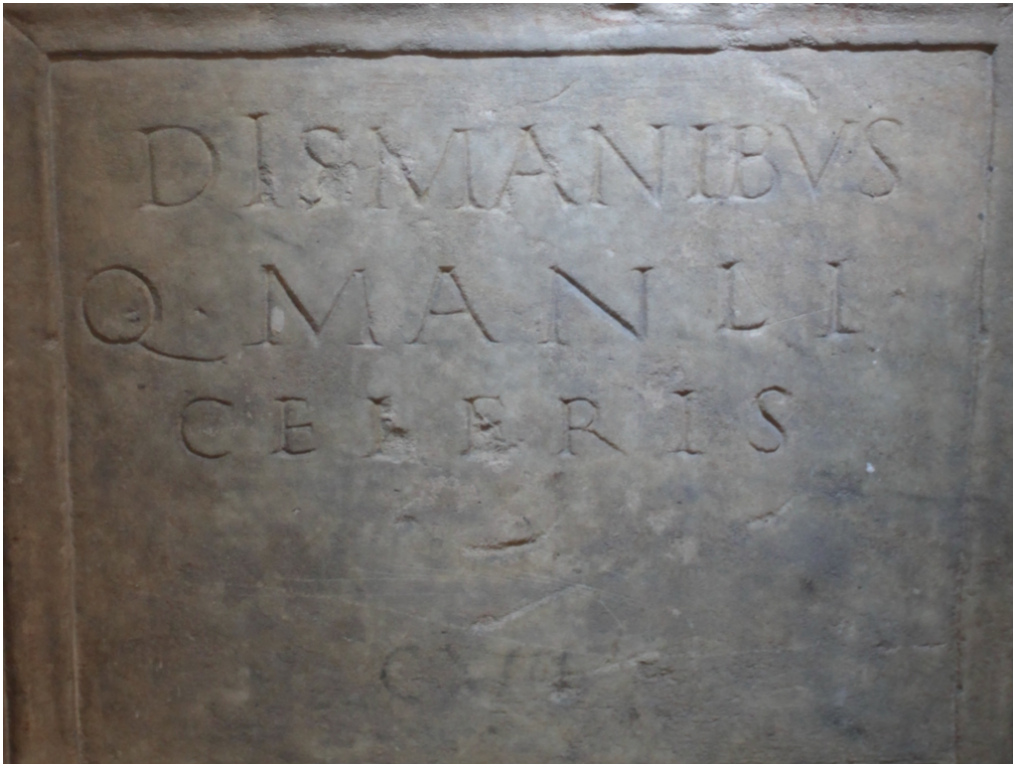


CRACKING CODES
IN
LATIN INSCRIPTIONS



dīs manibus / Q(uinti) ° Manli ° / Celeris

To the departed spirits of Quintus Manlius Celer

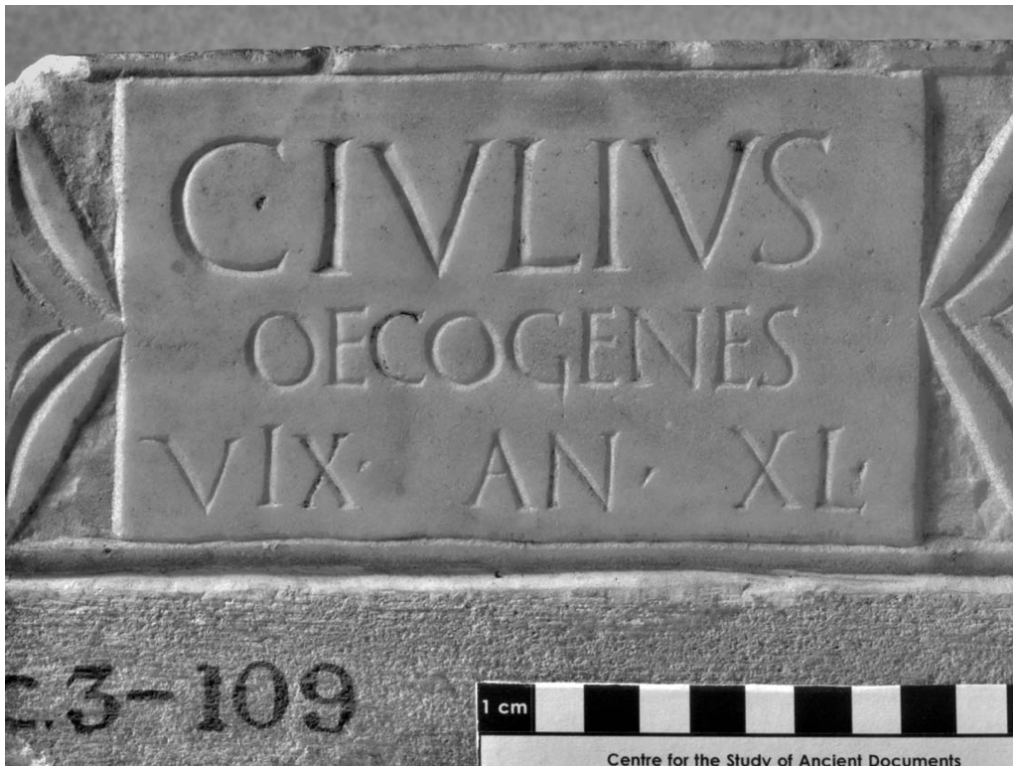
A nice simple tombstone to start with. Quintus Manlius is in the genitive.



