TWO ANCIENT ROMAN PLATES
Bronze Military Diplomas and Other Sealed Documents
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Two Ancient Roman Plates
Bronze Military Diplomas and Other Sealed Documents
THE ROMAN EMPIRE IN THE TIME OF TRAJAN

- At the death of Augustus, A.D. 14
- Additions between Augustus and Trajan, A.D. 14-98
- Additions under Trajan A.D. 98-116
- Fragments of plates
- Complete sets of plates
- BYU plates
Copper Scroll, 3Q15
TWO ANCIENT ROMAN PLATES
BRONZE MILITARY DIPLOMAS AND OTHER SEALED DOCUMENTS
Two bronze plates which formed the front and back of a four-leaved document granting citizenship to an army auxiliary named Gemellus after 25 years service.

Dated July 17 AD 122.

From Brigetio (modern Hungary).

Before retirement Gemellus was serving in Britain as a non-commissioned officer in the first Batavian regiment of Pannonian horse. He must have returned home to Pannonia as the document was found at the ancient site of Brigetio on the Danube.

GR 8304.19.1
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the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar.
2 For then the king of Babylon's army 4besieged Jerusalem: and Jeremiah the prophet was shut up in the court of the prison, which was in the king of Judah's house.
3 For Zedekiah king of Judah had shut him up, saying, Wherefore dost thou prophesy, and say, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall take it;
4 And Zedekiah king of Judah shall not escape out of the hand of the Chaldeans, but shall surely be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon, and shall speak with him mouth to mouth, and his eyes shall behold his eyes;
5 And he shall lead Zedekiah to Babylon, and there shall he be until I visit him, saith the LORD: though ye fight with the Chaldeans, ye shall not prosper.
6 ¶ And Jeremiah said, The word of the LORD came unto me, saying,
7 Behold, Hanameel the son of Shallum thine uncle shall come unto thee, saying, Buy thee my field that is in Anathoth: for the right of redemption is thine to buy it.
8 So Hanameel mine uncle's son came to me in the court of the prison according to the word of the LORD, and said unto me, Buy my field, I pray thee, that is in Anathoth, which is in the country of Benjamin: for the right of inheritance is thine, and the redemption is thine; buy it for thyself. Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD.
9 And I bought the field of Hanameel my uncle's son, that was in Anathoth, and weighed him the money, even seventeen shekels of silver.
10 And I subscribed the evidence, and sealed it, and took witnesses, and weighed him the money in the balances.
11 So I took the evidence of the purchase, both that which was sealed according to the law and custom, and that which was open.
12 And I gave the evidence of the purchase unto Baruch the son of Neriah, the son of Maaseiah, in the sight of Hanameel mine uncle's son, and in the presence of the witnesses that subscribed the book of the purchase, before all the Jews that sat in the court of the prison.
13 ¶ And I charged Baruch before them, saying,
14 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Take these evidences, this evidence of the purchase, both which is sealed, and this evidence which is open; and put them in an earthen vessel, that they may continue many days.
15 For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Houses and fields and vineyards shall be possessed again in this land.
16 ¶ Now when I had delivered the evidence of the purchase unto Baruch the son of Neriah, I prayed unto the LORD, saying,
17 Ah Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:
18 Thou shewest lovingkindness unto thousands, and recompensest the iniquity of the fathers into the bosom of their children after them: the Great, the Mighty God, the Lord of hosts, is his name,
19 Great in counsel, and mighty in work: for thine eyes are open upon all the ways of the sons of men: to give every one according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings;
20 Which hast set signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, even unto this day, and in Israel, and among other men; and hast made thee a name, as at this day;
TWO ANCIENT ROMAN PLATES
BRONZE MILITARY DIPLOMAS AND OTHER SEALED DOCUMENTS
A DEED OF MANUMISSION

A diptych of speckled wood inscribed with a deed of manumission in coarse Latin dated to the 4th year of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius Antonius Pius (A.D. 161). Marcus Aurelius Antonius, son of Titus Lucius, a citizen of Hermopolis Magna (modern Arish), in Middle Egypt, sets free his slave, Helene, aged thirty-four years, in consideration of 2,200 Augustali drachmae given by his father, son of Antinous, to Helene for the purchase of her freedom. The deed which has been inscribed with a metal stylus on the black-smoked inner surfaces of the diptych is identically repeated in ink on the two plain outer surfaces. In addition to the text of the deed, the outer surfaces bear the signatures of the respective parties named and also those of witnesses. The diptych was originally fastened by a string which passed through the two larger holes occupying a central position along each edge of the two tablets. Originally the seals of the witnesses were placed over the knot and along the string as shown in the accompanying sketch.


(Figure) A fragment of a wooden diptych similar to specimen (above). The inner painted surface is inscribed with a single line of coarse Latin while the plain wooden reverse shows the beginnings of ten lines of coarse Greek, written in ink.

