



This tombstone was commissioned by Titus Marcius Clemens to commemorate himself and his descendants. It was in the shape of a Roman altar, and was decorated with religious symbols. On the front is carved an eagle with its wings outstretched. Not only was the eagle the symbol of the Roman army, but it was the sacred bird of Jupiter, king of the gods. Eagles were also considered good omens in the Roman art of *augury* (fortune-telling based on the flight and song of birds).

The inscription reads:

'To the departed spirits. Titus Marcius Cleme(n)s made (this) for himself and for his descendants and for Marcia Pyralis. Lived 33 years.'

Compare:

A large stone eagle, holding a snake in its beak, was discovered in 2013 in London, and is now in the Museum of London. There are a number of news articles and videos about the discovery available online.

Details:

Ashmolean Museum ANChandler.3.36. Marble. H 85cm, W. 52cm, D. 34cm.