



Type: Funerary stele  
 Chronology: Roman imperial period  
 Findspot: Timgad (Algeria)  
 Actual location: Museum of Timgad (Algeria)

Funerary stele with the image of the deceased standing and wearing a stola over her head. The inscription reads:

*D(is) M(anibus) s(acrum) / Caecilia Mo/ntana pia vi/xit an(n)is XXXX / Caecilia Qu/[int]ilia p(arens) b(ona) f(ilia) fecit*

Sacred to the gods Manes (gods protectors of the deceased)/Caecilia Montana, pious, lived 40 years/Caecilia Quintilia, her mother, made (the stele) for her good daughter.

At the bottom of the stele a low relief features the images of a Roman *mensa*, representing the celebrations that were held to honour the deceased at the funeral and every year in the occasion of his or her birthday. Plates, service dishes with food (a fish) and spoons can be seen on this example. This Roman pagan funerary practice was later adopted by the Christians and similar items can be seen in the cemetery of Roman Tipasa (Algeria), near the tombs of Christian martyrs (see also the mosaic from the Great Basilica of Tipasa).

## MY RESEARCH

How far does material culture reflect religious identity in the Roman world?