



Galloping horsemen were popular on Roman tombstones, suggesting a glorious life of military campaigns and animal hunts.

The tombstone of Macrinus Maximinus was set up by his father. It shows him with his hunting dog, riding down a cowering boar (although it doesn't look like the stonecutter really knew what boars looked like). Remarkably, we learn from the inscription that he was only a year old when he died. It reflects a father's hopes for his son, which must have been dashed by the child's early death.

On the third line of the inscription, we can see the words 'VIXIT ANN. I' meaning 'he lived for 1 year'. You can learn more about how the Romans recorded people's ages in the AshLI worksheet *Roman Numerals on Roman Tombstones*.

The inscription reads:

'To the departed spirits. To Macrinus Maximinus, sweetest son, who lived for one year and [?] months. Macrinus Maximinus Insiru[-], prefect of the camp, set this up.'

Details:

Second-third centuries AD, marble. Ashmolean Museum AN1947.285.