday objects (instrumentum domesticum)
B.4. Writing-tablets
B.5. Curse-tablets
Legionary headquarters (principia) at Novae (Stecklen), c. AD 213

The principia was the administrative and religious centre of the fortress. This example from Novae is smaller than many others, covering only 0.6ha. In particular, it lacks the ranges of rooms that often surround the central courtyard or forum militare. Originally erected under the Flavian emperors, the basilica appears to date from Trajan's reign, but there was extensive rebuilding in the early years of the 3rd century AD, following an earthquake. The rooms behind the basilica had a monumental façade, reflecting the importance of the building. The centrally placed chapel, or aedes, was raised above the level of the neighbouring offices; archaeologists found evidence of the burning of bones, perhaps of sacrificial animals, hinting at the ritual use of the building. Amongst the finds of stone inscriptions and sculpture was a fine marble head of the emperor Caracalla, who visited the fortress c. AD 213–15.
The Mithraeum at Novae
Fig. 5. Altar dedicated to Dea Sancta Placida by Iulius Statillus, an Imperial cult priest in M(unicipium) Niovensium. (T. Biniewski)
Roman Epigraphy

- For us, accustomed as we are to a vast mass of books, newspapers and other printed or digital documents, it is difficult to realise the extensive use and great convenience assigned to inscriptions in ancient times.
- Not only were public announcements of all sorts, such as we should make known by advertisements or posters, thus placed before the public, but all kinds of records and enactments:
  - codes of law and political decrees;
  - regulations for all matters, civil and religious;
  - accounts and contracts, public and private;
  - treaties between states;
  - records of public and private benefactions and dedications, and all matters of administration;
  - honours to the living and to the memory of the dead.
- Many of these were intended to preserve for all time the records which they contained; but others must have been of only temporary interest. It seems, therefore, the more remarkable that they should have been incised on permanent material such as bronze, marble or stone — and incised in the first instance, with a care and perfection of technique which have led to their survival to the present day, so as to preserve for us invaluable evidence as to the life and institutions of the people who made them.
The Twelve Tables
*Lex Duodecim Tabularum*

- A plebeian named Terentilius proposed in 462 BC that an official legal code should be published, so that plebeians could not be surprised and would know the law.

- Like most other early codes of law, they combine strict and rigorous penalties with equally strict and rigorous procedural forms.

- **Twelve Tables**
  - In **451** B.C. officials carve *Roman laws* on twelve tablets.
  - Called the Twelve Tables, they become the basis for later Roman law.
  - Laws confirm the right of all **free citizens** to the protection of the law.
  - Citizenship is limited to **adult male landowners**.
  - The Twelve Tables are hung in the **Forum**
Treaties and agreements

• There were many treaties between Rome and other states in republican times; but we do not, as a rule, owe our knowledge of these to inscriptions, which are very rare in this earlier period.

• In imperial times, to which most Latin inscriptions belong, international relations were subject to the universal domination of Rome, and consequently the documents relating to them are concerned with reference to the central authority, and often take the form of orders from the emperor.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>lex Latina Tabulae Bantinae</td>
<td>late 2nd century BCE</td>
<td>RS 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lex Osca Tabulae Bantinae</td>
<td>early 1st century</td>
<td>RS 13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lex Tarentina</td>
<td>first half of 1st century</td>
<td>RS 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fragmentum Atestinum</td>
<td>second quarter of 1st century</td>
<td>RS 16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tabula Heracleensis</td>
<td>after 90</td>
<td>RS 24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lex de Gallia Cisalpina (lex Rubria)</td>
<td>Caesarian</td>
<td>Giovannini 2004, 2008</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lex coloniae Genetivae Iuliae (Fig. 15.1)</td>
<td>Caesarian</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) chs. 61–106, fragments between chs. 108 and 123, 124–134</td>
<td>AE 2006, 645</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) chs. 13–15, 16–20 (fragmentary)</td>
<td>AE 1986, 333</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lex de Ramonio provinciae Narbonensis</td>
<td>69–79 CE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lex Flavia municipalis</td>
<td>91 (lex Irritana)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Salpensa (chs. 21–29)</td>
<td>AE 1986, 333</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Malaca (chs. 51–69)</td>
<td>AE 1986, 333</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>d) fragments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipal Law from Troesmis (Moesia Inferior)</td>
<td>177–180</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: The *lex coloniae Genetivae Iuliae* is often incorrectly referred to as the *lex Uronensis*; the pre-Roman name Urso was no longer used for the Roman *colonia*. The surviving copy was inscribed in the first century CE (the Julio-Claudian and Flavian periods have been suggested) rather than in the Caesarian period.
This Greek inscription records, for the first time, the name of Novae in a context where the legio I Italica is also mentioned. It is stated that two dignitaries from Ilion and Alexandria in the province of Hellespont founded a monument for the "glorious town of Novesians". These had just fulfilled their pastus militum.

A. Lajtar, 2013. A newly discovered inscription from Novae (Moesia Inferior) connected with pastus militum, Tyche 28, 97-111
P. Dyczek, "The Most Splendid Town of the Novesians...", Limes XLI., Sofia 2015, 169-177
The Danube Underwater Heritage Project.

The *horothesia* of Manius Laberius Maximus

- near the mouth of the Danube at the Greek site of Istros, which the Romans miscalled Histria, two fragmentary copies of a dossier concerning the exploitation of a pine grove and above all concerning the fishing rights of the Histrians were discovered in 1914.
- a cadastral, technical term for the survey and demarcation of land
- The text dates back to 100 A.D., although it contains the correspondence between the governors of Moesia and the mayor of Histria after 47–50 A.D.
- It is focused on the relationship between Histria and the tax-collectors from the customs zone ripa Thraciae
- the citizens of Histria addressed a request to the provincial governor in connection with their own territory.
- It bordered on the southern arm of the Danube and was considered very important for the city’s revenues because of the fishing opportunities it offered.
In excavations near the mouth of the Danube at the Greek site of Istros, which the Romans miscalled Histria, two fragmentary copies of a dossier concerning the exploitation of a pine grove and above all concerning the fishing rights of the Histrians, the Horothesia of Laberius Maximus, were discovered in 1914.
Historical records

- There are some inscriptions which were expressly made to commemorate an important event, or to preserve a record.
- Among the most interesting is the inscription of the Columna Rostrata in Rome, which records the great naval victory of Gaius Duilius over the Carthaginians; this, however, is not the original, but a later and somewhat modified version.
- A document of high importance is a summary of the life and achievements of Augustus, known as the Monumentum Ancyranum.
- The various sets of Fasti constituted a record of the names of consuls, and other magistrates or high officials, and also of the triumphs accorded to conquering generals.
Res Gestae

- Res Gestae Divi Augusti (The Deeds of the Divine Augustus) is the funerary inscription of the first Roman emperor, Augustus, giving a first-person record of his life and accomplishments.
- The Res Gestae is especially significant because it gives an insight into the image Augustus portrayed to the Roman people.
- Various inscriptions of the Res Gestae have been found scattered across the former Roman Empire. The inscription itself is a monument to the establishment of the Julio-Claudian dynasty that was to follow Augustus.
- The text consists of a short introduction, 35 body paragraphs, and a posthumous addendum. These paragraphs are conventionally grouped in four sections, political career, public benefactions, military accomplishments and a political statement.
Res Gestae

The first section (paragraphs 2–14) is concerned with Augustus' political career; it records the offices and political honours that he held. Augustus also lists numerous offices he refused to take and privileges he refused to be awarded.

The second section (paragraphs 15–24) lists Augustus' donations of money, land and grain to the citizens of Italy and his soldiers, as well as the public works and gladiatorial spectacles that he commissioned. The text is careful to point out that all this was paid for out of Augustus' own funds.

The third section (paragraphs 25–33) describes his military deeds and how he established alliances with other nations during his reign.

Finally the fourth section (paragraphs 34–35) consists of a statement of the Romans' approval for the reign and deeds of Augustus.
By its very nature the Res Gestae is propaganda for the principate that Augustus instituted. It tends to gloss over the events between the assassination of Augustus' adoptive father Julius Caesar and the victory at Actium when his foothold on power was finally undisputed. Augustus' enemies are never mentioned by name.

Caesar's murderers Brutus and Cassius are called simply "those who killed my father". Mark Antony and Sextus Pompey, Augustus' opponents in the East, remain equally anonymous; the former is "he with whom I fought the war," while the latter is merely a "pirate."

Often quoted is Augustus' official position on his government: "From that time (27 BC, the end of the civil war) I surpassed all others in influence, yet my official powers were no greater than those of my colleague in office." This is in keeping with a reign that promoted itself from the beginning as a "restoration" of the old republic, with a leader who was nothing more than "first among equals", but was akin to absolute monarchy by divine right, backed by the swords of the legions.
Res Gestae Divi Augusti (Eng. The Deeds of the Divine Augustus) is the funerary inscription of the first Roman emperor, Augustus. Among other things it states that the Empire should have its frontier *ad ripam fluminis Danuvii*. 

