

TWO ANCIENT ROMAN PLATES

BRONZE MILITARY DIPLOMAS AND OTHER SEALED DOCUMENTS

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THE ROMAN EMPIRE IN THE TIME OF TRAJAN







Ordinibus vestrae sacrae de Rupta Curie
Venerabilis Concilii auctoritate
Quidquid amplitudinis patet deante recte
dignioribus memores que non sicut parenter
(4.6)



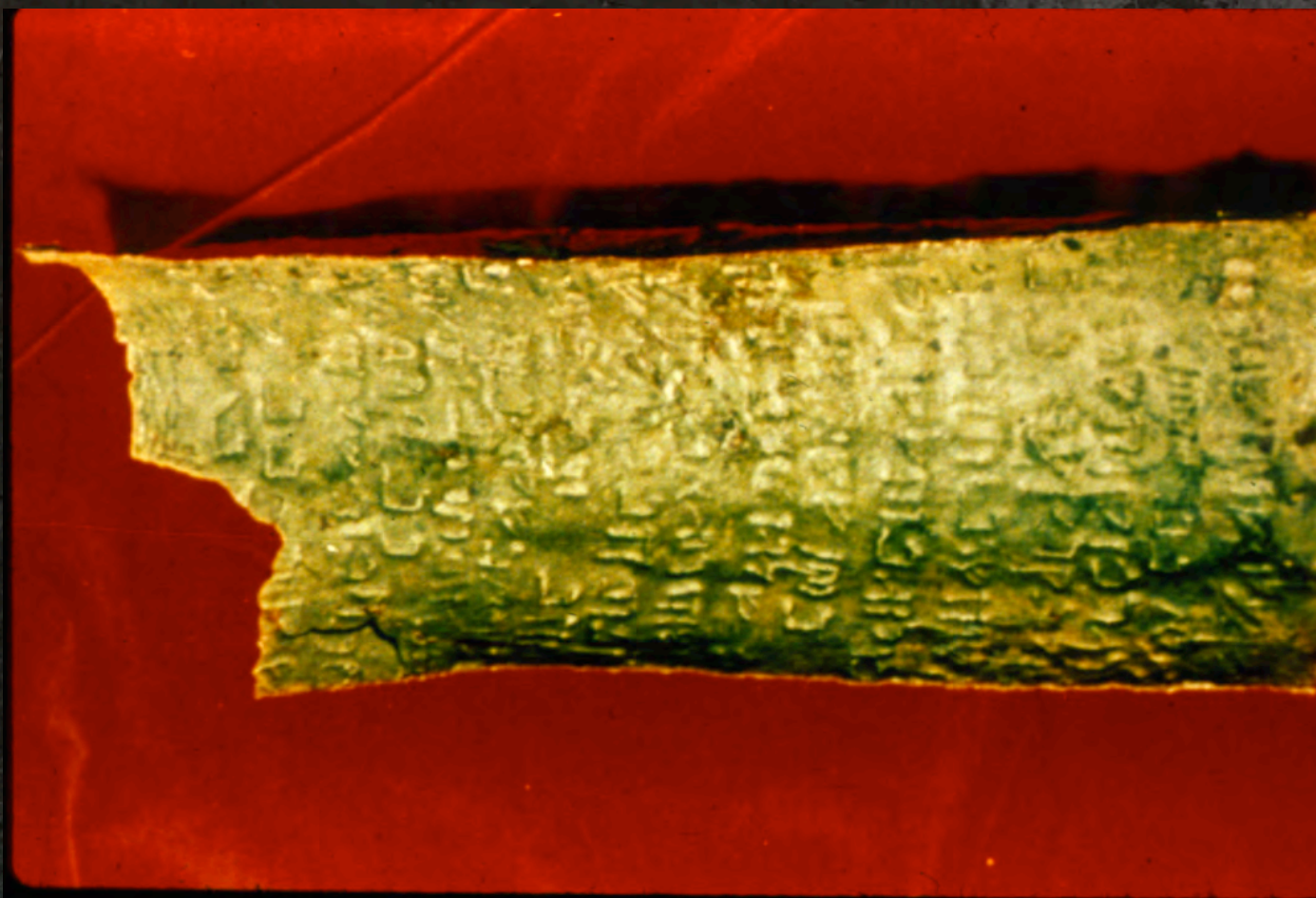
Carvati

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Copper Scroll, 3Q15



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Bottle used
about
on found near

