Some new granite funerary stelae from Augusta Emerita

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Of all the rich variety of funerary monuments set up at the Roman colony of Augusta Emerita to commemorate the dead, the stelae of local granite remain one of the least studied types. These imposing monuments, often standing over 1 m tall, either culminated in a rounded top or had a rounded shaft carved in relief to project from a rectangular block of granite. A few examples have a rosette or circle-motif carved in low relief above the epitaph, and a variant form of stela is also found, which is crowned with a triangular pediment rather than a semicircular top. A number of recent articles has begun to highlight their importance, but a detailed epigraphic, archaeological and historical study of all known examples (currently forty-eight) is badly needed to allow their full significance to be appreciated. What is not in doubt is that these stelae were the earliest type of funerary monument at Emerita. Just as local granite was used for the first phase of public building in the new colony before the marble quarries in the region of Borba and Estremoz (Portugal) came into production, so too was it the material for the earliest funerary monuments. It is no surprise that the form of the funerary monuments chosen by the first generations of colonists closely reflected the commonest form of grave-marker in use in late Republican Rome and Italy.

When I was in Mérida in June 1999 collecting material for a detailed study of all the granite stelae from Emerita, Dr. Pedro Mateos Cruz, Coordinator of Excavations, kindly alerted me to two unpublished examples in the collection of the Consorcio de la Ciudad Monumental Histórico-Artística y Arqueológica de Mérida. In the same month, I myself located two further examples among piles of granite blocks stored near the so-called Casa del Anfiteatro and inside the Alcazaba respectively. It is the purpose of this brief article to publish for the

1 I am very grateful for the kind assistance and encouragement of Dr. Pedro Mateos and his colleagues from the Consorcio in preparing this article and to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for its generous support of my research on the funerary epigraphy of Emerita. All the photographs were taken by the author.


3 As recognized by RAMÍREZ SÁDABA 1994-95 [1998]: 258.

4 For a recent discussion of these granite quarries, which included what became the reservoir for the “Proserpina-Los Milagros” aqueduct system, see NOGALES, DE LA BARRERA and LAPUENTE 1999. For the “granite-phase” of public building, see TRILLMICH 1990: 302-310.

5 For examples from Rome, note CIL I 1379, 3004a-b, 3022-23 (all illustrated in the volume of plates, CIL I, fasc. 4, no. 2, ed. A. Degrassi and H. Krummeney, published in 1986); for a brief selection from Italy: note CIL I 1863, 1865-66, 1870, 1886, 3290-91 (all from Amelia); FERUGLIO, PONZI and MANCOLI 1991: 148-150, cat. nos. 3.23, 24, 26; pp.183-186, cat. nos. 3.127, 128, 131 (Mevania, Umbria); ILLRP 914 = SUSINI and PINCELLI 1960: 59-61, no. 52 and Tav. X (Bononia).
first time the texts of these four new granite steles. Two provide important evidence about the makeup of the population of the colony in the first two or three generations of its existence: one of the steles (no. 1) provides a rare example of an indigenous individual granted Roman citizenship and incorporated among the coloni of the new colony, while another (no. 3) may attest an immigrant from another Lusitanian community whose family came to settle at Emerita.

Unfortunately, precise details do not survive of the original findspots of any of these four funerary monuments, but given the type of granite used for them and their formal similarity to other Emeritan examples, it is highly probable that they were set up in the cemeteries of the Roman colony of Augusta Emerita. A large number of granite funerary monuments from the Roman period (not just stele, but also barrel-shaped monuments known as capar) were reused in the building of the exterior walls of the Alcazaba, completed in A.D. 835, from which a number were disengaged during restoration work in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. It is particularly likely that this is the provenance of the fragmentary example still located in the Alcazaba (no. 3, below), and possibly some of the other examples as well.