TWO ANCIENT ROMAN PLATES
BRONZE MILITARY DIPLOMAS AND OTHER SEALED DOCUMENTS
IACI.

ALSAR DEO IN TERRA ET IN VACUO RMANUS

NOCER AEGADACES PONTIFEX MAX TRIBUNICIO

DICTA XII IMP VI COS.

PONIBVS DEDITIIBVS SEQIVM CECIT.

ALLST RIVSICOHOR LIBYS X VIAXSEX

VX ApELLANTIVI

PONOR SAGITTARIA ET PANNONIUS VETER

NAX ET I BRITONVS VELIATOR QVATA CER

ET BRITANNICAMOR ET ITIVRACOR ET ITHRA

VACER ET INVITRACOR ET ITHRA

PER L PANNONIUS VETERANA GALVON

ANIOR ET GALOR PANNONICA ET IGALVA

Nor et BRITANNORACRPFELAGALLO

ROMAE MACEDONICA ET II CAMILKESTRIS

RET CIRIACER ET VONOMIT VMTVMRAE

ORVETISVNI IN TAGES SUB DIFERENTI

VARIANCVRANO ROC ET VICIVS PINRIBVS

AVI VSTO RANX VETAN HVSTO RANX
CORNELLI C. TELLIS
P. ATINI C. INV
C. TUTICANI
ALEXANDER
VERECUNDI
AMERIDI
SATURNI
CLEONIS
be sealed by the power of God, and the revelation which was sealed shall be kept in the book until the own due time of the Lord, that they may come forth; for behold, they reveal all things from the foundation of the world unto the end thereof.

11 And the day cometh that the words of the book which were sealed shall be read upon the house tops; and they shall be read by the power of Christ; and all things shall be revealed unto the children of men which ever have been among the children of men, and which ever will be even unto the end of the earth.

12 Wherefore, at that day when the book shall be delivered unto the man of whom I have spoken, the book shall be hid from the eyes of the world, that the eyes of none shall behold it save it be that three witnesses shall behold it, by the power of God, besides him to whom the book shall be delivered; and they shall testify to the truth of the book and the things therein.

13 And there is none other which shall view it, save it be a few according to the will of God, to bear testimony of his word unto the children of men; for the Lord God hath said that the words of the faithful should speak as if it were from the dead.

14 Wherefore, the Lord God will proceed to bring forth the words of the book; and in the mouth of as many witnesses as seemeth him good will he establish his word; and wo be unto him that rejecteth the word of God!

15 But behold, it shall come to pass that the Lord God shall say unto him to whom he shall deliver the book: Take these words which are not sealed and deliver them to another, that he may show them unto the learned, saying: 9Read this, I pray thee. And the learned shall say: Bring hither the book, and I will read them.

16 And now, because of the glory of the world and to get again will they say this, and not for the glory of God.

17 And the man shall say: I cannot bring the book, for it is sealed.

18 Then shall the learned say: I cannot read it.

19 Wherefore it shall come to pass, that the Lord God will deliver again the book and the words thereof to him that is not learned; and the man that is not learned shall say: I am not learned.

20 Then shall the Lord God say unto him: The learned shall not read them, for they have rejected them, and I am able to do mine own work; wherefore thou shalt read the words which I shall give unto thee.

21 9Touch not the things which are sealed, for I will bring them forth in mine own due time; for I will show unto the children of men that I am able to do mine own work.

22 Wherefore, when thou hast read the words which I have commanded thee, and obtained the witnesses which I have promised unto thee, then shalt thou seal up the book again, and hide it up unto me, that I may preserve the words which thou hast not read, until I shall see fit in mine own wisdom to reveal all things unto the children of men.

23 For behold, I am God; and I am a God of miracles; and I will show
THE TESTIMONY OF THREE WITNESSES.

Behold, it is known unto all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people, unto whom this work shall come; that we, through the grace of God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, have seen the plates which contain this record, which is a record of the people of Nephi, and also of the Lamanites, his brethren, and also of the people of Jared, which came from the tower of which hath been spoken; and we also know that they have been translated by the gift and power of God, for his voice hath declared it unto us; wherefore we know of a surety, that the work is true. And we also testify that we have seen the engravings which are upon the plates; and they have been shewn unto us by the power of God, and not of man. And we declare with words of soberness, that an Angel of God came down from heaven, and he brought and laid before our eyes, that we beheld and saw the plates, and the engravings thereon; and we know that it is by the grace of God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, that we beheld and bear record that these things are true; and it is marvellous in our eyes: Nevertheless, the voice of the Lord commanded us that we should bear record of it; wherefore, to be obedient unto the commandments of God, we bear testimony of these things.—And we know that if we are faithful in Christ, we shall rid our garments of the blood of all men, and be found spotless before the judgement seat of Christ, and shall dwell with him eternally in the heavens. And the honor be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, which is one God. Amen.

OLIVER COWDERY,
DAVID WHITMER,
MARTIN HARRIS.
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