diis ° manib(us) / Corneliae / Thaliae

“To the departed spirits of Cornelia Thalia.”

The unusual spelling and abbreviation might make
“Dis Manibus” slightly harder to spot here.



C(aius) ° Iulius / Oecogenes / vix(it) ° an(nos) ° XL °

‘Gaius Iulius Oecogenes lived for 40 years.

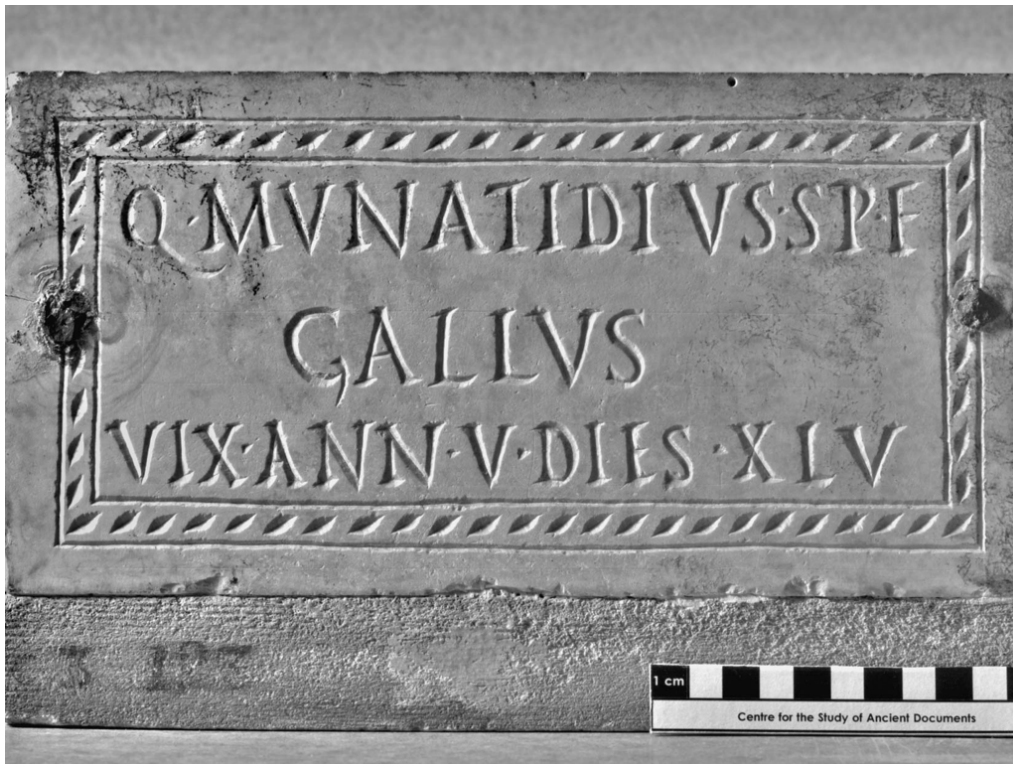
It was more common for older adults to round their age to the nearest five years. There are many more tomb stones with round numbered ages over the age of 20 than we would expect.



dīs ° man(ibus) / Persaniae ° Grapte / M(arcus) °
Mattienus ° Firmus / b(ene) ° m(erenti) ° d(e) ° <se>
fecit