1. STELE FOR C. IULIUS MANDI (F.) SANGENUS (lám. 1-2)

A medium-grain grey granite stele, now covered with a reddish-brown patina (lám. 1). It measures 99 cm high, 54,5 cm wide and 21 cm deep. The epitaph (lám. 1) is inscribed on a recessed rectangular panel with a rounded top (55 cm high at its apex by 36 cm wide), surrounded by a moulded frame, approximately 8 cm wide; a feature only found on one other (no. 2, below) of the forty-eight granite steles currently known from Emerita. In form, this variant of a granite stele with a recessed panel with semicircular top is almost identical to a number found at the colony of Norba Caesarina (modern Cáceres) and in its territory. Examples of a very similar form of stele have been located at Caesaraugusta (Zaragoza) and other sites in the Ebro valley, while others of the same form, but of a different material (local limestone) are known from Astigi (Ecija) and the territory of Segida Augurina in the conventus Astigi, Baetica. The stele is broken diagonally across the upper right corner and damaged at the bottom left, but this damage has not affected the text of the epitaph. The sides and top of the monument were polished to a smooth finish, which strongly suggests that it was intended to be a freestanding monument, seen from the sides. It is not clear whether the monument has been preserved to its full original height, but the fact that it has very similar proportions to those of stele no. 2 (below) and to the examples from Norba and its territory (see above, note 7) might suggest that both this and the following stele (no. 2, below) are in fact preserved more or less complete.

The epitaph was carved in square capitals, but with some irregular features: for example, the very wide M at the start of line 2 and the malformed bowl of the G in line 3. The letters are of similar height throughout, although – somewhat strangely – those in line 4 are the largest of all. An ND ligature was used in line 2. The text is not particularly well arranged vertically on the panel; the first three lines are squeezed closely together, while the last two are much more amply spaced, as the stonemason came to realize that he had plenty of space on the prepared panel for the desired epitaph. The letters measure: 6,0 cm in lines 1, 3 and 5; 6,3 cm in line 2; 7,0 cm in line 4. Triangular interpunction is visible in lines 1 and 4. The letter-forms and the extreme simplicity of the text would suggest a date in the last years of the first century B.C. or the first years of the first century A.D.

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6 See NOGALES 1994: 204 and fig. 1. For capar, see CALDERA 1978; BEJARANO 1996 [2000].
7 Norba: CIL II 712, with photo at SALAS and ESTEBAN 1994: fig. 5; HAE 489 = CPILC 158, with photo at CALLEJO 1965: plate XXXII; CPILC 166, with photo at CALLEJO 1970: 133, fig. 1. Territory of Norba: CPILC 437, with photo at SALAS and ESTEBAN 1994: fig. 27 (Salvatierra de Santiago); HAE 2675 = AE 1968, 220, with photo at CALLEJO 1967: plate XVI (Torre de Santa Maria).
8 See BELTRAN ILLORIS 1995: 185 and figs. 7-8 (Ebro valley); cf. CIL II/5, 1204-1208, 1215, 1218, 1238 (Astigi), 1315 (territory of Segida Augurina).
The text reads:

C · IVLIVS
MANDI
SANGEN
VS H · S ·
5 EST (vacat)

This text can be expanded as:

C(aius) Iulius / Mandi (filius) / Sangen/us
b(isc) x(itnis) / est.

The epitaph is of considerable interest since it appears to commemorate a non-Roman granted Roman citizenship. The deceased has a Roman praenomen and nomen, C(aius) Iulius, but an indigenous cognomen, Sangen. His indigenous roots are further emphasized by the fact that his father, on the basis of his name Mandus, was clearly non-Roman and by the style in which his filiation is expressed: in the Genitive without filius, the method used among the indigenous population of the Iberian peninsula before they had become fully assimilated to Roman onomastic practices. The father of the deceased had a name, Mandus, that was Celtic in origin. It is unparalleled in Lusitania, but found in the region of El Cerro de Andévalo (prov. Huelva) on an epitaph, dated to the late Republic or very early Principate, commemorating Boutia Mandi f. (CIL A Huelva no.