*Territori appartenenti a Roma prima del 31 a.C.*

- **Yellow**: Annessioni e conquista di Ottaviano:
  - **20 a.C.**
  - **after 20 a.C.**

*Ottaviano Augusto: 31 a.C. - 14 d.C.*
Res Gestae

- The Res Gestae was a unique public relations move for the first emperor of the Roman Empire, whose political career was in many ways experimental.
- If their frequent use as "history" by later historians (both ancient and modern) who characterized Augustus' rule according to categories he himself constructed in the Res Gestae is any indication, it is a rather successful piece of propaganda.
- On the other hand, it would be absurd to overlook the usefulness to historians of what is essentially a first-person account of his rule.
Monumentum Ancyranum

- The Monumentum Ancyranum (Latin for "Monument of Ankara") refers to the inscription of the Res Gestae Divi Augusti ("Deeds of the Divine Augustus") located on the Augusteum (the Temple of Augustus and Rome) in Ankara, Turkey. It is the most intact copy of the Res Gestae in the world.
- The temple was built after the conquest of central Anatolia by the Roman Empire and the formation of the Galatia province, with Ancyra as its administrative capital.
- After the death of Augustus in AD 14, a copy of the text of the Res Gestae Divi Augusti was inscribed on both walls inside the pronaos in Latin, with a Greek translation on an exterior wall of the cela.
- The inscriptions are the primary surviving source of the text, since the original inscription on bronze pillars in front of the Mausoleum of Augustus in Rome has long been lost, and two other surviving inscriptions of the text are incomplete.
- The Monumentum Ancyranum was first made known to the western world by Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq, ambassador of Ferdinand of Austria, to the Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent (1555–1562) at Amasia in Asia Minor. Busbecq first read the inscription and identified its origin from his reading of Suetonius; he published a copy of parts of it in his Turkish Letters.
FIG. 10.2 Section of the Latin version of the Res Gestae, from the interior wall of the Temple of Roma and Augustus, Ancyra (Ankara), showing chapter 1 and part of chapter 2.
Roman Epigraphy

- Political and social
- Codes of law and regulations
- In imperial times, the emperor sometimes addressed a speech to the senate, advising them to pass certain resolutions, or else, especially in later times, gave orders or instructions directly, either on his own initiative or in response to questions or references.
- The number and variety of such orders is such that no classification of them can be given.
- One of the most famous is the edict of Diocletian, fixing the prices of all commodities. Copies of this in Greek as well as in Latin have been found in various parts of the Roman Empire.
Roman Epigraphy

- A very large number of inscriptions record the construction or repair of public buildings by private individuals, by magistrates, Roman or provincial, and by emperors.
- In addition to the dedication of temples, we find inscriptions recording the construction of aqueducts, roads, especially on milestones, baths, basilicas, porticos and many other works of public utility.
- In inscriptions of early period often nothing is given but the name of the person who built or restored the edifice and a statement that he had done so. But later it was usual to give more detail as to the motive of the building, the name of the emperor or a magistrate giving the date, the authority for the building and the names and distinctions of the builders; then follows a description of the building, the source of the expenditure (e.g., S.P., sua pecunia) and finally the appropriate verb for the work done, whether building, restoring, enlarging or otherwise improving.
- Other details are sometimes added, such as the name of the man under whose direction the work was done.
Military documents

- These vary greatly in content, and are among the most important documents concerning the administration of the Roman Empire.
- The inscriptions are numerous and of all sorts — tombstones of every degree, lists of soldiers' burial clubs, certificates of discharge from service, schedules of time-expired men, dedications of altars, records of building or of engineering works accomplished.
- When the information from hundreds of such inscriptions is collected together, one can trace the whole policy of the Imperial Government in the matter of recruiting,
- to what extent and till what date legionaries were raised in Italy;
- what contingents for various branches of the service were drawn from the provinces,
- and which provinces provided most;
- how far provincials garrisoned their own countries,
- and which of them were sent as a measure of precaution to serve elsewhere;
- finally, at what epoch the empire grew weak enough to require the enlistment of barbarians from beyond its frontiers.
The Roman Military Community and "Military Inscriptions"

- basic aspects
  - the names, history, and internal organization of individual types of units
  - recruitment: the ethnic and social origins of soldiers and officers
  - military ranks and careers
  - ideological aspects: military virtues and ideals
  - religion in the military sphere
  - discharge and the settlement of veterans
  - military camps, fortresses, and their garrisons
  - troop movements and the composition of provincial armies
- the army in action
  - wars and the composition of field armies
  - the existence and official names of wars and military expeditions
  - aspects of combat and warfare
  - outstanding deeds and systems of reward
  - logistics and military equipment
- the army in peacetime
  - administration and legal issues
  - building activities (in the military and civic spheres)
  - technical expertise: for example, engineering, mining technologies, medicine
  - the economic impact of the army
  - the cultural impact of the army
- private life
  - family, marriage, children, and slaves
  - daily life, social interactions
  - language, literacy, and bilingualism
  - acculturation
Pastus militum - primipilares
The Vindolanda tablets are the oldest surviving handwritten documents in Britain. They are also probably the best source of information about life on the northern frontier of Roman Britain. Written on fragments of thin, post-card sized wooden leaf-tablets with carbon-based ink, the tablets date to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD (roughly contemporary with Hadrian’s Wall).

Although similar records on papyrus were known elsewhere in the Roman Empire, wooden tablets with ink text had not been recovered until 1973, when archaeologist Robin Birley discovered these artefacts at the site of a Roman fort in Vindolanda, northern England.

The documents record official military matters as well as personal messages to and from members of the garrison of Vindolanda, their families, and their slaves.

Highlights of the tablets include an invitation to a birthday party held in about 100 AD, which is perhaps the oldest surviving document written in Latin by a woman.

Held at the British Museum, the texts of 752 tablets have been transcribed, translated and published as of 2010.
Papyrus BM 2851, "Hunt's Pridianum"
first published by Arthur Hunt in 1925, commented on among others by Robert Fink in 1958
The Danube Underwater Heritage Project.

Papyrus BM 2851, „Hunt‘s Pridianum“

- *cohors I Hispanorum veterana* belonged to the garrison of Egypt before it was moved to Moesia.
- Its’ strength was 546 soldiers, 119 of these equites.
- The document dates to the very beginning of the second century.
- Concerning logistics, the documents allows us to analyse certain aspects of the long distance supply routes.
- Soldiers of this cohort were sent to Gallia for clothes and grain, and also, on horseback, “beyond the river Erar” (which has not been identified).
- The grain guarded by the soldiers of the cohort was transported in ships.
- The legionaries of the cohort supervised the work in a quarry in Egypt and serve as police in the Dardanian mines
A Roman military diploma was a document inscribed in bronze certifying that the holder was honourably discharged from the Roman armed forces and/or had received the grant of Roman citizenship from the emperor as reward for service.

The diploma was a notarized copy of an original constitutio (decree) issued by the emperor in Rome, listing by regiment (or unit) the eligible veterans. The constitutio, recorded on a large bronze plate, was lodged in the military archive at Rome (none such has been found; presumably they were melted down in later times).
Honorary

- Honorary inscriptions are extremely common in all parts of the Roman world.
- Sometimes they are placed on the bases of statues, sometimes in documents set up to record some particular benefaction or the construction of some public work.
- The offices held by the person commemorated, and the distinctions conferred upon him are enumerated in a regularly established order (cursus honorum), either beginning with the lower and proceeding step by step to the higher, or in reverse order with the highest first.
- Religious and priestly offices are usually mentioned before civil and political ones.
- These might be exercised either in Rome itself, or in the various municipalities of the empire.
- There was also a distinction drawn between offices that might be held only by persons of senatorial rank, those that were assigned to persons of equestrian rank, and those of a less distinguished kind. It follows that when only a portion of an inscription has been found, it is often possible to restore the whole in accordance with the accepted order.
FIG. 16.1 Cenotaph of M. Caelius, centurion of the Legio XVIII, found near Xanten. Rheinisches Landesmuseum, Bonn.
Signatures of artists

- When these are attached to statues, it is sometimes doubtful whether the name is that of the man who actually made the statue, or of the master whose work it reproduces.
- Another kind of artist's or artificer's signature that is commoner in Roman times is to be found in the signatures of potters upon lamps and various kinds of vessels; they are usually impressed on the mould and stand out in relief on the terracotta or other material.
- These are of interest as giving much information as to the commercial spread of various kinds of handicrafts, and also as to the conditions under which they were manufactured.
Stamped ceramic pipes
Funerary inscriptions

- These are probably the most numerous of all classes of inscriptions; and though many of them are of no great individual interest, they convey, when taken collectively, much valuable information as to the distribution and transference of population, as to trades and professions, as to health and longevity, and as to many other conditions of ancient life.
Funerary inscriptions

- The inscription often concludes with H.I. (Hic iacet), H.S.I. (Hic situs est) or some similar formula, and also, frequently, with a statement of boundaries and a prohibition of violation or further use — for instance, H.M.H.N.S. (hoc monumentum heredem non sequetur, this monument is not to pass to the heir).

- The person who has erected the monument and his relation to the deceased are often stated; or if a man has prepared the tomb in his lifetime, this also may be stated, V.S.F. (vivus sibi fecit).

- But it is obvious that there is an immense variety in the information that either a man himself or his friend may wish to record.
Funerary inscriptions

- About the end of the republic and the beginning of the empire, it became customary to head a tombstone with the letters D.M. or D.M.S. (Dis Manibus sacrum), thus consecrating the tomb to the deceased as having become members of the body of ghosts or spirits of the dead.

