

PROCESSES IN THE MAKING OF ROMAN INSCRIPTIONS

STUDIES BY R. D. GRASBY : MAY 2011

Inscriptions speak of the processes employed in their making. It is not difficult to distinguish the great quantity of informal, roughly-chiselled lettering from that which has been regulated within an ordered plan, accurately constructed and carved.

Studies of selected inscriptions in the style *scriptura monumentalis* were first published in *Papers of the British School at Rome* and one in *Britannia*. These are being revised to include recent research findings and will be published as individual Studies in this series between 2010 and 2012.

The Studies present inscriptions at various stages of their making from draft text to carefully constructed letters set out on the stone itself, brush painted and carved. It is possible to draw a significant amount of forensic evidence of these stages from the stones themselves. Through measurement and an understanding of the processes of making, some epigraphists may find in these Studies another approach to the reconstruction of fragmentary inscriptions.

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