9 See further ÉTIENNE, FABRE, LE ROUX and TRANOY 1976: 99-100; DIAS 1985. For the same practice in Oscan Italy, see LEJEUNE 1976: 43-45.
The name is related to *Manduinus*, the leader of the Ilergetes during Rome’s campaigns against Hannibal (Polybius 10.18.7; 10.35.6-8; Livy 22.21; 27.17; 28.24, 31). As Albertos Firmat observed (1966: 146), the Celtic root *mandu-* is found in a number of names in Britain and Gaul: for example, *Mandulingus*, the leader of the Trinovantes in southeast Britain (Caes. BG 5.20.1) or *Mandulonius* (CIL XIII 4130, territory of the Treveri, Gallia Belgica). The *nomen* of the deceased, *Sangenius*, is also Celtic in origin and found elsewhere in central and northeastern Lusitania: for example, *Sangenius Consellitius* at Ibahernaldo (prov. Cáceres) (AE 1990, 521) and *Sangenius* at Ávila (LICS [KNAPP 1992] no. 38, revising *AE* 1914, 12). It is also occasionally found outside Lusitania, for example, at Uxama (CIL II 2817: *Valerius Sangenius Calidus Abliquem*).12

This would all suggest that the deceased was a native Spaniard granted Roman citizenship by Julius Caesar or (more plausibly) by Augustus and then enrolled among the colonists of Emerita.13 A clear-cut case of this from the territory of Emerita can be seen at the necropolis located on the cortijo “El Rincón de Gila”, about 20 kilometres north of Badajoz very close to the Portuguese border. Here an epitaph was set up for *C. Allius Tangini Filius* Paphtria tribu (the text breaks off here, leaving it unclear whether he had a cognomen or not).14 From his Roman voting tribe, the *Paphtria*, he was explicitly a citizen of Emerita, while his father, *Tanginus*, appears to have been a local non-Roman.15 A number of other cases can be found from Lusitania where an individual bore the *Roman praenomen* and *nomen* *C. Iulius* alongside an indigenous cognomen: for example, *C. Iulius Aplonius* (CIL II 76 = IRCP 129, the region around Ourique, Beja); *C. Iulius Areninus* (HAE 482 = IRCP 66, Bensafirim, Lagos); *C. Iulius Ruscus* (CIL II 706, Norba Caesariana); and examples can also be found where *C. Iulius* had their patronymic expressed in an indigenous fashion: for example, *C. Iulius Boafla Fortis* (AE 1909, 97 = IRCP 130, Panóias, Ourique, Beja); *C. Iulius Procius Tapurius* (CIL II 6263 = IRCP 424, Corval, Reguengos de Monsaraz, Évora); *C. Iulius Penti Turpio* (AE 1988, 698, Redondo, Évora) and *Inlia Rafa Tongetius* (AE 1993, 895 = HEp 5, 55, Rincón de Gila, Badajoz). These all show a clear progression from non-Roman to a more Roman style of nomenclature, which may well be the result of their gaining Roman citizenship.

2. STELE FOR P. VALLERIUS LAETUS (lám. 3-4).

Another medium-grain granite stele of very similar design and dimensions also forms part of the collection of the Consorcio de la Ciudad Monumental Histórico-Artística y Arqueológica de Mérida (lám. 3). It has a rounded top and is now covered all over with a reddish-brown patina. It measures 98 cm high, 44.5 cm wide and 25 cm deep. The stele is broken diagonally across its lower right corner, and again it is unclear whether the stele has been preserved to its full original height or whether it was cut for later reuse. A recessed panel with a semicircular top (58 cm high at its highest point, 34 cm wide) was carved for the inscription of the epitaph (lám. 4), as on stele no. 1 (above). This panel is surrounded by a moulded border, approximately 10 cm wide. Unfortunately precise details concerning the findspot of the stele are not preserved.