- These are followed by the name of the deceased, usually with his father's name and his tribe, by his honours and distinctions, sometimes by a record of his age.
Roman Epigraphy

- Roman marble funeral stele with inscription (CIL VI 23414): D(is) M(anibus) / M(arco) Ogulnio / Iusto filio / pientissimo / vix(it) ann(os) XV mens(es) II d(ies) XXII / M(arcus) Ogulnius / Iustus pater / et sibi fecit" - 1st century AD
FIG. 29.3 Ossuary containing the remains of an imperial freedman and his family, Rome (CIL VI 5318). The epitaph reads: *Dis Manib(us) / Ti(berii) Claudi Aug(usti) l(iberti) / Chryserotis / et Iuliae Theo/noes et Claudiae / Dorcadis* ("To the Departed Spirits of Ti. Claudius Chryseros, imperial freedman, and Iulia Theonoe and Claudia Dorcas"). Museo Nazionale Romano.
Tomb of a Roman Soldier in Lincoln
(now at the British Museum)

To Gaius Saufeius
son of Gaius, of the
Fabian voting tribe,
from Heraclea, soldier
of the 9th legion, aged
40, 22 years of service
He lies here
FIG. 31.1 Funerary altar from Rome, mid-first century CE, commemorating L. Calpurnius Daphnus, a money-changer (argentarius) at the Macellum Magnum (Large Market), Rome (CIL VI 9183 = ILS 7501). It shows the money-changer holding a box of coins doing business with two men carrying baskets of fish on their shoulders. Palazzo Massimo alle Colonne, Rome.

FIG. 32.2 Marble stele with a relief of the female tavern-keeper Sentia Amarantis from Augusta Emerita, late second century CE. Museo Nacional de Arte Romano, Mérida.
Fig. 16.2. Tombstone from Aquincum of an auxiliary cavalryman of Gallic (?) origin, with a portrait-bust and a relief of a groom and two horses below. Hungarian National Museum, Budapest.
FIG. 29.4 Bilingual funerary stele from Rome with a Latin epitaph for Licinia Amias, with Christian imagery and the Greek phrase, “Fish of the living.” Museo Nazionale Romano.
FIG. 33.4 Epitaph of Mauricius, set up by his wife Montana, from Gondorf, sixth century CE. Rheinisches Landesmuseum, Bonn.
Milestones and boundaries

• Milestones (miliaria) have already been referred to, and may be regarded as records of the building of roads. Boundary stones (termini) are frequently found, both of public and private property.

• Latin inscriptions are the meeting point of Roman history and several arts. These are arts of expression or composition, writing in the strictly physical sense, and design or arrangement.

• The history is Roman history in its largest sense, involving men and women in many of their affairs, such as life and death, government, law, religious worship — all as illustrated.

• But there is also the bad stuff...
Curse tablets

- Defixiones or binding spells were written on curse tablets in order to carry out various missions.
- The usual objective of ritual binding is, thus, to subject another human being to one’s will, to make the person unable to act according to his or her own wishes.
- To date, over one thousand five hundred curse tablets have been excavated.
- The tablet was found in a tomb along the Via Appia with approximately fifty-six other lead curse tablets, all of which were rolled up and pierced with nails according to custom.
- In the center of the tablet, there is a horse headed demon figure carrying a chariot wheel in his left hand and a charioteer whip in his right hand.
- The tablet is inscribed with clear instructions for this demon and the other spirits that it invokes to curse the charioteer Cardelus, saying “I invoke you... so that you may help me and restrain and hold in check Cardelus and bring him to a bed of punishment, to be punished with an evil death, to come to an evil condition, him who his mother Fulgentina bore.”
Damnatio memoriae

- Damnatio memoriae is the Latin phrase literally meaning "condemnation of memory", meaning that a person must not be remembered.
- It was a form of dishonor that could be passed by the Roman Senate on traitors or others who brought discredit to the Roman State. The intent was to erase the malefactor from history, a task somewhat easier in ancient times, when documentation was limited.
- Several emperors are known to have officially received a damnatio memoriae. These were Domitian whose violent death in 96 CE ended the Flavian Dynasty, the co-emperor Publius Septimius Geta, whose memory was publicly expunged by his co-emperor brother Caracalla after he murdered him in 211 CE, Heleglabalus in 222 CE and in 311 CE Maximian, who was captured by Constantine the Great and then encouraged to commit suicide.
- It is unknown whether any damnatio memoriae was totally successful as it would not be noticeable to later historians, since, by definition, it would entail the complete and total erasure of the individual in question from the historical record.
- It was difficult, however, to implement the practice completely. For instance, the senate wanted to condemn the memory of Caligula, but Claudius prevented this. Nero was declared an enemy of the state by the senate, but then given an enormous funeral honoring him after his death by Vitellius.
**Damnatio memoriae**

**33 (5/3/8/175). Novae (Svishtov). Dédicace d’une statue à Mars Victorieux par M. Valerius Flavianus, primipile.**

**Support :** Pédestal. **Matériaux :** Calcaire (cinérites, pierre de Hotinița). **État du monument :** Pédestal avec base et couronnement refait. Sur la plinthe du couronnement repose la base circulaire qui servait de support à une statue. On constate la présence de traces de torchis de sable du couronnement de la statue (entre autres une cavité dont la forme rappelle celle d’une semelle de chaussure).

**Lieu de déc. :** Novae. **Cond. déc. :** Novae ouest, secteur XI (principia). Trouvé en 1987 dans la cour intérieure des principia, à 70 m au-dessous du sol. On peut supposer que le monument se trouvait le long des murs des principia, non loin du lieu de la découverte.

**Jeu de conserv. :** Novae. **Dimensions :** 167/88/87.

**Champ ép. Dimensions :** 71/71. **Datation du texte :** 218/222. **Justif. dat. :** Règne d’Hérode.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MARTI VICTORI LEG ITAL</th>
<th>MARTI VICTORI LEG ITAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTONINIANAE PRO SALVTE</td>
<td>ANTONINIANAE PRO SALVTE</td>
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<td>IMP CAES [AVR ANTON]</td>
<td>IMPERATORIS CAESARIUS [AVR ANTIN]</td>
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<td>PII FELICIS AVG:</td>
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<td>DIVI ANTONINI FIL</td>
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<td>FIL QVIR:FLAVIANVS DOMO</td>
<td>FIL QVIR:FLAVIANVS DOMO</td>
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**8 CIRTA P P EX EQ ROMANO AQUILAE D D**

**(Consacré) à Mars Victorieux de la 1re légion Italica Antoninienne pour le salut de l’empereur César Marcus Aurelius Antoninus Pieux, Heureux, Auguste, fils d’Antonin divinisé. Marcus Valerius Flavianus fils de Marcus Valerius Mucacentus inscrit dans la tribu Quirina originaire de Cirta, primipile appartenant à l’ordre équestre a donné (ce monument) à l’Aigle.**
LECITIALICA
MAXIMINIANA
Abbreviitations

- A[edit]
- AA. -- Augusti duo.[1]
- AAA. -- Augusti tres.
- A.A.A.F.F. -- Auro argento acre flando feriundo. or Aere Argento Auro Flando Feriundo.[1]
- A.A.V. -- Alter ambove.
- A.D. -- Ante diem
- A.D.V. -- Ante diem quintum.
- A.D.A. -- Ad dandos agros.
- AEO. -- Aedes, Aedilis, Aedilitas.
- AEM., AIM. -- Aemilius, Aemilia.
- AER. -- Aerarium.
- AER.P. -- Aere publico.
- A.F. -- Acture fide, Auli filius.
- AG. -- Ager, Ago, Agrippa.
Abbreviations

- AN.  —  Aniensis, Annus, Ante.
- ANT.  —  Ante, Antonius.
- AP.  —  Atppius, Apud.
- A.P.  —  Ad pedes, Aedilitia potestate.
- A.P.F.  —  Auro (or argento) publico feriundo.
- A.P.M.  —  Amico posuit monumentum, Anorum plus minus.
- A.P.R.C.  —  Anno post Romam conditam.
- ARG.  —  Argentum.
- AR.V.V.D.D.  —  Aram votam volens dedicavit, Arma votiva dono dedit.
- AT, A TE., A TER.  —  A tergo.
- AV.  —  Augur, Augustus, Aurelius.
Abbreviations

- A.V. -- Annos vixit.
- A.V.C. -- Ab urbe condita.
- AVG. -- Augur, Augustus.
- AVGG. -- Augusti duo[1]
- AVGGG. -- Augusti tres.
- AVT.PR.R. -- Auctoritas provinciae Romanorum.
- AA. -- Augusti.
- AAA., AAAGGG -- Augusti tres.
- A.A.V. -- Alter ambove.
- A.B. -- Artium Baccalaureus ("Bachelor of Arts")
- Ab. -- Abbas ("Abbot")
- Abp. -- Archbishop
- Abs. -- Absens ("Absent")
- Absoluo. -- Absolutio ("Absolution")
Abbreviations

- ABB. -- Abbas
- A.B.M. -- Amico bene merenti
- A.C. -- Auditor Cameræ (Auditor of the Papal Treasury)
- AC -- Ante Christum ("Before Christ")
- ACN -- Ante Christum Natum ("Before the Birth of Christ")
- A.D. -- Anno Domini ("Year of Our Lord")
- a.d. -- ante diem ("The day before")
- A.D. -- A domino, Anno Domini, Ante diem
- A.D.V. -- Ante diem quintum.
- A.D.A. -- Ad dandos agros.
- AED. -- Aedilis
- AEDILIC. -- Aedilicia potestate, Aedilicius
- AED CVR -- Aedilis curulis
- AEL. -- Aelius
- AEPP. -- Archiepiscopus
- AEO. -- Aedes, Aedilis, Aedilitas.
- AEM., AIM. -- Aemilius, Aemilia.
Abbreviations