of a woman on
inscribed the words.
On the body of the
the money in the
perhaps compare
admirers.

Bronze jug with an inscription
in Etruscan
About 400-200 BC
Said to be from Bolsena

The word *uthina*, meaning 'grave
goods', is often found on objects or
in Etruscan tombs. By 700 BC the
Etruscans had begun to write,
using a modified form of the
Greek alphabet.

GR 1873.9.20.757

Fragment of an Italian Sigillata
bowl with a list of potters' names
in Greek
Roman, early 1st century AD

The persons mentioned are
members of a society or guild of
potters working at Arezzo in Italy
during Augustan times.

GR 1904.7.18.24

Bronze tablet with an inscription
appointing an Athenian citizen
to the office of Proxenos
Greek, 4th century BC
From Palaeopolis, the site of
ancient Corcyra

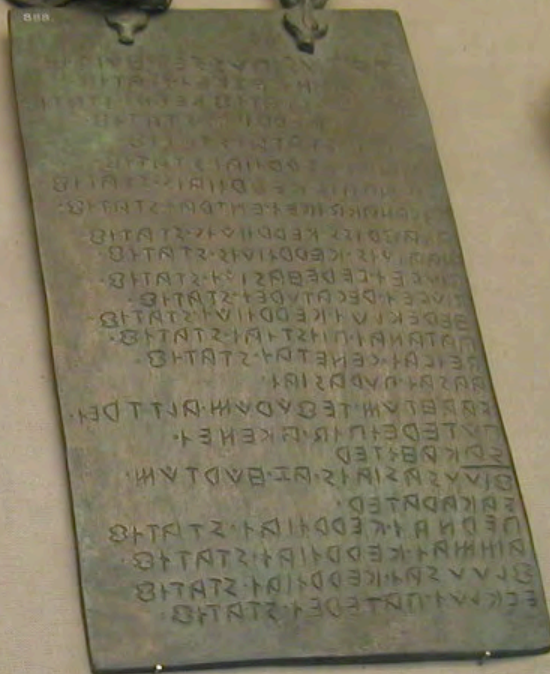
A Proxenos was a diplomatic
representative appointed by a
foreign state to look after its
affairs in his native city.

Bequeathed by J. Woodhouse
GR 1866.1.20.3
BM Cat. Bronzes 333

rior inscribed
NA
BC

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ss the reflecting
at no-one
steal the

it to left, which
iting until
en it came



Bronze tablet with an
inscription in Oscan concerning
the dedication of statues of
various deities
Italic, about 300-100 BC
Said to be from Agnone or from
Capracotta

Oscan was the language of a
number of native South Italian
peoples. It was often written,
as here, in a modified form of
the Etruscan script.

GR 1873.9.20.149
BM Cat. Bronzes 888

Shoulder-blade of an ox, with
a list of payments made by
certain persons
Roman, second half of the
4th century AD
From Oxyrhynchus, Egypt

The payment may be for a tax
levied for military clothing.