The epitaph (lám. 4) was inscribed in large square capitals of a certain rusticity. The letters vary in height between 8.2 cm at the ends of lines 2 and 3

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10 *Boutius/-a* was one of the commonest indigenous names found in inland Lusitania: see PALOMAR 1957: 50-51; UNTERMANN 1965: 72-73, Map 18. This might suggest that *Boutia Mandi* was another immigrant from central or northern Lusitania to this important mining region that included the mines of Rio Tinto; on migrant labour in these mines, see further, EDMONDSO 1987: 61-66; DOMERGUE 1990: 344-346; HALEY 1991: 89-99.
11 See further EVANS 1967: 100-102, 222-223.
12 See further ALBERTOS 1966: 197-198.
13 On natives enrolled in the colony at Emerita, see SAQUETE 1997: 52-59; for natives in Roman colonies in general, see BRUNT 1971: 246-255.
14 *AE* 1993, 892 = HEp 5, 52; see further RAMÍREZ SÁDABA 1993: esp. 254-255.
15 *Tangius/Tamius* is one of the commonest indigenous names from Lusitania: PALOMAR 1957: 101-103; UNTERMANN 1965: 170-171, Map 74.
and 6.3 cm in line 5. The precise dimensions of the letters are: line 1 = 7.7 cm; line 2 = 7.5 cm (E, I, V), 8.0 cm (R), 8.2 cm (S); line 3: 7.7 cm (S = 8.2 cm); line 4 = 7.0 cm (Ts = 7.5 cm); line 5: 6.3 cm. The interpunction is circular. The text is not well arranged on the panel prepared for the inscription, resulting in the final letter of the funerary formula s(it) t(ibi) t(erra) l(evis) having to be inscribed on an extra line. The letter forms suggest a date in the first half of the first century A.D., as does the relatively simplicity of the text. The use of the formula s(it) t(ibi) t(erra) l(evis) would suggest that this stela was set up a few years later than no. 1 (above).

The text reads:

The photographs of the stela (lám. 3-4) might suggest that it should be read as a D and hence D(eimus). However, close inspection of the stone reveals that
only the left upright hasta and the upper part of the curved stroke that adjoins it were cut to a depth consistent with that of the other letters of the epitaph. What might appear at first sight to be the rest of the bowl of a supposed D are much more superficial traces and in fact seem to be the result of damage to the stone. The letter that was inscribed was a very open P. The position of the interpunct following the praenomen confirms this, since if the letter was a D, the interpunct would intersect the middle part of its bowl – not a normal epigraphic practice. Furthermore, while a few other D(eci)m are found at Emerita, the praenomen is generally very rare in Hispania. Even better is the fact that although some D(eci)m Valerii are known from Rome and its vicinity and in Gallia Narbonensis, no other D(eci)m Valerii are yet attested anywhere in the Iberian peninsula. On the other hand, a number of P(ubli) Valerii are found at Emerita and other cities in Hispania.

A slight anomaly occurs later in the first line, where the nomen gentilicium of the deceased is inscribed as Valerius rather than Valerius, the standard spelling. Parallels for this doubling of the consonant in a gentilicium can be found from Emerita. One of the most familiar funerary monuments from the early years of the colony is the mausoleum of the Vocontii excavated in the area now known as “Los Columbarios”. The epigraph built into its facade identifies that the tomb was set up for C. Voconius C.f. Pop. and his family. From the military decorations depicted above the epitaph, he was very probably one of the initial veteran settlers of the new colony. However, a funerary stele from Puerto de Santa Cruz (prov. Cáceres) in the territory of Emerita commemorated one L. Voconius L.f. Pop. (AE 1977, 417), clearly the same family name, but spelled differently. The absence of a cognomen in both cases suggests that these Vocontii date from the same period: the reigns of Augustus or Tiberius at the latest. A number of cases of the doubling of consonants in names can be found from other parts of the Iberian peninsula: for example, L. Virrus L.f. Pop. Fides, a soldier attested at Astigi (CIL II 1258); L. Vessellius Niger, a veteran soldier originally from Caesaraugusta (HAE 6, 179, San Juan del Monte, prov. Burgos); Domitia Estetica (EE VIII 146, San Esteban de Gormaz, prov. Soria); Iulilla Auretilla from Valeria (prov. Cuenga) (AE 1982, 600). In the nomenclature of emperors of the Antonine and Severan dynasties the name Aurus was sometimes inscribed Aurelius in documents produced in the city of Rome (for example, ILS 388, 451, 452, 475, 480, 4387, 8697, 8914). Valerius is one of the commonest family names found at Emerita, while Lactus, though a common Latin cognomen, is otherwise not attested at Emerita.