- AER. — Aerarium
- AER.P. — Aere publico.
- A.F. — Acture fide, Fulvius.
- AG. — Ager, Ago, Agrippa.
- Alr. — Aliter ("Otherwise")
- AN. — Aniensis, Annus, Ante.
- ANT. — Ante, Antonius.
- AP. — Appius, Apud.
- A.P. — Ad pedes, Accidit postee.
- A.P.F. — Auro (sive argento) publico feriundo.
- A.P.M. — Amico posuit monumentum, Annonum plus minus.
- A.P.R.C. — Anno post Romam conditam.
- Aplica. — Apostolica ("Apostolic")
- Appatis. — Approbatis ("Having been approved")
- Archiep. — Archiepiscopus ("Archbishop")
- ARG. — Argentum.
- AT, A TE., ATER. — A tergo.
- Auct. — Auctoritate ("By the Authority")
- AV. — Augur, Augustus, Aurelius.
- A.V. — Anno xixit.
- A.V.C. — Ab urbe condita.
- AVG. — Augur, Augustus, Augustus mensis.
- AVG.G. — Augusti
- AVG.GG. — Augusti tres.
- AVR. — Aurelius
- AVSPP — Auspicia
- AVT.P.R. — Auctoritas provinciae Romanorum.
Abbreviations

- Adm. Rev. -- Admodum Reverendus ("Very Reverend")
- Adv. -- Adventus ("Advent")
- Alb. -- Albus ("White" -- Breviary)
- al. -- alii, alibi, alias ("others", "elsewhere", "otherwise")
- A.M. -- Anno Mundi ("Year of the World")
- A.M. -- Artium Magister ("Master of Arts")
- A.M.D.G. -- Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam ("For the greater glory of God")
- An. -- Annus ("Year")
- Ann. -- Anni ("Years")
- Ana -- Antiphona
- Ant. -- Antiphona
- Apost. -- Apostolus ("Apostle")
- Archiep. -- Archiepiscopus ("Archbishop")
- Archid. -- Archidiaconus ("Archdeacon")
- Archiprb. -- Archipresbyter ("Archpriest")
Abbreviations

- A.R.S. — Anno Reparatae Salutis ("In the year of Our Redemption")
- A.U. — Alma Urbs ("Beloved City" — i.e., Rome)
- Authen. — Authentica ("Authentic" — e.g. letters)
- Aux. — Auxilium, Auxilio ("Help", "With the help of")
- A.D. — Ante Diem (e.g. in the phrase, "Ante Diem VI [or Sextum] Kal. Apriles", is equivalent to the sixth day before the Calends of April, counting both the Calends and the day intended to be indicated); or Anima Dulcis ("Sweet Soul")
- A.Q.I.C. — Anima Quiescat In Christo ("May his [or her] Soul Repose in Christ")
- B[edit]
- B. — Balbius, Balbus, Beatus, Bene, Beneficiarius, Beneficium, Bonus, Brutus, Bustum.
- B. (for V.) — Bven Bivus, Bixit.
- B.A. — Bixit anos, Bonis auguriis, Bonus amabilis.
- BB., B.B. — Bene bene, i.e. optime, Optimus.
- B.D. — Bonae deae, Bonum datum.
- B.D.D. — Bonis deabus.
- B.D.S.M. — Bene de se merenti.
- B.F. — Bona femina, Bona fides, Bona fortuna, Bonum factum.
- B.F. — Bona femina, Bona filia.
- B.H. — Bona hereditaria, Bonorum heres.
Abbreviations

- B.I. -- Bonum judicium.
- B.M. -- Beatae memoriae, Bene merenti.
- B.N. -- Bona nostra, Bonum nomen.
- BN.H.I. -- Bona hic invenies.
- B.P. -- Bona paterna, Bonorum potestas, Bonum publicum.
- B.Q. -- Bene quiescat, Bona quaesita.
- B.RP.N. -- Boho reipublicae natus.
- BRT. -- Britannicus.
- B.T. -- Bonorum tutor, Brevi tempore.
- B.V. -- Bene vale, Bene vixit, Bonus vir.
- B.V.V. -- Balnea vina Venus.
- BX. -- Bixit (for vixit).
- B. -- Balbius, Balbus, Beatus, Bene, Beneficiarius, Beneficium, Bonus, Brutus, Bustum.
- B. (in loco V.) -- Berna Bivus, Bixit.
- B.A. -- Bixit annos [recte Vixit annos], Bonis auguriis, Bonus amabilis.
- BB., B.B. -- Bene bene, i.e. optime, Optimus.
Abbreviations

- B.D. — Bonae deae, Bonum datum.
- B.DD. — Bonis deabus.
- B.D.S.M. — Bene de se merenti.
- B.F. — Bona femina, Bona fides, Bona fortuna, Bonum factum.
- B.F. — Bona femina, Bona filia.
- B.H. — Bona hereditaria, Bonorum heres.
- B.I. — Bonum iudicium.
- B.M. — Beatae memoriae, Bene merenti.
- B.M.V. — Beatae Mariae virginis
- B.N. — Bona nostra, Bonum nomen.
- B.N.H.I. — Bona hic invenies.
- B.P. — Bona paterna, Bonorum potestas, Bonum publicum.
- B.Q. — Bene quiescat, Bona quaesita.
- B.R.P.N. — Boho reipublicae natus.
- B.R.T. — Britannicus.
- B.T. — Bonorum tutor, Brevi tempore.
Abbreviations

- B.V. -- Bene vale, Bene vixit, Bonus vir.
- B.V.V. -- Balnea vina Venus.
- BX. -- Bixit [recte vixit].
- B. -- Bene Merenti
- BMT. -- Bene Merenti ("To the Well-Deserving")
- B.M. -- Bonae Memoriae ("Of Happy Memory")
- B.F. -- Bonae Feminæ ("To the Good Woman")
- B.I.C. -- Bibas [for Vivas] In Christo ("May you Live In Christ")
- B.M.F. -- Bene Merenti Fecit ("He erected this to the Well-Deserving")
- B.Q. -- Bene Quiescat ("May he [or she] Rest Well")
- B.A. -- Baccalaureus Artium ("Bachelor of Arts")
- B. BB. -- Beatus, Beati ("Blessed")
- B.C. -- Before Christ
- B.C.L. -- Baccalaureus Civilis [or Canonicae] Legis ("Bachelor of Civil [or Canon] Law")
- B.D. -- Bachelor of Divinity
- B.F. -- Bona Fide ("In Good Faith")
- Ben. -- Benedictio ("Blessing")
Abbreviations

- Benevol. -- Benevolentia ("Benevolence")
- Bon. Mem. -- Bonæ Memoriae ("Of Happy Memory")
- B.P. -- Beatissime Pater ("Most Holy Father")
- Bro. -- Brother
- B. Se. -- Baccalaureus Scientiarum ("Bachelor of Sciences")
- B.U.J. -- Baccalaureus Utriusque Juris ("Bachelor of Both Laws" — i.e., civil and canon)
- B.T. -- Baccalaureus Theologiae ("Bachelor of Theology")
- B.V. -- Beatitudo Vestra ("Your Holiness")
- B.V. -- Beata Virgo ("Blessed Virgin")
- B.V.M. -- Beata Virgo Maria ("Blessed Virgin Mary")
- C[edit]
- C. -- Caesar, Cains, Caput, Causa, Censor, Civis, Conors, Colonia Comitialis (dies), Condemno, Consul, Cum, Curo, Custos, Caia, Centuria, Cum, Con. (prefix).
- C.B. -- Civis bonus, Commune bonum, Conjugi benemereniti, Cui bono.
- C.C. -- Calumniae causa, Causa cognita, Conjugi carissimae, Consilium cepit, Curiae consulto.
- C.C.C. -- Calumniae cavendae causa.
- C.C.F. -- Caesar (or Caius) curavit faciendum, Caius Caui filius.
- CC.VV. -- Clarissimi viri. (=senators)
Abbreviations

- C.D. -- Caesaris decreto, Cains Decius, Comitialibus diebus.
- CES. -- Censor, Censores.
- CESS. -- Censores.
- C.F. -- Causa fiduciae, Conjugi fecit, Curavit faciendum.
- C.H. -- Custos heredum, Custos hortorum.
- C.I. -- Caius Julius, Consul jussit, Curavit judex.
- CL. -- Clarissimus, Claudius, Clodius, Colonia.
- CL.V. -- Clarissimus vir, Clypeum vovit.
- C.M. -- Caius Marius, Causa mortis.
- CN. -- Cnaeus.
- COH. -- Coheres, Conors.
- COL. -- Collega, Collegium, Colonia, Columna.
- COLL. -- Collega, Coloni, Coloniae.
- COM. -- Comes, Comitium, Comparatum.
- CON. -- Conjux, Consensus, Consiliarius, Consul, Consularis.
- COR. -- Cornelia (tribus), Cornelius, Corona, Corpus.
- COS. -- Consiliarius, Consul, Consulares.
Abbreviations

- COSS. -- Consules.
- C.P. -- Carissimus (or Clarissimus) puer, Civis publicus, Curavit ponendum.
- C.R. -- Caius Rufus, Civis Romanus, Curavit reficiendum.
- CS. -- Caesar, Communis, Consul.
- C.V. -- Clarissimus (or Consularis) vir.
- CVR. -- Cura, Curator, Curavit, Curia.
- C. -- Caesar, Caius, Caput, Carissimus, Causa, Censor, Centurio, Civis, Cohors, Colonia Comitialis (dies), Condemno, Coniunx, Comes, Consul, Cum, Curavit, Curo, Custos, Caia, Centuria, Cum, Con. (praeverbium).
- c. -- circa
- CAL. -- Calendis
- C.B. -- Civis bonus, Commune bonum, Coniugi benemerenti, Cui bono.
- C.C. -- Calumniae causa, Causa cognita, Coniugi carissimae, Consilium cepit, Curiae consulto.
- C.C.C. -- Calumniae cavendae causa.
- C.C.F. -- Caesar (vel Caius) curavit faciendum, Caius Caii filius.
- CC.VV. -- Clarissimi viri.
- C.D. -- Caesaris decreto, Cains Decius, Comitialibus diebus.
- CES. -- Censor, Censores.
- CESS. -- Censores.
- C.F. -- Causa fiduciae, Coniugi fecit, Curavit faciendum.
Abbreviations

