

IMPCAESDIVI SEPT SEVERI PII ARABICI ADIABENICI PARTHICIMAXIMI BRITANNICIMAXIMI MIII ODI VIAN TONINI PII
 GERMANIC SARMATICINEPOTI DIVIAN TONINI PII PRONEPOTI DIVI HADRIANI ABNEP DIVITRAIANI PII PII
 MAVRELIO ANTONINOPIO FELAVG PARTHICOMAXIMO BRITANNICOMAXIMO GERMANICOMAXIMO ET BIPOTESIA TEXVI IMPERATORII
 PATRI PATRI PROCVNIVITRO PETATEAC DEVOTIONE COMMVNIE TYLIAE DOMNAE PIAE FELAVG MARCIAE AVGVSTINOSTRI ITEM
 CASTRORVM SENATVS HAC PATRIE PROPRIETATE DEVOTIONE COMMVNICVRANTE LEGAVGG PR PR
 COHIVANGIONVM ITEM RAETI GALSATI ET EXPLORATORES HABITANCENSES POSVERVNT DNMOEORVM

For the Emperor Caesar, son of the deified Septimius Severus Pius, conqueror of Arabia, conqueror of Adiabene, Most Great Conqueror of Parthia, Most Great Conqueror of Britain, grandson of the deified Antoninus Pius, conqueror of Germany, conqueror of Sarmatia, great-grandson of the deified Antoninus Pius, great-great-grandson of the deified Hadrian, great-great-great-grandson of the deified Trajan, conqueror of Parthia, and of the deified Nerva, Marcus Aurelius Antoninus Pius Felix Augustus, Most Great Conqueror of Parthia, Most Great Conqueror of Britain, Most Great Conqueror of Germany, in his sixteenth year of tribunician power, twice acclaimed Imperator, father of his country, proconsul, out of their joint duty and devotion, and for Julia Domna Pia Felix Augusta, mother of our Emperor, likewise of the army, Senate and country, out of their joint duty and devotion, under the charge of ..., imperial propraetorian legate, the First Cohort of Vangiones, likewise the Raetian Spearmen and the Scouts of Habitanicum, devoted to their divinity and majesty, set this up.

Type: Building inscription

Findspot: Risingham, Northumberland

Chronology: 213 CE

Actual location: Great North Museum, Newcastle upon Tyne

<https://collectionssearchtwmuseums.org.uk/#details=ecatalogue.74>

Reference: Roman inscriptions of Britain

Weblink: <https://romaninscriptionsofbritain.org/inscriptions/1235>

This inscription was made up of five slabs joined vertically, of which fragments of four survive. Enough survives to show that it was one of a number of inscriptions set up in 213 CE in the northern frontier zone. By comparison with the other examples the text can be reconstructed with some confidence. The greater part consists of names, honorific titles and assumed genealogy of the Emperor Caracalla (211-16 CE), alongside those of his mother, the Dowager Empress Julia Domna.

MY RESEARCH

How did Caracalla use inscriptions like this one to underline his legitimacy as Roman Emperor?

Why was Caracalla concerned with the question of legitimacy?