3. STELE FOR TWO OCTAVIUS, A GRANDFATHER AND HIS GRANDSON (lâm. 5-6)

The upper section of a medium-grain grey granite funerary stele with a rounded top, broken off horizontally across the shaft and damaged down the left margin (lâm. 5-6). It now measures (70) cm tall,
56 cm wide and 38 cm (left side) - 35 cm (right side) deep. Its sides and top were polished to a smooth finish, while its back was left rough, suggesting that it was designed as a free-standing monument, but one that was set up against a wall in the funerary enclosure. The fact that the stele was broken (perhaps as a result of its reuse, very probably in the wall of the Alcazaba) has resulted in damage to the final line of text visible and possibly the loss of further lines of text. A triangular hole gouged into the surface of the stone has obscured part of the text of line 2. I came upon the fragmentary stele in May 1999 among a pile of granite blocks inside the Alcazaba, up against the south wall that runs along the calle Ciñuelos, behind the modern ticket office not far from the modern entrance. In July 2000, it was still on display in this same area of the Alcazaba.

The epitaph was inscribed in square capitals of some elegance (lám. 6). The letters have serifs and stylish tall Ts are used in lines 1, 2 and 3 and a tall I in the word HIC in line 2. There is also an IT ligature in SIT in line 2. The letters measure 7,5 cm in line 1 (with the T 9,5 cm and the O 8,0 cm), 6,5 cm in lines 2, 3 and 4 (with the taller Ts and tall I measuring 7,5 cm) and approximately 6,0 cm in line 5 (they are only preserved to a height of 5,0 cm as a result of the recutting of the stone). Triangular interpunction is visible in the first four lines, and was probably also used in the now damaged fifth line. An interpunct probably followed filius) at the end of line 1 as in line 3, but the surface of the stone is damaged at this point and so all trace of it is now lost. From the nature of the letter-forms and formulas used, the text can be dated to the early to mid first century A.D.

The text is damaged down the entire left margin and the fifth line has suffered badly as a result of the breakage of the stone. Despite the damage, it is possible to suggest a plausible reading in most cases. In line 1, a small trace of the very right end of the horizontal bar of an I can just be made out at the very left edge of the stone, which allows us to reconstruct the praenomen of the first man mentioned as L(ucius), the same as his father's. The damage at the left edge of line 2 has resulted in the loss of one letter before the G and the A, unless the line was indented, in which case the G may have been the first letter of the line (see farther below). In line 3, the abbreviated praenomen of the second person commemorated on the tombstone has disappeared thanks to the damage at the left edge, while in line 4, there is space for one extra letter at the beginning of the deceased's cogn-
nomen, unless this line was indented. Line 5 is considerably more damaged with the first few letters (five or six in number) now completely obliterated and none of the surviving letters preserved to their full original height. The first visible trace is the top third of a T beneath the second S of line 4, followed by the upper half of a V that stretches from beneath the gap between the S and the N in line 4 to just to the left of the bottom right corner of this same N. A very small part of the upper part of the bowl of an S is just visible beneath the E of NEPOS, while the top left corner of an E appears below the P. The clearest traces are the last two letters at the right end of the line: an S and a T. Because the stele is now broken, it is unclear if we have lost further lines of the text. The epitaph, for example, might have continued with a record of the dimensions of the burial plot (for which see further the comments on no. 4, below).