- C.H. — Custos heredum, Custos hortorum.
- C.I. — Caius Iulius, Consul iussit, Curavit iudex.
- CL. — Clarissimus, Claudius, Clodius, Colonia.
- CLV. — Clarissimus vir, Clypeum vovit.
- C.M. — Caius Marius, Causa mortis.
- CN. — Cnaeus.
- COH. — Coheres, Conors.
- COL. — Collega, Collegium, Colonia, Columna.
- COLL. — Collega, Coloni, Coloniae.
- COM. — Comes, Comitium, Comparatum.
- CON. — Coniunx, Consensus, Consiliarius, Consul, Consularis.
- COR. — Cornelia (tribus), Cornelius, Corona, Corpus.
- COS. — Consiliarius, Consul, Consulares.
- COSS. — Consules.
- C.P. — Carissimus (sive Clarissimus) puer, Civis publicus, Curavit ponendum.
- C.R. — Caius Rufus, Civis Romanus, Curavit reficiendum.
- CS. — Caesar, Communis, Consul.
Abbreviations

- C.V. -- Clarissimus (sive Consularis) vir.
- CVR. -- Cura, Curator, Curavit, Curia.
- Cam. -- Camera (Papal Treasury)
- Cam. Ap. -- Camera Apostolica ("Apostolic Camera" — i.e. Papal Treasury)
- Can. -- Canonicus
- Canc. -- Cancellarius ("Chancellor")
- Cap. -- Capitulum ("Little Chapter" — Breviary)
- Cap. de seq. -- Capitulum de Sequenti ("Little chapter of the following feast" — Breviary)
- Capel. -- Capella ("Chapel")
- Caus. -- Causa ("Cause")
- C.C. -- Curatus ("Curate" — used chiefly in Ireland)
- CC. VV. -- Clarissimi Viri ("Illustrious Men")
- Cen. Eccl. -- Censura Ecclesiastica ("Ecclesiastical Censure")
- Cla. -- Clausula ("Clause")
- Cl. -- Clericus
- Clico. -- Clericus, Clerico ("Cleric")
- Clun. -- Cluniacenses ("Monks of Cluny")
- C.M. -- Causa Mortis ("On occasion of death")
Abbreviations

- Cod. — Codex (Manuscript)
- Cog. Leg. — Cognatio Legalis ("Legal Cognition")
- Cog. Spir. — Cognatio Spiritualis ("Spiritual Cognition")
- Coll. Cone. — Collectio Conciliorum ("Collection of the Councils")
- Comm. Prec. — Commemoratio Praecedentis ("Commemoration of the preceding feast" — Breviary)
- Comm. Seq. — Commemoratio Sequentis ("Commemoration of the following feast" — Breviary)
- Compl. — Completorium ("Compline" — Breviary)
- Con. — Contra ("against")
- Cone. — Concilium ("Council")
- Conf. — Confessor
- Conf. Doct. — Confessor et Doctor (Breviary)
- Conf. Pont. — Confessor Pontifex ("Confessor and Bishop" — Breviary)
- Cons. — Consecratio ("Consecration")
- Consecr. — Consecratus ("Consecrated")
- Cr. — Credo ("Creed" — Breviary)
- Canice. — Canonice ("Canonically")
Abbreviations

- Card. — Cardinalis ("Cardinal")
- Cens. — Censuris ("Censures" — abl. or dat. case)
- Circumpeone. — Circumspectione ("Circumspection" — abl. case)
- Coione. — Communione ("Communion" — abl. case)
- Confeone. — Confessione ("Confession" — abl. case)
- Consciae. — Conscientiæ ("Of [or to] conscience")
- Constbus — Constitutionibus ("Constitutions" — abl. or dat. Case)
- C. — Consul
- CC. — Consules ("Consuls")
- C.F. — Clarissima Femina ("Most Illustrious Woman")
- Cl. V. — Clarissimus Vir ("Most Illustrious Man")
- 'C.O. — Conjugi Optimo ("To my Excellent Husband")
- C.O.B.Q. — Cum Omnibus Bonis Quiescat ("May he [or she] Repose With All Good souls")
- COL. — Conjugi ("To my Husband [or Wife]"
- CS. — Consul
- COS. — Consul
- COSS. — Consules ("Consuls")
Abbreviations

- C.P. -- Clarissima Puella ("Most Illustrious Maiden")

- D[edit]

- D. -- Dat, Dedit, De, Decimus, Decius, Decretum, Decurio, Deus, Dicit, Dies, Divus, Dominus, Domus, Donum.

- D.C. -- Decurio coloniae, Diebus comitialibus, Divus Caesar.

- D.D. -- Dea Dia, Decurionum decreto, Dedicavit, Deo dedit, Dono dedit, Domus Divina.[1]

- D.D.D. -- Datum decreto decurionum, Dono dedit dedicavit, Deo Donum Dedit[1]

- D.E.R. -- De ea re.

- DES. -- Designatus.

- D.I. -- Dedit imperator, Diis immotalibus, Diis inferis.

- D.I.M. -- Deo invicto Mithrae, Diis inferis Manibus.

- D.M. -- Deo Magno, Dignus memoria, Diis Manibus, Dolo malo.

- D.O.M. -- Deo Optimo Maximo.

- D.P.S. -- Dedit proprio sumptu, Deo perpetuo sacrum, De pecunia sua.

- D. -- Dat, Dedit, De, Decimus, Decius, Decretum, Decurio, Deus, Dicit, Dies, Divus, Dominus, Domus, Donum.

- D.C. -- Decurio coloniae, Diebus comitialibus, Divus Caesar.

- D.D. -- Dea Dia, Decurionum decreto, Dedicavit, Deo dedit, Dii deaeque, Dono dedit.
Abbreviataiones

- DD. -- Divi
- D.D.L.M. -- Donum dedit libens merito.
- DEC. -- Decurio
- D.E.R. -- De ea re.
- DES. -- Designatus.
- D.M. -- Dominus
- D.M.P.S. -- Dis Manibus (et) perpetuae securitati
- D.N. -- Dominus noster
- Dni. -- Domini
- DNO. -- Domino
- DNS -- Dominus
- DEV -- Devotus
- D.I. -- Dedit imperator, Diis immortalibus, Diis inferis.
- D.I.M. -- Deo invicto Mithrae, Diis inferis Manibus.
- D.M. -- Deo Magno, Dignus memoria, Diis Manibus, Dolo malo.
- D.N.I.C. -- Domini nostri Iesu Christi
- D.O.M. -- Deo optimo maximo, Dominus.
Abbreviations

- D.O.M.A. – Deo Optimo maximo aeterno
- D.P.S. – Dedit proprio sumptu, Deo perpetuo sacrum, De pecunia sua.
- D.S.I.M. – Deo soli invicto mithrae
- Dr. iur. – Doctor iuris
- D. – Depositus ("Laid to rest"); or Dulcis ("Dear One")
- D.D. – Dedit, Dedicavit ("Gave", "Dedicated")
- DEP. – Depositus ("Laid to rest")
- D.I.P. – Dormit In Pace ("Sleeps in Peace")
- D.M. – Dis Manibus ("To the Manes [of]")
- D.M.S. – Dis Manibus Sacrum ("Sacred to the Manes [of]")
- D.N. – Domino Nostro ("To Our Lord")
- DD. NN. – Dominis Nostris ("To Our Lords")
- Discrem. – Discretionis ("To the Discretion")
- Dispens. – Dispensatio ("Dispensation")
- Dnus – Dominus ("Lord", "Sir", or "Mr.")
- D. – Dominus ("Lord")
- d. – dies ("day")
- D.C.L. – Doctor Civilis [or Canonicae] Legis ("Doctor of Civil [or Canon] Law")
- D.D. – Doctores ("Doctors")
- D.D. – Donum dedit; Dedicavit ("Gave", "dedicated")
- D.D. – Doctor Divinitatis ("Doctor of Divinity" — i.e. Theology)
- Dec. – Decanus ("Dean")
- Def. – Defunctus ("Deceased")
- D.G. – De Gratia ("By the Grace of God")
- D.N. – Dominus Noster ("Our Lord")
- D.N. – Dis Manibus ("To the spirits of the departed")
- D.N.J.C. – Dominus Noster Jesus Christus ("Our Lord Jesus Christ")
- D.N. – Dominus
- D.N.S. – Dominus
- D.N.L. – Dominus ("Lord")
- Doct. – Doctor (Breviary)
- Dom. – Dominica ("Sunday")
- D.O.M. – Deo Optimo Maximo ("To God, the Best and Greatest")
- Doxol. – Doxologia ("Doxology" — Breviary)
Abbreviations

- D.R. — Decanus Ruralis ("Rural Dean")
- DS — Deus ("God")
- D.Se. — Doctor Scientiarum ("Doctor of Sciences")
- D.V. — Deo Volente ("God willing")
- Dupl. — Duplex ("Double feast" — Breviary)
- Dupl. Maj. — Duplex Major ("Double Major feast")
- Dupl. I. Cl. — Duplex Primaæ Classis ("Double First Class feast" — Breviary)
- Dupl. II. Cl. — Duplex Secundae Classis ("Double Second Class feast" — Breviary)