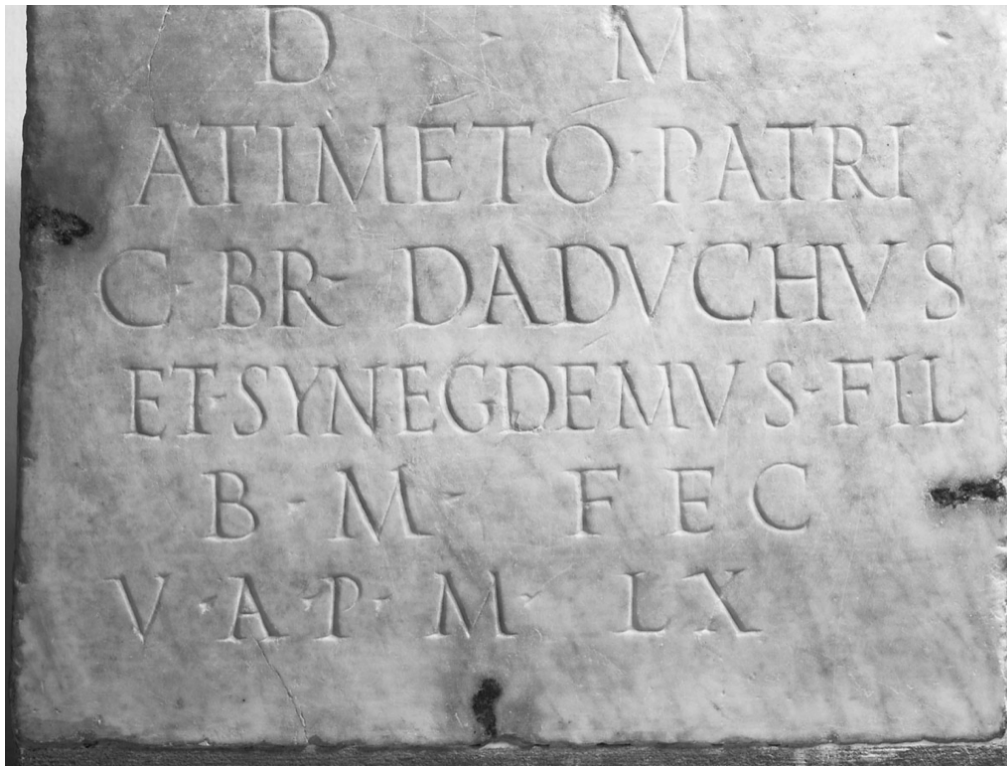
‘To the spirits of the dead. Marcus Mattienus Firmus
set this up for Persania Grapte who deserved well of
him.’

There are two names on this tomb stone. We can tell
who is the deceased and who set up the inscription
by the case of the names. Persania Grapte appears
in the dative and Mattienus Firmus in the nominative.



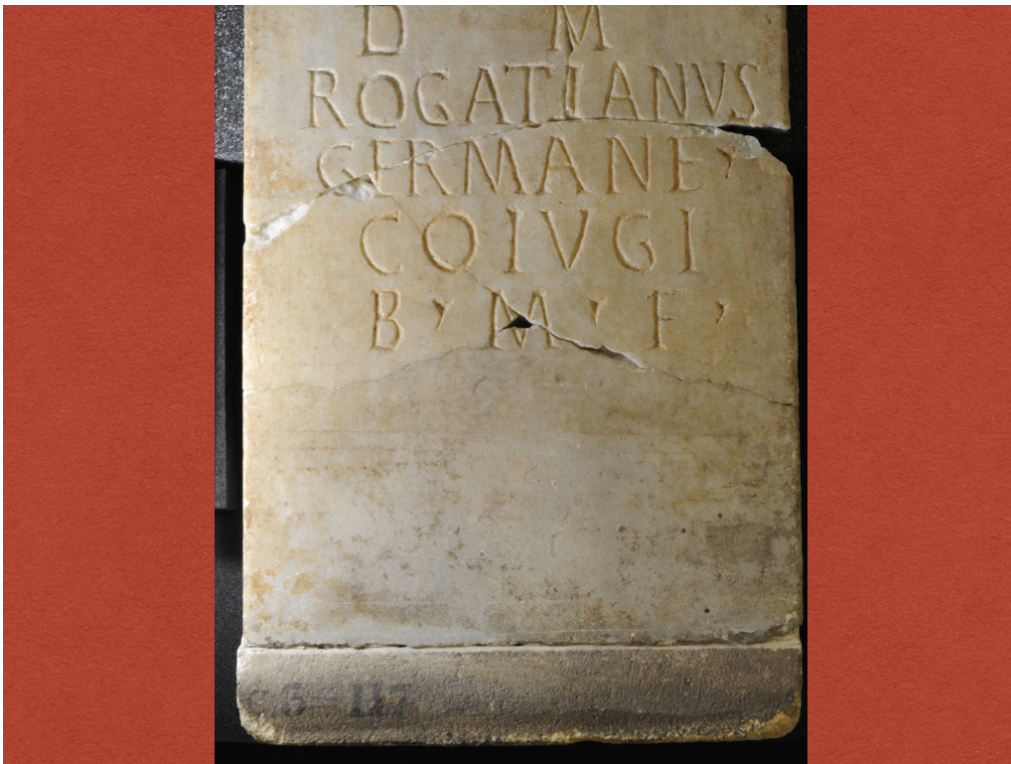
Q(uintus) ° Munatidius ° Sp(uri) ° f(ilius) / Gallus /
vix(it) ° ann(os) ° V ° dies ° XLV