As a result, what survives of the text can be read as follows:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{L·} & \cdot \text{OCTAVIVS} \cdot \text{L·} \cdot \text{F} \, [\cdot] \\
[\cdot] \cdot \text{GA[.]} & \cdot \text{HIC} \cdot \text{SIT} \cdot \text{EST} \\
[\cdot] & \cdot \text{OCTAVIVS} \cdot \text{L·} \cdot \text{F} \\
[\cdot] & \cdot \text{VRSVS} \cdot \text{NEPOS} \\
5 & \text{[- 5 or 6 -]} \cdot \text{TVS} \cdot \text{EST} \\
[\cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot] & \\
[\cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot] &
\end{align*}
\]

It is possible in most cases to suggest a plausible restoration for the missing letters. In line 3, the praenomen of the second man commemorated might well have been L[ucius] like that of his father, grandfather and great-grandfather, but absolute certainty on this is impossible. In line 4, we clearly have the cognomen of the second man, followed by an indication of his familial relationship to the man named first on the epitaph: he was his grandson (nepos). As for his cognomen, [T]urus or [C]urus are theoretical possibilities, although only the first can be paralleled from the Iberian peninsula and both are very rare names.\(^{22}\) It is much more convincing in my view to argue that this line, as line 2, was indented. As a result, we have the much commoner cognomen Ursus, attested in Lusitania and well represented across the Iberian peninsula.\(^{23}\) The fifth line, as we have seen, has suffered the most damage, but is relatively easy to restore. A funerary formula is required; [hic] situs est fits the space available on the stone and provides a suitable text. It is mildly anomalous, but not a serious problem that the formula was written out in full in this line, but slightly abbreviated earlier in line 2.

The biggest problem of interpretation occurs in line 2. The surviving letters GA could belong to the cognomen of the deceased, but it is very difficult to suggest one that fits the available space. There does not appear to be the space that would be needed for a cognomen such as [SA]GA[X], [GI]GA[S] or [IV]GA[S] and there are no known cognomen that would require just one letter to be restored before the G and the A.\(^{24}\) It seems preferable, therefore, to argue that the text was slightly indented in this line and to read it as GA[L], the standard abbreviation for the Roman voting tribe, the Gallow. If this is correct, the first individual named had just a praenomen and nomen and a Roman tribal affiliation. He is thus analogous to a number of the earliest colonists attested at Emerita (in both the urban centre and the rural

\(^{22}\) For Turus, note CIL II 381 (Plasencia, prov. Cáceres); CIL A Huelva, no. 55 (the Cerro de Arévalo, prov. Huelva). Cursus is not to my knowledge attested in Roman Spain, but for examples from elsewhere, see KA JANTO 1965: 93, 351.

\(^{23}\) For example, CIL II 202, 5004 (Oliveto); AE 1971, 163 (Collippo); IRGP 318 (Trigaches in the territory of Pax Julia); see further ABASCAL 1994: 551. Ursinus, a related form, is also found at Emerita: CIL II 543 + EE IX 60; CIL II 578; CM Bed 915 = Iler 4744. For discussion of the distribution of the names Ursus and Ursinus in Lusitania, see RUIVO 1992: 123.

\(^{24}\) For a Pampeirae Sagas, see CIL II 1076 (Villanueva del Río, prov. Sevilla, as restored by SOLIN and SALOMIES 1988: 395); for Gigas, a charioteer, see CIL VI 33946 = ILS 5280 (Rome); for Ingar, a rare cognomen, see KA JANTO 1965: 348.
territory) who lack a cognomen.25 However, as is well known, the colonists of Emerita were enrolled in the Papias voting tribe, whereas on this reading L. Octavius L.f. was enrolled in the Galeria. This would, therefore, suggest that he was an immigrant to Emerita, perhaps from one of the other Lusitanian colonies such as Norba Caesariina, Metellinum or Pax Iuliana or from one of the Lusitanian communities promoted to municipal status under Augustus such as Ebora, Myrtillis, Salacia or Olissipo.26 His grandson was given a cognomen, as had become normal by the time that he was born. A number of other Octavii are attested at Emerita.27 As mentioned above, it is possible that the text continued to include, for example, details of the measurements of the burial plot. But no certainty is possible here.

In light of these observations, I would – with all due caution – expand the text as follows:

L.(neius) Octavius L.(neii) f(ilius) /
G(f(era) tribun) / bic situs est /
[PL.(neius) Octavius L.(neii) f(ilius) /
Urus, nepos, / bic situs est / [- - - - ?] /
[- - - - ?].