- E[edit]
- EG. — Aeger, Egit, Egregius.
- E.G. — exempli gratia (e.g.) (for the sake of example)
- EQ.M. — Equitum magister.
- EL. — Electus
- E.M. — Egregiae memoriae, Eiusmodi, Eiusmodi, Erexi monumentum.
- EPI. — Episcopi
Abbreviations

- EPO. -- Episcopo
- EQ. -- Eques
- EQ.M. -- Equitum magister.
- E.P. -- Equo publico.
- E(X)T. -- Ex testamento
- E(X)V. -- Ex voto
- Eccl. -- Ecclesiasticus ("Ecclesiastic")
- Eccl. -- Ecclesia ("The Church")
-El. -- Electio, Electus ("Election", "Elect")
-Emus -- Eminentissimus ("Most Eminent")
-EPS -- Episcopus
-EP. -- Episcopus
-Episc. -- Episcopus ("Bishop")
-Et. -- Etiam ("Also, Even")
-Evang. -- Evangelium ("Gospel" — Breviary)
-Ex. -- Extra ("Outside of")
Abbreviations

- Exe. — Excommunicatus, Excommunicatio ("Excommunicated, Excommunication")
- Eccles. — Ecclesiae ("Of or to the Church")
- Ecclis. — Ecclesiasticus ("Ecclesiastical")
- Effum. — Effectum ("Effect")
- Epus. — Episcopus ("Bishop")
- Excoe. — Excommunicatio ("Excommunication" — abl. case)
- Exit. — Exstit ("Exists")
- E.V. — Ex Voto ("In Fulfillment of a Vow")
- EX. TM. — Ex Testamento ("In accordance with the Testament of")
- E Viv. DISC. — E Vivis Dicessit ("Departed from Life")

F(Edit)
- F.C. — Faciendum curavit, Fidei commissum, Fiduciae causa.
- F.D. — Fidem dedit, Flamen Dialis, Fraude donavit.
- F.F. — Ferro flammae fame, Fortior fortuna fato.
- F.L. — Filiius, Flamen, Flaminius, Flavius.
- F.D. — Favete linguis, Fecit libens, Felix liber.
- FR. — Forum, Fronte, Frumentarius.
- F.F. — Fratres.
- F.C. — Filii faciendam curaverunt.
- F.C. — Faciendum curavit, Fidei commissum, Fiduciae causa.
- F.D. — Fidem dedit, Flamen Dialis, Fraude donavit.
- F.F. — Ferro flammae fame, Fortior fortuna fato.
- FL. — Filiius, Flamen, Flaminius, Flavius, floruit.
- F.L. — Favete linguis, Fecit libens, Felix liber.
- FR. — Forum, Fronte, Frumentarius, Frater.
- FS ET S — Fecit sibi et sui
- F. — Fecit ("Did"); or Filiius ("Son"); or Felicitet ("Happily")
- F.C. — Fieri Curavit ("Caused to be made")
- F.F. — Fieri Fecit ("Caused to be made")
Abbreviations

- FF. – Fratres ("Brothers"); Filii ("Sons")
- FS. – Fossor ("Digger")
- Fr. – Frater ("Brother")
- Frum. – Fratrum ("Of the Brothers")
- Fel. Mem. – Felicitas Memoriae ("Of Happy Memory")
- Fel. Rec. – Felicitatis Recordationis ("Of Happy Memory")
- Fer. – Feria ("Weekday")
- Fr. – Frater
- Fr. – Frater, Fren ("Brother")
- Fund. – Fundatio ("Foundation")

G[edit]
- G. – Gaius, Gaia, Gaudium, Gallus, Gemma, Gens, Gesta, Gratia.
- G.F. – Gemina fidelis ("legion")
- G.P.F. – Geminae fidelis ("legion")
- G.L. – Gloria.
- G.N. – Genius, Gens, Genu, Gnaeus ("Cnaeus")
- G.P.R. – Genro populi Romanu.
- Gen. – Generals ("General")
- Gl. – Gloria ("Glory to God", etc.)
- Gr. – Gratia ("Grace")
- Grad. – Gradus ("Grade")
- Grat. – Gratias ("Thanks"), or Gratias ("Without expense")
- Gr. n. – Generalis ("General")
- G.P.R. – Genro populi Romanu.

H[edit]
- HBQ. – Hic Bene Quiescat (Latin: May He Rest Peacefully Here, epigraphy")
- HER. – Heres, Herennius.
- HER., HIRC. – Hercules.
- H.S.E. – Hic sepultus est, Hic situs est.
- H.V. – Haec urbs, Hic vivit, Honeste vivit, Honestus vivit.
Abbreviations

- H.B. -- Hungaria (et) Bohemia
- HER. -- Heres, Herennius.
- HER., HERC. -- Hercules.
- H.F.C. -- Heres faciendum curavit
- HH. -- Heredes
- H.L. -- Hac lege, Hoc loco, Honesto loco.
- H.M.P. -- Hoc monumentum posuit
- H.S.E. -- Hic sepultus est, Hic situs est.
- H.V. -- Haece urbs, Hic vivit, Honeste vixit, Honestus vir.
- Humil. -- Humiliter ("Humbly")
- Humoi. -- Huiusmodi ("Of this kind")
- hebd. -- Hebdomada ("Week")
- Hom. -- Homilia ("Homily" — Breviary)
- hor. -- hora ("hour")
- H. -- Haeres ("Heir"); Hic ("Here")
Abbreviations

- H.L.S. – Hoc Loco Situs ("Laid [or Put] in This Place")
- H.M.F.F. – Hoc Monumentum Fieri Fecit ("Caused This Monument to be Made")
- H.S. – Hic Situs ("Laid Here")

[edit]
- IA. – Jam, Intra.
- I.D. – Inferis diis, Jovi dedicatnm, Jus dicendum, Jussu Dei.
- I.D.M. – Jovi deo magno.
- I.E. – Id est.
- I.F. – In foro, In fronte.
- IM. – Imago, Immortalis, Immunis, Impensa.
- IMP. – Imperator, Imperium.
- I.O.M. – Jovi optimo maximo.
Abbreviations

- I.P. -- In publico, Intra provinciam, Justa persona.
- I.S.V.P. -- Impensa sua vivus posuit.
- IA. -- Iam, Intra.
- I.C. -- Iulius Caesar, Iuris Consultum, Ius civile.
- ICTVS -- Iuris consultus
- ID. -- Idem, Idus, Interdum.
- I.D. -- Inferis diis, Iovi dedicatum, Ius dicendum, Iussu Dei.
- I.D.M. -- Iovi deo magno.
- I.F. -- In foro, In fronte.
- I.H. -- Iacet hic, In honestatem, Lustus homo.
- II VIR I D -- Duovir/Duumvir iure dicundo.
- IIIIII VIR AVG -- Sevir/Sevir Augustalis.
- ILL. -- Illustriissimus
- IIIIMA -- Illustriissima
- IM. -- Imago, Immortalis, Immunis, Impensa.
- IMP. -- Imperator, Imperium.
Abbreviations

- I.N.R.I. -- Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum.
- I.O.M. -- lovi optimo maximo.
- I.P. -- In publico, Intra provinciam, lusta persona.
- I.S.V.P. -- Impensa sua vivus posuit.
- IVL. -- Iulius
- IVN. -- Iunior
- ID. -- Idibus ("On the Ides")
- IDNE. -- Indictione ("In the Indiction" — a chronological term)
- I.L.H. -- Jus Liberorum Habens ("Possessing the Right of Children" — i.e., eligibility to public office under age)
- INB. -- In Bono ("In Good [odour]"
- IND. -- Same as IDNE
- INP. -- In Pace ("In Peace")
- I.X. -- In Christo ("In Christ")
- IC -- Jesus (first and third letters of His name in Greek)
- Id. -- Idus ("Ides")
- Igr. -- Igitur ("Therefore")
- Ind. -- Indictio ("Indiction")
- Ind. -- Index
Abbreviations

- Inq. – Inquisitio ("Inquisition")
- i.p.i. – in partibus infidelium ("among the infidels")
- Is. – Idus ("Ides")
- Igr. – igitur ("Therefore")
- Infratrum. – Inscriptum ("Written below")
- Intropta. – Introscripta ("Written within")
- Irregulite. – Irregularitate ("Irregularity" — abl. case)

J[edit]
- J.C. – Jesus Christus ("Jesus Christ")
- J.C.D. – Juris Canonici Doctor, Juris Civilis Doctor ("Doctor of Canon Law", "Doctor of Civil Law")
- J.D. – Juris Doctor ("Doctor of Law")
- J.M.J. – Jesus, Maria, Joseph ("Jesus, Mary, Joseph")
- Jo. – Johannes
- Joann. – Joannes ("John")
- J.U.D. – Juris Utriusque Doctor ("Doctor of Both Laws" — Civil and Canon)
- Jud. – Judicium ("Judgment")
- J.U.L. – Juris Utriusque Licentiatus ("Licentiate of Both Laws")
- Jur. – Juris ("Of Law")

K[edit]
- K., KAL., KL. – Kalendae.
- K., KAL., KL. – Kalendae.
- Kal. – Kalendae ("Calends"); or Car, Carus, Cara ("Dear One"); or Carissimus ("Dearest")
- K.B.M. – Karissimo Bene Merenti ("To the Most Dear and Well-deserving")