‘Quintus Munatidius Gallus, son of Spurius, lived 5
years and 45 days.’



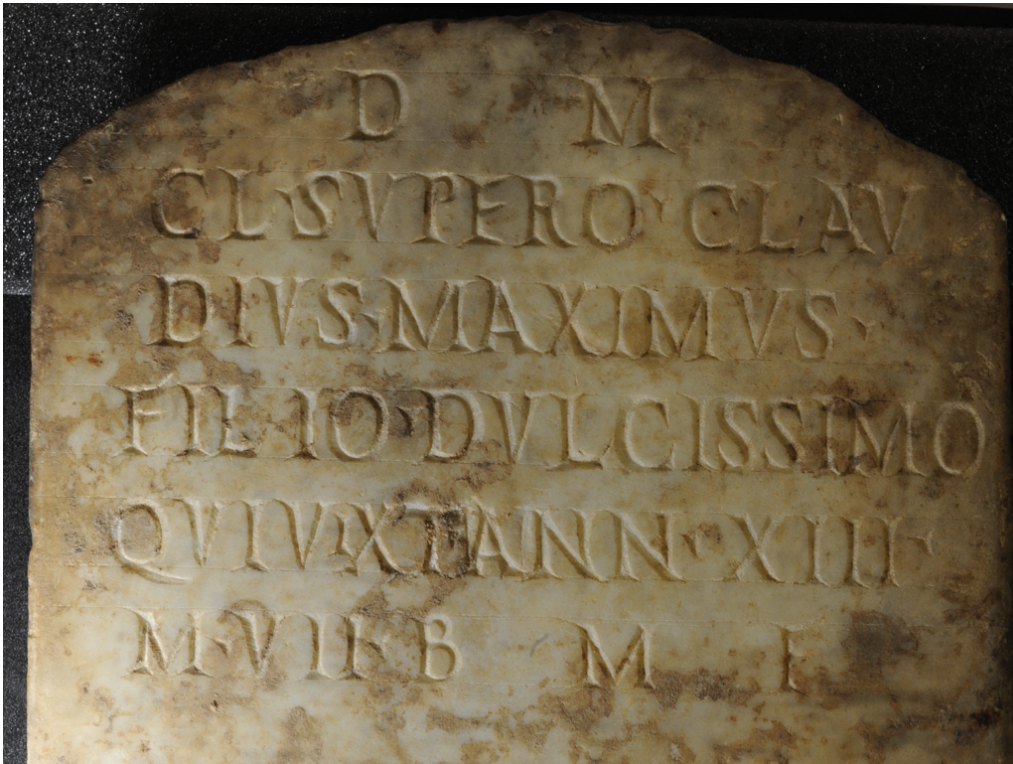
d(is) ° m(anibus) / Atimétó ° patri / C(aius) Br(---)
Daduchus / et Synegdémus fil(ii) / b(ene) ° m(erenti) °
fec(erunt) / v(ixit) ° a(nnos) ° p(lus) ° m(inus) ° LX

‘To the spirits of the dead. Gaius Br(---) Daduchus
and Synegdemus, his sons, set this up to their well-
deserving father Atimetus, who lived for 60 years
more or less’.



d(is) m(anibus) / Rogatianus / German(a)e ° / co(n)iugi
/ b(ene) ° m(erenti) ° f(ecit)

‘To the spirits of the dead. Rogatianus set this up for
his well-deserving wife Germana.’



d(is) m(anibus) / Cl(audio) ° Supero ° Clau/dius °
Maximus ° / filio ° dulcissimo / qui vix<i>t ann(is) °
XIII ° / m(ensibus) ° VII b(ene) m(erenti) f(ecit)

‘To the departed spirits. To Claudius Superus.
Claudius Maximus set this up for his sweetest son
who lived 13 years, 7 months, well-deserving.’