Given by the Egypt Exploration Fund
GR 1877.10.19.1

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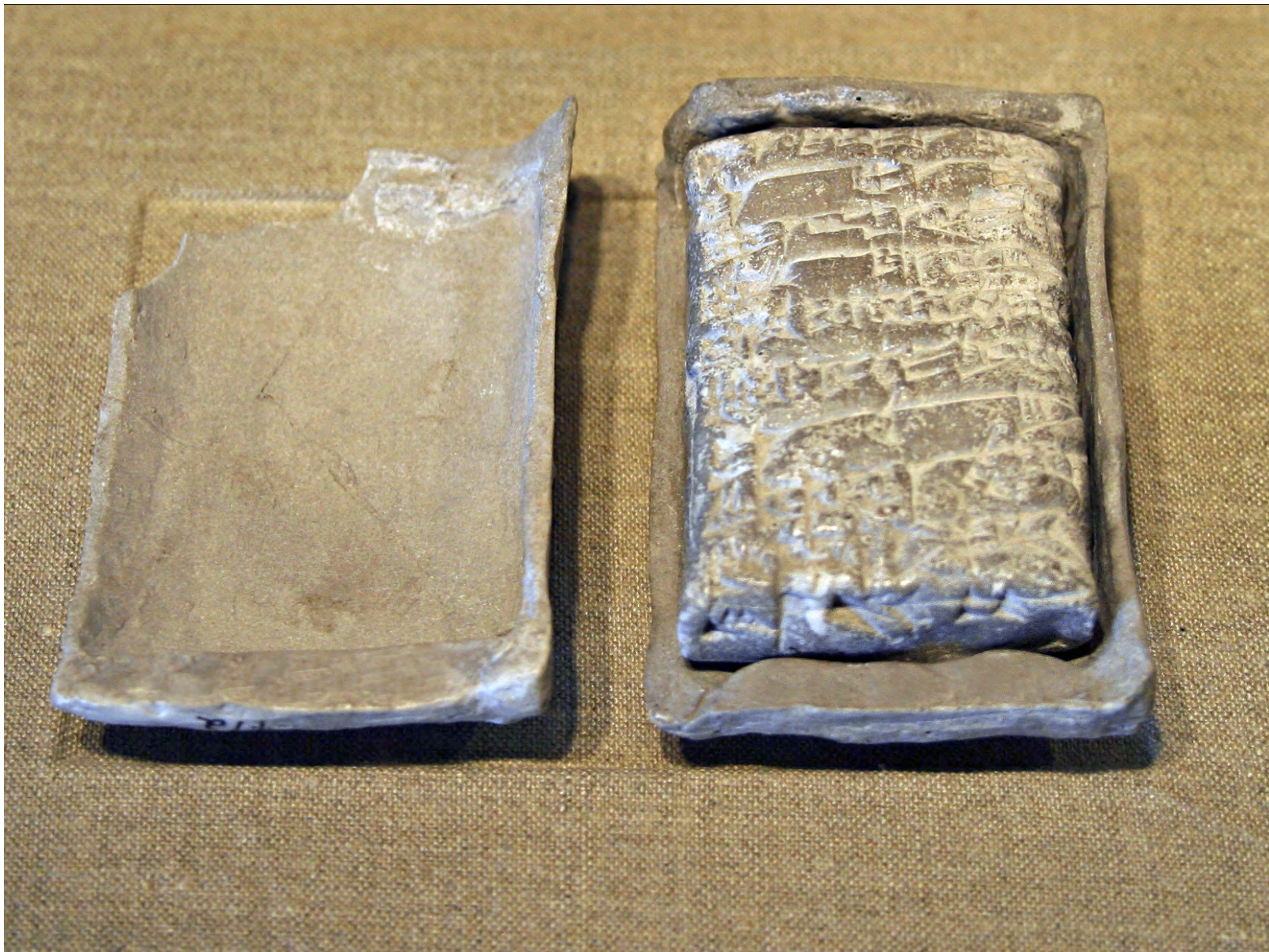


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the eighteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar.

2 For then the king of Babylon's army ^abesieged 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 ^aBabylon, 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 ^aweighed 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 ^aBaruch 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 ^bbook 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 ^aevidences, 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.

