

GRAFFITI AND EPITAPHS

Graffiti

1. I'm amazed, O wall, that you've not collapsed under the weight of so much written filth.
2. May Jupiter be ticked at whoever harms this.
3. Good luck to the Puteolians! Good things to all the Nuceriaans, but the hook to Pompeians and Petecusans.
4. Death, pulling your ear, says "live ... for I am coming."
5. Agilis, the surveyor.
6. Successor, the weaver.
7. Publius Cornelius Faventinus, the barber.
8. Phoebus, the ointment-maker.
9. Cresces, the architect.
10. Marcus Vecilius Verecundus, the clothes-maker.
11. [At a baker's] I made bread on April 29th.
12. The bathhouse of Marcus Crassus, with sea-water and fresh-water baths. The freedman Januarius, proprietor.
13. A bronze urn has disappeared from my tavern. Whoever returns it will get 65 sesterces reward. Whoever informs on the thief will get 20 sesterces, if we recover it.
14. Priscus the engraver wishes well to Campanius the jeweler.
15. Fuscus, you cocksucker!
16. Perarius, you're a thief!
17. No loiterers--scram!
18. Move on, sodomite.
19. Livia, to Alexander: "if you're well, I don't much care; if you're dead, I'm delighted."
20. Aemilius says "Hi" to his brother Fortunatus.
21. Pyrrhus to his colleague Gaius Heius: "I'm sad to hear you've died; and so, fond farewell!"
22. Cestila, queen of the Pompeians, sweetheart, farewell!
23. Farewell, Modestus, farewell. I wish you well wherever you are.
24. Samius Cornelius, go hang yourself!
25. Stronnius is an ignoramus.
26. Crescens is a public whore.
27. Felicity lives here.

28. Staphilus was here with Quieta.
29. This is a lucky place.
30. Urbanus was here on the 10th of December.
31. Apollinaris, the emperor Titus's doctor, took a good crap here.
32. Pacatus stayed here with his Pompeian relatives.
33. We live here; may the gods bless us!
34. Whoever doesn't invite me to dinner is a barbarian.
35. Whoever is in love, may he prosper. Whoever loves not, may he die. Whoever forbids love, may he die twice over!
36. No one is cool if he hasn't loved a woman.
37. Vibius Restitutus slept alone here and longed for his Urbana.
38. Marcus loves Spendusa.
39. Apelles Mus and his brother Dexter lovingly screwed a pair of girls here.
40. I beg you, lady Venus, to keep in mind what I just asked for.
41. If you haven't seen the Venus that Apelles painted, take a look at my girl-- she's just as beautiful.
42. Now the anger is recent, now is the time to leave it. If the pain departs, believe me, love will return.
43. On February 22nd, ten pairs of the gladiators of Numisius Genialis will fight at Herculaneum.
44. There will be a venatio [hunting spectacle] here on August 28th and Felix will fight bears.
45. Alas, the bears might eat me up!
46. Rusticus Malius, 12 fights, 11 crowns.
47. Oceanus the freedman (13 victories) won; Aracanthus (4 victories) died.
48. Severus the freedman (13 victories) died; Albanus, freedman of Scarus (19 victories) won.
49. Thraex makes the girls sigh.
50. I pissed in the bed, I confess, I did wrong, my host. If you ask why--there wasn't any chamber pot.
51. All the goldsmiths support Gaius Cuspius Pansa for public works commissioner.
52. Trebius the barber for public works commissioner.
53. The mule-drivers support Gaius Julius Polybius for mayor.
54. Genialis supports Bruttius Balbus for mayor. He'll balance the budget.
55. I ask you to support Marcus Cerrinus Vatia for public works commissioner. All the late-night drunks back him. Signed, Florus and Frontus.

