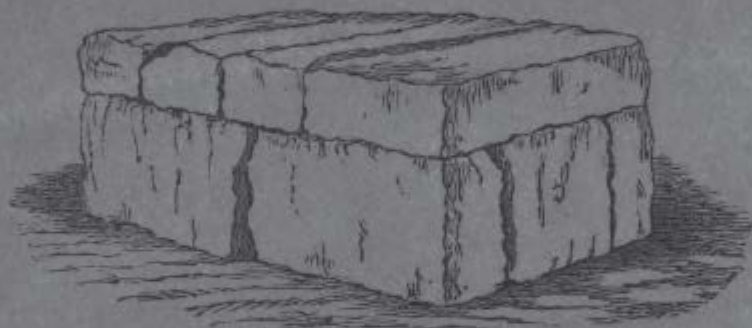


YORKSHIRE

PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

PART I. VOL. I.

55



Roman Tomb found at York.



LONDON: JOHN CHURCHILL.
YORK: HENRY SOTHERAN.

1849.

Price 2s. 6d.

See Yorkshire 3408

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PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
YORKSHIRE
PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

A SELECTION FROM PAPERS

RELATING TO THE

Antiquities and Natural History of Yorkshire,

READ AT THE MONTHLY MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY

DURING 1847 AND 1848.

LONDON: JOHN CHURCHILL.
YORK: HENRY SOTHERAN.

1849.



June 1st. Dr. GOLDIE, V. P., in the Chair.

Mr. William Sotheran, of York, was elected a subscribing Member.

The following additions to the Museum were announced :

By Donation.

From Thomas Allis, Esq., a small collection of choice fossils from the Lias of the West of England, including examples of Hippopodium, Gervillia, Pleurotomaria, Plicatula, &c.

From William Webster, Esq., electrotpe copies of the Seals of the Chancellor's office of the see of Durham, and of the Duchy of Lancaster (George II) ; and Copies of the Great Seals of Queen Elizabeth, of the Commonwealth, of Richard Cromwell, and of William IV.

By Exchange.

From William Whincopp, Esq. (Woodbridge), an Egyptian lamp ; two Egyptian Deities, in glazed porcelain ; an Etruscan vessel ; four small Etruscan vessels ; five celts ; a small stone adze ; two flint adzes ; a Roman lamp, found at Colchester ; twelve bone pins, from the same place ; 24 British beads, 17 of them amber, found near Newmarket.

By Purchase.

Head of Teleosaurus, from Whitby, with lower jaw detached, and in very fine preservation.

A portion of the Stycas recently found near Ulleskelf, between 500 and 600 in number.

A curious mediæval brass key, found near Stamford Bridge.

The following paper was then read,

"On the Sarcophagus of Marcus Verecundus Diogenes and the Civil Administration of Roman York."—By the
REV. JOHN KENRICK, M. A.

The paucity of the monuments which illustrate the civil condition and administration of Britain under the dominion of the

Romans gives an especial value to those which we still possess, or whose inscriptions have been preserved to us by credible authority. The whole southern district of the island has been very barren of inscribed monuments; and those of the northern provinces, though much more abundant, are chiefly religious and military. It is therefore fortunate that such unexceptionable authorities as Camden, Burton, Gale, and Horsley¹ have preserved the remarkable inscription which I propose to illustrate, formerly existing here, though the monument itself has shared the fate of so many others, and having been first degraded to a horse-trough, has finally disappeared.

The inscription in its most correct form and with its abbreviations filled up according to unquestionable analogies, runs thus: **MARCUS VERECUNDUS DIOGENES, SEVIR COLONIÆ EBORACENSIS, IBEIDEMQUE MORTUUS, CIVES BITURIX CUBUS, HÆC SIBI VIVUS FECIT.** "M. Verecundus Diogenes, Sevir of the Colony of York, and who died at that place, a citizen of the Bituriges Cubi, made these things for himself during his life time." He had caused the Sarcophagus and Operculum to be executed during his life, and his heir did not forget to inscribe his designation and birth place, after his death.

I cannot conceive of any plausible objection against the genuineness of this inscription. It has been given to us by men of the highest reputation, to whom no suspicion has attached of those mischievous forgeries by which some antiquaries have disgraced themselves. The information which it conveys respecting Eboracum, as being a colony and having a body of Seviri, though not supported by other evidence, is not contradicted by it, and is in itself probable. The mis-spelling of *cives* for *civis* is far more likely to have been the error of a lapidary than of the forger of an inscription. Orelli has remarked a circumstance connected with this word *civis*, which strongly confirms the genuineness of our monument; it rarely occurs except when citizens of the Gallic States are spoken of.²

¹ See Eburacum, by the Rev. C. Wellbeloved, p. 102.

² Orelli Inscr. 190, 191, 192, 276. "Vides hunc usum civitatem in lapidibus designandi in Galliis potissimum obtinuisse."