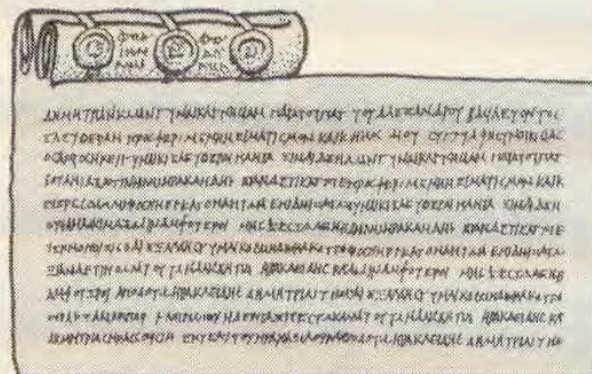
16 ¶ Now when I had delivered the evidence of the purchase unto Baruch the son of Neriah, I prayed unto the LORD, saying,

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 ^ahard 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 ^agive every one according to his ^bways, 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;









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ΣΑΒΗΝΟΣ ΚΑΜΟΥ ΜΕΤΥΝ
ΔΙΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ ΔΙΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ ΜΕΤΥΝ



A DEED OF MANUMISSION

A *diptych* of Egyptian wood inscribed with a deed of manumission in Coptic Latin dated to the 4th year of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius Antoninus Pius (211 A.D.). Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, son of Flavia Julia, a citizen of Hieropolis Magna (modern el-Helwan) in Middle Egypt, sets free his slave, Helena, aged thirty-four years, in consideration of 2,200 Aspidral drachmas given by one Flavianus son of Marcus, to Helena for the purchase of her freedom. The deed which has been inscribed with a metal stylus on the blackened outer surfaces of the *diptych* is identically repeated in ink on the two plain inner 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 signatures were placed over the text and along the string as shown in the accompanying sketch.

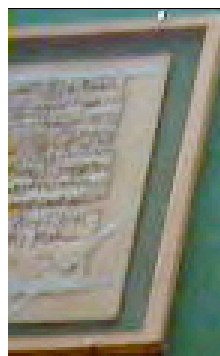
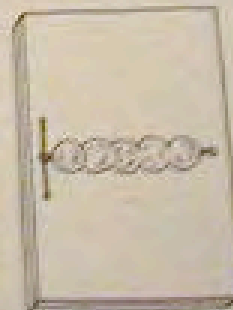
See also: Papy. Soc. Bib. Arch. (1907) A Latin Deed of Manumission (A.D. 211) pp. 10-12 and fig. 10.

Formerly in the collection of William, 1st Baron Ashurst of Hove, (1835-1895)

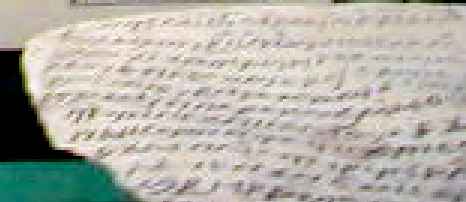
Presented by J.G.M. de la Haye

(Right) A fragment of a wooden *diptych* similar to 1901.100 (above). The inner, plain surface is inscribed with a single line of Coptic Latin while the plain wooden reverse shows the impress of sealings of Coptic Greek written in ink. From the 1st Ptolemy. Probably 2nd century A.D.