Epitaphs

1. Gnaeus Cornelius Scipio Hispanus, son of Gnaeus, [was] praetor, curule aedile, quaestor, twice military tribune; member of the judiciary Board and of the Board for conducting sacrifices: By my behavior, I added to the excellence of my family name. I produced offspring and rivaled the deeds of my father. I revered my ancestors, so that they might rejoice that I was born to their line. My civic service has dignified my family line.
2. Stranger, stop and read this brief word. Here is the unattractive grave of an attractive woman, whose parents named her Claudia. She loved her husband wholeheartedly. She gave birth to two sons, one whom she leaves behind on earth, one whom she buried beneath it. She spoke with grace and a modest bearing. She kept house and worked her wool. I have spoken. Farewell.
3. Here rest forever the remains of Cupiennia Tertulla, the daughter of Lucius and last of her line.
4. Here lies a loyal, honorable, pure, and proper woman, Sempronia Moschis. Her husband gives thanks for her virtues.
5. [The tomb of] Posilla Senenia, daughter of Quartus and Quarta Senenia, freedwoman of Gaius. Rest a moment, stranger, and read what is written here: It was not granted a mother to enjoy her only daughter; I believe some god begrudged her life. Because that mother could not dress her living in finery, she has adorned her whom she loved with this memorial, as she deserved.
6. While I lived, I was Aurelia Philematium. I was pure, modest, shy of the mob, loyal to my husband. Like me a freedman, he was more even than a father to me; and now I've lost him. I was seven when he took me to his breast; now at forty I am overpowered by death. All times he prospered by my good services.
7. Albia Hargula, freedwoman of Albia, lived fifty-six years. She was a woman of purity and great fidelity. If the spirits below are wise, may her bones lying here rest well.
8. If you wish to add your sorrow to ours, come here and shed your tears. A sad parent has laid to rest his only daughter, Nymphe, whom he treasured with sweet love so long as the Fates permitted. Now, beloved of her kin, snatched from her home she lies buried; now her dear face and form are mere shadow and her bones mere ash.
9. Aulus Salvius Crispinus, son of Aulus, grandson of Aulus, fifty-six years old, is buried here. He was four times a member of the Board of Four at Ferentum. He was killed by a wall at lunch on his last day.

10. Here I lie, Lemiso. Only death has ended my labors.
11. Owned by Gaius Pagurius Gelos, freedman of Gaius. Stop, stranger, and inspect this grand tomb; it holds the bones of a little child. Here I lie buried in the springtime of my life. I did my duty and my wool-working with diligence. I grieve at Fortune so unjust and cruel. If you ask my name, it is "Salvia." Farewell, stranger, may your lot be happier.
12. Gaius Hostius Pamphilus, medical doctor and freedman of Gaius, purchased this monument for himself and for Nelpia Hymnis, freedwoman of Marcus, and for all their freedmen and freedwomen and their posterity. This is our eternal home, our farm, our garden, our monument. 13 feet wide by 24 deep.
13. Lucius Papius Pollio of the Teretine tribe, son of Lucius and member of the Board of Two, gave a feast of mead and cake to the colonists of Sinuessa and Caedex to honor his father Lucius Papius of the Falerine tribe, son of Lucius. He also gave gladiator contests and a meal to the colonists of Sinuessa and to the Papiian clan. He erected a monument costing 12,000 sesterces in accordance with his father's testament and by the authorization of Lucius Novercinus Pollio, son of Lucius, of the Pupinian tribe.
14. Traveler, who walks so carefree and glances at my funeral gifts: if you wonder who the ash and embers once were, I was Helvia Prima before my sad end. My beloved husband was Scrateius Cadmus; we lived at one in heart and mind. Now I've been yielded forever to Dis [the god of the Underworld], through fatal fire and Stygian wave.
15. For my dearest wife, with whom I lived two years, six months, three days, and ten hours. On the day she died, I gave thanks before gods and men.
16. I was once famous among Pannonians, preeminent among thousands of strong Batavian men. With Hadrian watching, I swam across the mighty Danube in full armor. I once shot an arrow and split it with a second in midair. No Roman or barbarian ever beat me with the spear, no Parthian with the bow. This tombstone preserves the story of my feats. It will witness whether any hereafter may match my deeds. But I am still unique, the first to do such things as these.