The combination *Seviro Colonia* is also justified by other inscriptions.¹

Marcus Verecundus Diogenes was the son of a slave ; for his father's name is not recorded. This is the invariable distinction on monuments. Further we learn that he was a citizen of the Gallic people called *Bituriges Cubi*. The nation of the Bituriges had been the most powerful in Celtic Gaul, and had exercised sovereignty over the whole of that portion of the country, as far back as the reign of Tarquinius Priscus.² In the time of Cæsar they had lost this predominance, and were themselves subordinate to the Ædui, but they still retained a considerable extent of territory. The Bituriges Cubi, who seem to have remained in the original seat of the nation, occupied the modern provinces of Berri and Bourbonnois ;³ the Bituriges Vivisci had settled near the mouth of the Garonne ; and Burdigala (Bordeaux) was within their territory. They were thus, as Strabo remarks, Celtic interlopers among an Aquitanian population.⁴ As Verecundus Diogenes was not a military man, we may presume that he had come to York for commercial purposes, and I think it not difficult to conjecture in what he dealt. Pliny⁵ mentions it as an invention of the Gauls, to cover articles of brass with tin, so that they could scarcely be distinguished from silver. The inhabitants of Alesia (*Alise* in Burgundy, not far from the country of the Bituriges Cubi) were the first who covered bronze horse trappings and the yokes of beasts of burden with a coating of silver ; the Bituriges improved on their invention, and with the progress of luxury not only silvered but gilded ornaments were placed upon the

¹ Orelli, 309, 200.

² Livy, 5, 34, Cæs. Bell. Gall. 7, 5. Their chief town, Avaricum, (Bourges), "*pulcherrima prope totius Galliæ urbs*," was stormed by him. Ib. 15. 27.

³ D'Anville Notice de la Gaule, p. 170.

⁴ Lib. 4, p. 190.

⁵ *Album incoquitur æreis operibus Galliarum invento ita ut vix discerni possit ab argento, eaque incoctilia vocant. Deinde et argentum incoquere simili modo cæpere equorum maxime ornamentis, jumentorumque jugis, in Alesia oppido: reliqua gloria Biturigum fuit. Cæpere deinde et esseda et vehicula et petorrita exornare; similique modo ad aurea quoque, non modo argentea staticula inanis luxuria pervenit.* N. H. 34, 48. *Staticulum* appears to have been a little image, especially used as an ornament of horses or carriages. Comp. Plin. 37, 54, 2.

carriages of every kind. This description exactly suits the ornaments which have been found at Stanwick and elsewhere, which bear evident marks of silvering upon bronze, and we can hardly help concluding that they were the production of the Bituriges, and that Verecundus Diogenes came to Eboracum to deal in them.

He appears from the inscription to have been a *Sevir* or *Sexvir* of the Colony. There has been considerable controversy among antiquaries respecting the nature of this office. The name itself, like *Decemvir*, *Duumvir*, tells us nothing as to its duties, describing only the number of persons who formed the board. Some have supposed the *Seviri* to be priests, others to be judges. If single inscriptions given in collections could be trusted, both these opinions would appear to be supported by evidence; for we find in one¹ *Seviro Sacris faciundis*, which would decide for the sacerdotal character; in another² *Seviro juri dicundo*, which would prove a judicial office. But there can be little doubt that in the first instance we should read *quindécimviro*, and in the second *quatuorviro*. These are of frequent occurrence; the others solitary; and the mistake in the latter case is very easily made.³ We find also mention of a *Sevir equitum Romanorum*, or *turmæ equitum*; but he was probably different from the *Sevir* of our inscription.⁴ I believe that the office of *Sevir* is no where mentioned in the remains of Latin literature, except in two or three passages of Petronius Arbiter. In his *Satyricon* the vain and luxurious Trimalchio composes for himself an epitaph: "Cn. Pompeius Trimalchio hic requiescit. Huic Seviratus absenti delatus est."⁵ In the same strain he elsewhere says of himself, "Spero sic me vivere ut nemini jocus sim; nemo mihi in foro dixit, Redde quod debes. Glebularum emi: viginti ventres pasco et canem. *Sevir* gratis factus sum. Spero, sic moriar ut mortuus non erubescam." Over his triclinium also was inscribed, "Cn. Pompeio Trimalchioni, *Seviro Augustali*."

¹ Gruter Corp. Inscr. 442, 1. Orelli, however, 3999, gives as genuine an inscription in which VI. VIR., S. F. (*sacris faciundis*) occurs.

² Gruter 385, 6. ³ *Sevir* is written in inscriptions IIIIII; *Quatuorvir* IIII.

⁴ Jul. Capit. M. Anton. Phil. §. 6. ⁵ P. 272, Ed. Hadrianides. Ib. p. 212.