L[edit]
- LB. – Libens, Libri, Libertus.
- LEG. – Legatus, Legio.
- LL. – Leges, Libentissisme, Liberti.
- L.M. – Libens merito, Locus monumenti.
- L.S. – Laribus sacrum, Libens solvit, Locus sacer, Lectori Salutem.
- LVD. – Ludus.
- IV.P.F. – Ludus publicus fecit.
- LB. – Libens, Libri, Libertus.
Abbreviations

NB – Nota Bene
NEP – Nepos, Neptunus.
N.F.C. – Nostra fidei commissum
N.L. – Non licet, Non liquet, Non longe.
N.M.V. – Nobilis memoriae vir.
NN – Nostrì.
N.N. – Nomen nescio
NN, NNO, NNR – Nostrum.
NOB – Nobilis.
NOB, NOBR, NOV – Novembris.
N.P. – Nefastus primo (prio parte diei), Non potest.
N. – Natio, Natus, Nefastus (diei), Nepos, Neptunus, Nero, Nomen, Non, Nonae, Noster, Novus, Numen, Numerius, Numerus, Nummus.
NB – Nota Bene
NEP – Nepos, Neptunus.
N.F.C. – Nostra fidei commissum
N.L. – Non licet, Non liquet, Non longe.
N.M.V. – Nobilis memoriae vir.
NN – Nostrì.
NN, NNO, NNR – Nostrum.
N.N. – nomen nominandum seu nomen nescio
NO – Nonis
NOB – Nobilis.
NOB, NOBR, NOV – Novembris.
N.P. – Nefastus primo (prio parte diei), Non potest.
N. – Nonas ("Nones"), or Numero ("Number")
NN – Novissim ("To Our") — with a plural or Numeri ("Numbers")
Nultus – Nullatus ("Nowise")
Nativ. D. N.J.C. – Nativitas Domini Nostrî Jesu Christi ("Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ")
N.D. – Nostra Domina, Notre Dame ("Our Lady")
Nigr. – Niger ("Black" — Breviary)
No. – Nobis ("to us", "for us")
Nob. – Nobilis, Nobiles ("Noble", "Nobles")
Noct. – Nocturnum ("Nocturn")
Non. – Nonae ("Nones")
Nostr. – Noster, nostri ("Our", "of our")
Not. – Notitia ("Knowledge")
N.S. – Notre Seigneur, Nostro Signore ("Our Lord")
N.S. – New Style
N.T. – Novum Testamentum ("New Testament")
Ntri. – Nostrî ("Of our")
Nup. – Nuptianae ("Nuptials")

[O/edit]
Abbreviations

- Ph.M. — Philosophiæ Magister ("Master of Philosophy")
- P.K. — Pridie Kalendae ("The day before the Calends")
- Poenit. — Poenitentia ("Penance")
- Pont. — Pontifex ("Pontiff", i.e. Bishop — Breviary)
- Pont. — Pontificatus ("Pontificate")
- Pont. Max. — Pontifex Maximus ("Supreme Pontiff")
- Poss. — Possessor, Possessio ("Possessor", "Possession")
- PP. — Papa ("Pope"); Pontificum ("Of the popes")
- P.P. — Parochus ("Parish Priest" — used mostly in Ireland)
- PP. AA. — Patres Amplissimi ("Cardinals")
- P.P.P. — Propria Pecunia Posuit ("Erected at his own expense")
- P.R. — Permanens Rector ("Permanent Rector")
- Praef. — Præfatio ("Preface" of the Mass — Breviary)
- Presbit. — Presbyter, Priest
- Prof. — Professus, Professio, Professor ("Professed", "Profession", "Professor")
- Prop. Fid. — Propaganda Fide (Congregation of the Propaganda, Rome)
Abbreviations

- Propr. — Proprium ("Proper" — Breviary)
- Prov. — Provisio, Provisum ("Provision", "Provided")
- Ps. — Psalmus ("Psalm")
- Pub. — Publicus
- Publ. — Publicus, Publice ("Public", "Publicly")
- Purg. Can. — Purgatio Canonica ("Canonical Disculpation")

- Q[edit]
- Q. — Quaestor, Quando, Quantus, Que, Qui, Quinquennalis, Quintus, Quirites.
- Q.D.R. — Qua de re.
- Q.I.S.S. — Quae infra scripta sunt
- Q.S.S.S. — Quae supra scripta sunt
- QQ. — Quaecunque, Quinquennalis, Quoque.
- Q.R. — Quaestor reipublicae.
- Q. — Quaestor, Quando, Quantus, Que, Qui, Quinquennalis, Quintus, Quirites.
- Q.B.F.F.Q.S. — Quod bonum, faustum, felix fortunatumque sit. (Quod bonum, felix, faustum fortunatumque sit.)
- Q.D.R. — Qua de re.
Abbreviations

- Q.I.D. -- Quater in die.
- Q.I.S.S. -- Quae infra scripta sunt
- Q.S.S.S. -- Quae supra scripta sunt
- QQ. -- Quaecunque, Quinquennalis, Quoque.
- Q.R. -- Quaestor reipublicae.
- Quadrag. -- Quadragesima ("Lent", also the "Fortieth day" before Easter — Breviary)
- Quinquag. -- Quinquagesima (The "Fiftieth day" before Easter — Breviary)
- Qd. -- Quod ("Because", "That", or, "Which")
- Qmlbt. -- Quomodolibet ("In any manner whatsoever")
- Qtnus. -- Quatenus ("In so far as")
- Q. -- Quiescit
- Qui. -- Quiescit ("He Rests")
- Q.B.AN. -- Qui Bixit [for Vixit] Annos ("Who lived . . . years")
- Q.I.P. -- Quiescat In Pace ("May he [or she] Rest in Peace")
- Q.V. -- Qui Vixit ("Who Lived")

- R[edit]
Abbreviations

- R.C. — Romana civitas, Romanus civis.
- RESP., RP. — Res publica.
- RET.P., RP. — Retro pedes.
- RIP — Requiescat in pace.
- ROM IMP — Romanorum imperator.
- R.R. — Relationes relatae
- R.C. — Romana civitas, Romanus civis.
- RESP., RP. — Res publica.
- RET.P., RP. — Retro pedes.
- R. — Requiescit ("He Rests"); or Refrigerio ("In [a place of] Refreshment")
- Reg. — Regionis ("Of the Region")
- Relione. — Religione ("Religion", or, "Religious Order" — abl. case)
- Rlari. — Regulari ("Regular")
- Roma. — Romana ("Roman")
- R. — Responsorium ("Responsoy" — Breviary)
- R. — Roma (Rome)
Abbreviations

- Rescr. -- Rescriptum ("Rescript")
- R.D. -- Rural Dean
- Req. -- Requiescat ("May he [or she] rest", i.e. in peace)
- Resp. -- Responsum ("Reply")
- R.I.P. -- Requiescat In Pace ("May he or she rest in peace")
- Rit. -- Ritus ("Rite", "Rites")
- Rom. -- Romanus, Romana ("Roman")
- R. P. -- Reverendus Pater, Reverend Pere ("Reverend Father")
- RR. -- Rerum ("Of Things, Subjects" — e.g. SS. RR. Ital., Writers on Italian [historical] subjects); Regesta
- Rt. Rev. -- Right Reverend
- Rub. -- Ruber ("Red" — Breviary)
- Rubr. -- Rubrica ("Rubric")

- S[edit]
- S. -- Sacrum, Scriptus, Semis, Senatus, Sepultus, Servius, Servus, Sextus, Sibi, Sine, Situs, Solus, Solvit, Sub, Suus.
- SAC. -- Sacerdos, Sacrificium, Sacrum.
- S.C. -- Senatus consultum.
Abbreviations

- S.D. — Sacrum diis, Salutem dicit, Senatus decreto, Sententiam
- S.D.M. — Sacrum diis Manibus, Sine dolo malo.
- SER. — Servius, Servus.
- S.E.T.L. — Sit ei terra levis.
- SN. — Senatus, Sententia, Sine nomine.[1]
- S.D. — Salutem dicit.[2]
- S.P. — Sacerdos perpetua, Sine pecunia, Sua pecunia.
- S.P.D. — Salutem plurimam dicit.[2]
- S.S. — Sanctissimus senatus, Supra scripture.
- S.T.T.L. — Sit tibi terra levis.
- S. — Sacerdos, Sacrum, Sanctus, Scriptus, Semis, Senatus, Sepultus, Servius, Servus, Sestertium, Sextus, Sibi, Sine, Situs, Solus, Solvit, Sub, Suus.
- SAC. — Sacerdos, Sacrificium, Sacrum.
- S.C. — Senatus consultum.
- sc., scil. — scilicet
- S.D. — Sacrum diis, Salutem dicit, Senatus decreto, Sententiam
- S.D.M. — Sacrum diis Manibus, Sine dolo malo.
- SER. — Servius, Servus/-a.
Abbreviations

- S.E.T.L. -- Sit ei terra levis.
- SEX -- Sextus.
- SI -- Societas Iesu
- SN. -- Senatus, Sententia, Sine.
- S.P. -- Sacerdos perpetua, Sine pecunia, Spurius, Sua pecunia.
- S.P.D. -- Salutem plurimam dicit, ad caput litterarum.
- S. R. E. -- Sacra vel Sancta Romana Ecclesia
- S. R. I. (M. P.) -- Sacrum Romanum Imperium
- S.S. -- Sancti, Sanctissimus, Sanctissimus senatus, Supra scripture.
- SSS -- Sanctissimus.
- ST -- Sanctus.
- S.T.B.V.E.B.V. -- Si Tu Bene Valeas Ego Bene Valeo.
- STIP -- Stipendorium.
- STTL -- Sit tibi terra levis.
- S.V.B.E.E.Q.V. -- Si vales bene est, ego quidem valeo.
- S. -- Sacrum
Abbreviations