d(is) ° m(anibus) / L(ucio) ° Venuleio ° / Epaphrodito /
fec(it) ° Venuleia ° / Moschis ° coll/iberto ° suo °
b(ene) ° / m(erenti) ° et ° sibi ° et ° suis

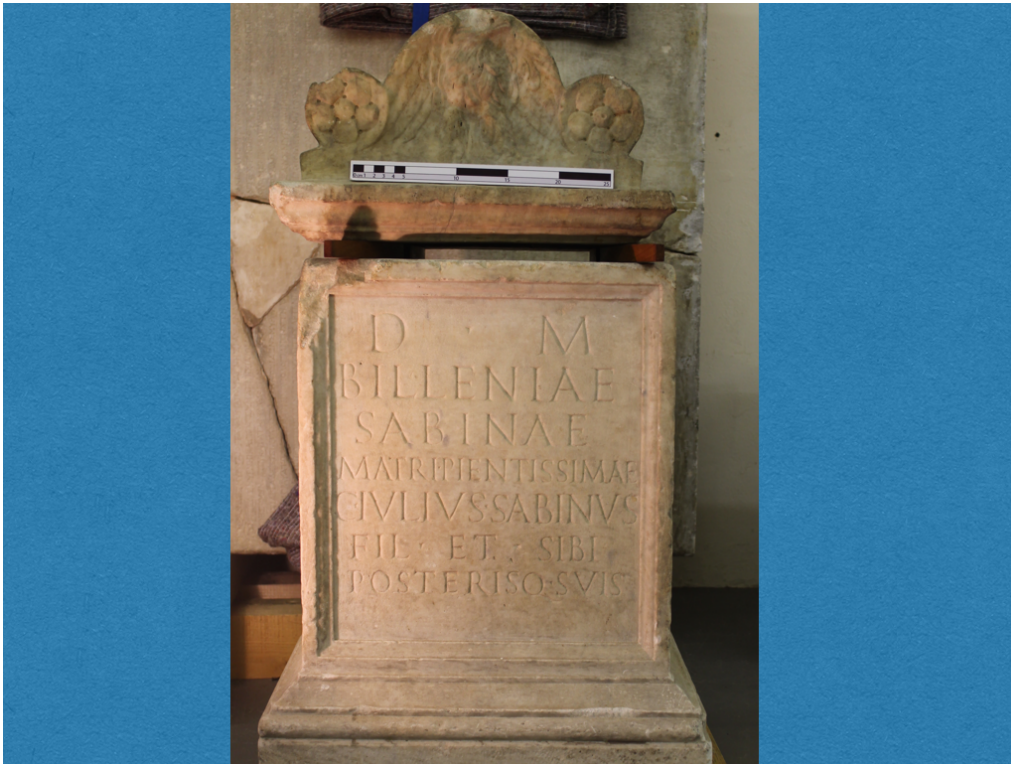
‘To the departed spirits. To Lucius Venuleius Epaphroditus. Venuleia Moschis set this up for her well-deserving fellow-freedman and for herself and for her family.’

There is a large gap on this stone that hasn’t been written on. This may indicate that the stone and decoration were pre-fabricated then personalised with writing.



Cercia ° / Pnoe ° c(ara) ° s(uis) / an(norum) ° XLV ° /
h(ic) ° s(ita) ° e(st) ° s(it) ° t(ibi) ° / t(erra) ° l(evis)

‘Cercia Pnoe, dear to her family, 45 years old, is
buried here. May the earth lie lightly upon you.’



d(is) ° m(anibus) / Billeniae / Sabinae / matri °
pientissimae / C(aius) ° Iulius ° Sabinus / fil(ius) ° et °
sibi / posterisq(ue) ° suis

‘To the spirits of the dead. Gaius Iulius Sabinus, her son, set this up for Billenia Sabina, most devoted mother, and for himself and his descendants.’



d(is) ° m(anibus) ° / Macrinò Maximino [f]i[l]i[o] /
 dulcissimo ° qui vixit ° an(no) ° I ° m(ensibus) ° [-] /
 Macrinus Maximinus Insiru[-] /5 pr(a)ef(ectus)
 (castrorum) ° fecit °

‘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.’

Pictures of riders on horseback were common on
 Roman tombstones to celebrate the deceased’s skill
 in hunting or battle. This stone commemorated a one

year old child, so the image is imaginary. You can see his baby like features and tiny horse and dog. Perhaps this shows hopes for a future he never got to grow into.

The stonecutter made a mistake in carving "FILIO" on the stone, instead carving "EIIIO"