4. TALL STELE WITH THE PARTIAL DIMENSIONS OF A BURIAL PLOT (lámns. 7-9)

Tall stele of medium-grain yellowish-grey granite with a semi-circular top, measuring 140 cm tall, 52 cm wide, 35 cm (left side) – 34 cm (right side) deep (lám. 7). The bottom 40 cm was left unfinished to allow the stele to be inserted into the ground. The sides were polished to a smooth finish, but the stele is slightly damaged across the front of the arched top, resulting in the loss of the original surface at this point. The stele does not appear to have been fully carved out from its original rectangular granite block at the top right rear corner (see lám. 8). The surface of the stele has crumbled away in places, resulting in the loss of the first letter of its brief inscription. In May 1999 I came upon the stele face down in a deposit of granite blocks in the vicinity of the mausoleum with a marble lintel block bearing representations of the rivers Anas(s) and Barrueca that was erected in the later third century A.D. near the so-called Casa del Anfiteatro.28 It now forms part of the collection of the Consorcio de la Ciudad Monumental Histórico-Artística y Arqueológica de Mérida.

The stele originally stood as a marker of a burial plot, recording the dimension of its frontage: twelve Roman feet. This detail, inscribed in fairly regular square capitals with triangular interpuncts, appears in a single line of text, near the bottom of the stele’s shaft. It is possible that the family who owned the plot intended to record the deceased’s name above the indication of the burial plot’s frontage once he or she had died. The letters are 7 cm tall, except the II of the numeral XII, which only measure 6 cm (lám. 9). Traces of red colorant highlighting the letters were still visible when I studied the inscription in May 1999. Given the extreme brevity of the text, it is difficult to establish its date with any certainty, but the practice of recording the dimensions of burial


27 For their citizens enrolled in the Galeria, see WIEGELS 1985: 79 (Ebora), 81-82 (Myrtillis), 85 (Salacia), 82-84 (Olissipo). For two other inscriptions from Emerita attesting individuals enrolled in the Galera, whose ethnic origin is not specified, note EAE IX 86 (L. Iunius C.f. Gal. Lagatii); AE 1994, 867 = 1996, 8628 (A._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._._. 28 CIL II 581 (Octavia Breitii, Octavius Aed...), 601 (L. Hestusius Marco); ERAE 201 (Ostiius Rhode). For other Octavii in Hispania, see ABASCAL 1994: 192-193.

29 On the mausoleum, see PALMA and BEJARANO 1997; CANTO, BEJARANO and PALMA 1997.
Stele with dimensions of the frontage of a burial plot: view of its right side. Photo: J. Edmondson

A number of other granite stelae were used at Emerita (and elsewhere) to mark the limits of the burial plot and record its dimensions. Rather than record just one of the dimensions, as here, it was more usual to give both the frontage and depth of the plot: for example, in fronte p(edes) XII, in agro p(edes) IX (HEp 6, 114) and to include such dimensions at the end of an epitaph giving full details of the deceased person or persons buried in the funerary enclosure. But where only one measure-
ment was given, it is possible that a second marker was erected along the edge of the burial plot, recording the other measurement.\(^{33}\) Twelve Roman feet (equivalent to 3.54 m) was the most common dimension for the frontage of burial plots at Emerita, in the rest of the Iberian peninsula and at Rome.\(^{34}\)

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**


\(^{33}\) For other examples from Emerita where just the frontage or the depth was given, see HEp 6, 113, 124.

\(^{34}\) For Emerita, note also CIL II 545; EEd IX 75; HEp 6, 114, 116, 120, 122. For the Iberian peninsula in general, see RODRÍGUEZ NEILA 1991: 72-75, esp. Cuadro I. At Rome, in a sample of 1451 inscriptions that give the dimensions of the burial plot, no fewer than 402 (27.7%) have a frontage of 12 Roman feet: see ECK 1987: 64, 82.