- Sacr. -- Sacrum ("Sacred")
- Sab. -- Sabbatum
- Sabb. -- Sabbatum ("Sabbath", Saturday)
- Saec. -- Saeculum (Century)
- Sal. -- Salus, Salutis ("Salvation", "of Salvation")
- Salmant. -- Salmanticenses (Theologians of Salamanca)
- S.C. -- Sacra Congregatio ("Sacred Congregation")
- S.C.C. -- Sacra Congregatio Concilii ("Sacred Congregation of the Council", i.e. of Trent)
- S.C.EE.RR. -- Sacra Congregatio Episcoporum et Regularium ("Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars")
Abbreviations

- S.C.I. -- Sacra Congregatio Indicis ("Sacred Congregation of the Index")
- S.C.P.F. -- Sacra Congregatio de Propaganda Fide ("Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith")
- SCS -- Sanctus ("Saint")
- s.d. -- sine data (undated book)
- S.D. -- Servus Dei (Servant of God)
- Semid. -- Semiduplex ("Semi" double feast — Breviary)
- Septuag -- Septuagesima ("Seventieth day" before Easter; always a Sunday — Breviary)
- Sexag. -- Sexagesima ("Sixtieth day" before Easter — Breviary)
- Sig. -- Sigillum ("Seal")
Abbreviations

- Simpl. -- Simplex ("Simple" feast — Breviary)
- Sine Com. -- Sine Commemoratione ("Without commemoration" of other feast, or feasts — Breviary)
- s.l. -- sine loco ("without indication" of place of printing)
- s.l.n.d. -- sine loco nec data ("without indication of place" or "without date of printing")
- S.M. -- Sanctæ Memoriæ ("Of Holy Memory")
- Soc. -- Socius, Socii ("Companion", "Companions" — Breviary)
- S. Off. -- Sanctum Officium (Congregation of the Holy Office, Inquisition)
- S.P. -- Sanctissime Pater ("Most Holy Father")
- S.P. -- Sanctus Petrus
- S. Petr. -- Sanctus Petrus ("St. Peter")
- S.P. -- Summus Pontifex ("Supreme Pontiff", Pope)
- S.P.A. -- Sacrum Palatium Apostolicum ("Sacred Apostolic Palace", Vatican, Quirinal)
- Sr. -- Soror (Sister)
- S.R.C. -- Sacra Rituum Congregatio ("Sacred Congregation of Rites")
- S.R.E. -- Sancta Romana Ecclesia, Sanctæ Romanæ Ecclesia ("Most Holy Roman Church"; or, "of the Most Holy Roman Church")
- SS. -- Scriptores ("Writers")
- SS.D.N. -- Sanctissimus Dominus Noster ("Our Most Holy Lord [Jesus Christ]", also a title of the Pope)
Abbreviations

- S., SS. -- Sanctus, Sancti ("Saint", "Saints")
- S.T.B. -- Sacrae Theologiae Baccalaureus ("Bachelor of Sacred Theology")
- S.T.D. -- Sacrae Theologiae Doctor ("Doctor of Sacred Theology")
- S.T.L. -- Sacrae Theologiae Licentiatus ("Licentiate of Sacred Theology")
- Suffr. -- Suffragia ("Suffrages" — i.e. prayers of the saints; Breviary)
- S.V. -- Sanctitas Vestra ("Your Holiness")
- Syn. -- Synodus ("Synod")
- Salr. -- Salutari ("Salutary")
- Snia. -- Sententia ("Opinion")
- Sntae. -- Sanctae
- Stae. -- Sanctae ("Holy", or, "Saints" — feminine)
- Spealer. -- Specialiter ("Specially")
- Spualibus -- Spiritualibus ("In spiritual matters")
- Supplioni. -- Supplicationibus ("Supplication" — dat. or abl. case)
- S. -- Suus ("His"); or Situs ("Placed"); or Sepulchrum ("Sepulchre")
- SC. M. -- Sanctae Memoriae ("Of Holy Memory")
- SD. -- Sedit ("He sat")
Abbreviations

- SSA. -- Subscripta ("Subscribed")
- S.I.D. -- Spiritus In Deo ("Spirit [rests] in God")
- S.P. -- Sepultus ("Buried"); or Sepulchrum ("Sepulchre")
- SS. -- Sanctorum (Of the Saints)
- S.V. -- Sacra Virgo ("Holy Virgin")

- [edit]
- T. -- Terminus, Testamentum, Titus, Tribunus, Tu, Turma, Tutor.
- TB., TI., TIB. -- Tiberius.
- TB., TR., TRB. -- Tribunus.
- T.F. -- Testamentum fecit, Titi filius, Titulum fecit, Titus Flavius.
- TM. -- Terminus, Testamentum, Thermae.
- T.P. -- Terminum posuit, Tribunicia potestate, Tribunus plebis.
- TVL. -- Tullius, Tunus.
- T. -- Terminus, Testamentum, Titus, Tribunus, Tu, Turma, Tutor.
- TB., TI., TIB. -- Tiberius.
- TB., TR., TRB. -- Tribunus.
Abbreviations

- T.F. -- Testamentum fecit, Titi filius, Titulum fecit, Titus Flavius.
- TFI -- Testamentum fieri iussit.
- TI(B) -- Tiberius
- TM. -- Terminus, Testamentum, Thermae.
- T.P. -- Terminum posuit, Tribunicia potestate, Tribunus plebis.
- TR PL -- Tribunus plebis
- T.R.E. -- Tempore Regis Eduardi
- TVL. -- Tullius, Tunus.
- T. -- Titulus
- TT. -- Titulus, Tituli ("Title", "Titles")
- TM. -- Testamentum ("Testament")
- Thia -- Theologia
- Theolia. -- Theologia ("Theology")
- Tli. -- Tituli ("Titles")
- Tm. -- Tantum ("So much", or, "Only")
- Tn. -- Tamen ("Nevertheless")
- Temp. -- Tempus, Tempore ("Time", "in time")
- Test. -- Testes, Testimonium ("Witnesses", "Testimony")
Abbreviations

- Theol. -- Theologia ("Theology")
- Tit. -- Titulus, Tituli ("Title", "Titles")
- U[edit]
- Ult. -- Ultimo ("Last" — day, month, year)
- Usq. -- Usque ("As far as")
- Ux. -- Uxor ("Wife")
- V[edit]
- VA. -- Veterano assignatus, Vixit annos.
- V.C. -- Vale conjux, Vir clarissimus, Vir consularis.
- V.E. -- Verum etiam, Vir egregius (=equestrian), Visum est.
- V.F. -- Usus fructus, Verba fecit, Vivus fecit.
- V.P. -- Urbis praefectus, Vir perfectissimus, Vivus posuit.
- V.R. -- Urbs Roma, Uti rogas, Votum reddidit.
- V.S.L.M. -- Votum Solvit Libens Merito. (willingly and deservedly fulfilled his vow)
Abbreviations

- VA. -- Veterano assignatus, Vixit annos.
- V.C. -- Vale coniunx, Vir clarissimus, Vir consularis.
- V.E. -- Verum etiam, Vir egregius, Visum est.
- V.F. -- Usus fructus, Verba fecit, Vivus fecit.
- v.g., v.gr. - verbi gratia
- VIX -- Vixit
- VLP -- Ulpius
- V.P. -- Urbis praefectus, Vir perfectissimus, Vivus posuit.
- V.R. -- Urbs Roma, Uti rogas, Votum reddidit.
- VS -- Votum solvit, Vir spectabilis.
- VSLLM -- Votum solvit libens laetus merito.
- V. -- Venerabilis
- Ven. -- Venerabilis
- VV. -- Venerabilis, Venerabiles ("Venerable")
- 'Venebli -- Venerabili ("Venerable")
- Vrae. -- Vestræ ("Your")
- V. -- Vester
Abbreviations

- Vest. -- Vester ("Your")
- Vac. -- Vacat, Vacans ("Vacant")
- Val. -- Valor ("Value")
- Vat. -- Vaticanus ("Vatican")
- Vba. -- Verba ("Words")
- Vers. -- Versiculus ("Versicle" — Breviary)
- Vesp. -- Vesperæ ("Vespers" — Breviary)
- V.F. -- Vicarius Foraneus
- Vic. For. -- Vicarius Foraneus ("Vicar-Forane")
- V.G. -- Vicarius Generalis ("Vicar-General")
- Vid. -- Vidua ("Widow" — Breviary)
- Vid.Videlicet
- Videl. -- Videlicet ("Namely")
- Vig. -- Vigilia ("Vigil" of a feast — Breviary)
- Viol. -- Violaceus ("Violet" — Breviary)
- Virg. -- Virgo ("Virgin" — Breviary)
- Virid. -- Viridis ("Green" — Breviary)
Abbreviations

- V.M. -- Vir Magnificus ("Great Man")
- V. Rev. -- Very Reverend
- V.T. -- Vetus Testamentum
- V. -- Vixit ("He Lived"); or Vixisti ("Thou didst Live")
- VB. -- Vir Bonus ("A Good Man")
- V.C. -- Vir Clarissimus ("A Most Illustrious Man")
- VV. CC. -- Viri Clarissimi ("Most Illustrious Men")
- V.H. -- Vir Honestus ("A Worthy Man")
- V. X. -- Vivas, Care [or Cara] ("Mayest thou Live, Dear One"); or Uxor Carissima ("Most Dear Wife")