Presented by the Rev G.J. Gardner



الشيخ محمد بن
الشيخ محمد بن
الشيخ محمد بن



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IMPERIALIS CAESAR D. N. N. SERV. M. T. N. N. VALERIANVS
ANNO GERAR. DACICVS PONTIFEX MAX. TRIBV. POT. DO.
REX. XII. IMP. VI. COS. S. P. P.
PONTIF. BVS. SEPT. EDI. TIBVS. SON. MA. ET. ISS. E. AN. N. T. N.
AL. I. S. T. R. I. B. V. S. E. I. C. O. H. O. R. T. I. B. V. S. E. I. S. A. A. T. S. E. X.
O. V. A. A. P. P. E. L. L. I. A. N. T. V. R. I. C. R. E. T. I. F. I. A. N. T. I. C. O. M. M. A.
G. E. N. O. R. S. A. G. I. T. A. R. I. A. E. T. H. P. A. N. N. O. N. I. O. R. V. E. T. E. R. A.
N. A. E. T. I. B. R. I. T. T. O. N. I. A. M. O. V. L. P. I. A. T. O. R. Q. V. A. N. T. C. R.
E. T. E. B. R. I. T. A. N. N. I. A. M. O. C. R. E. T. I. T. I. V. R. A. T. O. R. E. T. I. T. H. E. R.
Q. V. A. C. R. E. T. I. A. N. G. I. T. V. R. A. T. O. R. E. T. I. V. I. N. D. I. L. I. O. R.
C. R. P. E. T. I. P. A. N. N. O. N. I. O. R. V. E. T. E. R. A. N. A. E. T. I. M. O. N.
I. A. N. O. R. E. T. I. C. A. L. I. O. R. P. A. N. N. O. N. I. C. A. E. T. I. H. I. S. P. A.
N. O. R. E. T. I. B. R. I. T. A. N. N. O. R. O. C. R. P. E. T. I. C. A. L. I. O.
R. V. A. M. A. C. E. D. O. N. I. C. A. E. T. I. L. I. C. A. M. P. E. S. T. R. A. S. C. R. E. T.
I. I. C. Y. P. R. I. A. C. R. E. T. I. C. A. L. O. R. V. A. E. T. M. I. T. R. A. E.
I. O. R. V. A. E. T. S. V. N. T. I. N. E. A. G. I. A. S. V. B. D. I. E. R. I. N. T. I. O.
I. S. A. N. D. O. N. I. S. E. T. V. I. C. E. N. I. S. P. I. V. R. I. B. V. S.
I. N. E. A. D. I. S. P. E. D. I. S. A. N. D. I. S. D. I. M. I. S. S. I. O. N. E.
I. N. A. M. I. S. S. I. O. N. E. A. N. T. I. O. S. A. D. I. O. Q. V. A. N. T.

• NOMINA SUBSCRIPTA SVNT ILLIS UBI
• RISTOSTERISQVE FORVM CIVITATEM DEDIT
ET CONVBINA AC VxoribVS OMNIA SVNT CHA
BVLISSENT CVM EST CIVITAS ILLA DATA VISIONE
CIVIBVS ESSENT CVM USQVE POST ENDU
XISSENT OMNIA ALIA SINCVLLIS INCVLAS

PRIDNS OCT

C • IYLIO PROCVLO COS

C • ARVRNIO VALENTE

COH I AMONTANOR CVI PRÆST

CORNELIVS FELICIOR

EX PEDITE

AN HERENNIO MA F • POLYANTAE HERENS

ET IANVARIO • ET MART • ELO • ET

ET IVCANAE • ET ENES

DESCRIPTVM ET RECOGNITVM • XTIAN •

ALIN • QVAE LIXA • EST ROMÆ

T. IVLLI

P. CORNELI

T. IVLLI

P. ATINII

C. IVLLI

C. IVVICANI

M. IVLLI

ALEXANDRI

VERECUNDI

AMERINII

PARATI

SATURNI

CELESTI



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 ^breveal 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 ^arevealed 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 ^athree ^bwitnesses 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 ^anone 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 ^bfrom the dead.

14 Wherefore, the Lord God will proceed to bring forth the words of the book; and in the mouth of ^amany witnesses as seemeth him good will he establish his word; and wo be unto him that ^arejecteth 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: ^aRead 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 ^adeliver 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 ^aable to do mine own work; wherefore thou shalt read the words which I shall give unto thee.

21 ^aTouch 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 ^awitnesses 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 ^bwisdom to ^areveal all things unto the children of men.

23 For behold, I am God; and I am a God of ^amiracles; and I will show

THE TESTIMONY OF THREE WITNESSES.

BE it 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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