

OH HAPPY PLACE!



RESTVTVS
 RESTETVTA
 PONE TVNICA
 ROGO PVDES
 PILOSA CO

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 RESTETVTA
 PONE TVNICA
 ROGO PVDES
 PILOSA CO

Restitutus (says): / Restituta, / take off your tunic / please,
 shameful (...) / hairy (...)

*I,2,24 (on a column in the peristyle) | CIL IV 3951 | for the reading
 pudes cf. Solin 2014, 96*

COMMVNE * III
 SVCESSVS * III
 NICEPOR S II A
 AMVNVS * IV



OCEANVS L XIII V

Oceanus, f(reedman), 13 (victories)

I,6,15 (House of the Ceii; behind the house, near the garden) | CIL IV 8055a | a number of graffiti referring to gladiatorial fights show drawings of gladiators, cf. Langner 2001, 45-58; for gladiator fights in Pompeii, cf. Meller 2011

ARACINTVS L (VICIT) IIII (PERIIT)

Aracintus, f(reedman), 4 (victories) (died)

I,6,15 (House of the Ceii; behind the house, near the garden) | CIL IV 8055b

PISITARIO

To a beast fighter

I,6,15 (House of the Ceii) | CIL IV 8055c



SEVERVS L XIII ALBANVS SC(AEVA) L XIX V

Severus, f(reedman), 13 (victories)

Albanus, lefthanded, f(reedman), 19 (victories)

I,6,15 (House of the Ceii; behind the house, near the garden) | CIL IV 8056a

ANTISTIO CAMMARVS
VBIQVE SALVTEM

Cammarus (says) to Antistius: / Greetings to you, everywhere!

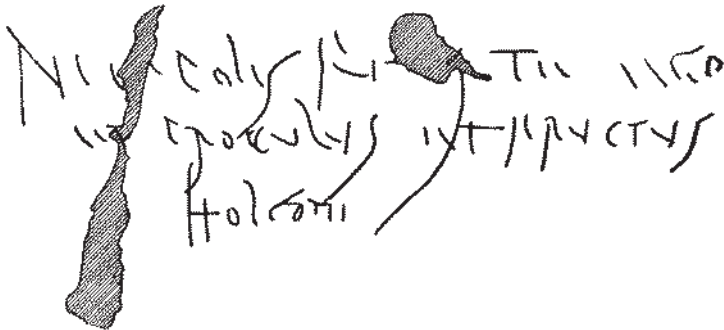
I,7,1 (House of Paquius Proculus; in the entrance) | CIL IV 8073

CVPIDI MVLTO MAGIS
CVPIMVS



HIC FVIMVS CARI DVO NOS SINE FINE SODALES
NOMINA SI (QVAERIS)

Here we were, two dear friends for life; / if you ask our names...
I,7,8 (shop) | CIL IV 8162 | metrical (incomplete distich)



NICOPOLIS FVI TE EGO
ET PROCVLVS ET FRVCTVS
HOLCONI

Nicopolis, I fucked you / and so did Procolus and Fructus / from
the house of Holconius.

*I,7,18 (House of Niraemius, bronze trader; in a small room near the
atrium) | CIL IV 8171 | Nicopolis is most likely a woman's name, cf. on
n° 53*

I,9,5 (House of the orchard; in a portico, near a mirror) | CIL IV 10005 | numerous graffiti show drawings of a phallus, cf. Langner 2001, 61-62

59



AMARANTHO SAL
SAL

Amaranthus: greetings to you, / greetings to you.

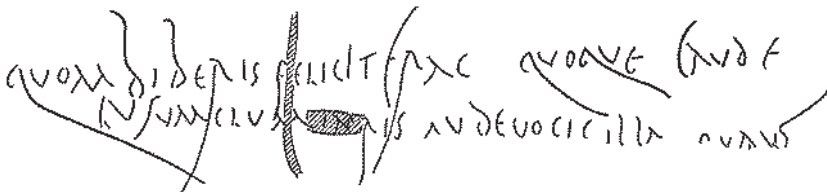
I,9,5 (House of the orchard; in a portico, near a mirror) | CIL IV 10008

60

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNQRSTVX
AB

I,9,5 (House of the orchard; in a portico, under a mirror) | CIL IV 10250 | 102 alphabets have been found in Pompeii, both in houses and in streets; cf. Garraffoni/Laurence 2013, 126-129, further Benefiel 2013, 70-72; for Greek alphabets, cf. also Biville 2003, 221 and n^{os} 351-352

61



QVOM BIBERIS FELICITER AC QVOQVE CRVDE

I,10,4 (House of the Menander; in the peristyle, on a column) | CIL IV 8321a | for text and interpretation, cf. Varone 2011, 287 | for Chloe (possibly a prostitute, but more likely a pantomime actress), cf. n° 670

84b

CVM TE SAEPE
COM ESTI(BV)S
GERIM(V)S RVFINA

With you we often / (...) / did it, Rufina!

I,10,4 (House of the Menander; in the peristyle, on a column) | CIL IV 8319a (different readings), for text and interpretation, cf. Varone 2011, 287

85

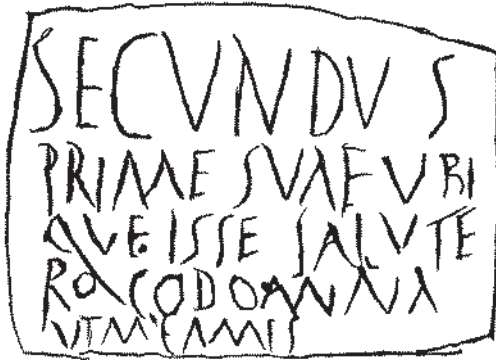


SSEVERA
ΦELASSSS

AVE
IANVARIA FILAS
IA NOX

Hello / Ianuaria! You blow. / (It is) already night.

I,10,4 (House of the Menander; in the rear entrance) | CIL IV 8361



SECVNDVS
PRIME SVAE VBI
QVE ISSE SALVTE
ROGO DOMNA
VT ME AMES

Secundus sends greetings / to his Prima, wher- / ever she, the
mistress, may be. / I ask you, madam, / to love me.

I,10,7 (façade) | CIL IV 8364

ENTELLE HEROVM

Entellus, among the heroes ...

I,13,1 (atrium, east wall) | CIL IV 10059 | metrical; poetry quotation
(Virgil, Aeneid 1,1)

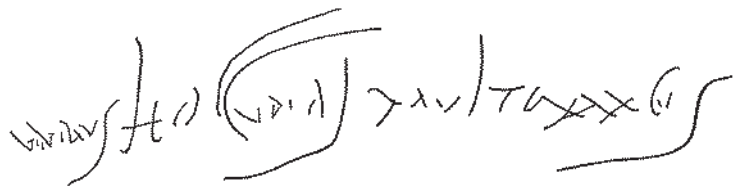


VIV(AT) V(IVAT)

Long live, long live ...!

I,13,1 (in the peristyle) | CIL IV 10062 | the picture may refer to crucifixion as a punishment (cf. n° 985a), but probably not in an anti-christian sense

122



VENIMVS HOC CVPIDI MVLTO MAGIS

We came here desiring, much more ...

I,13,3 (in the entrance) | CIL IV 10065a | metrical, cf. n° 63

X K FEBRA
 VRSA PEPERIT DIEM
 IOVIS

X K FEBRA
 VRSA PEPERIT DIEM
 IOVIS

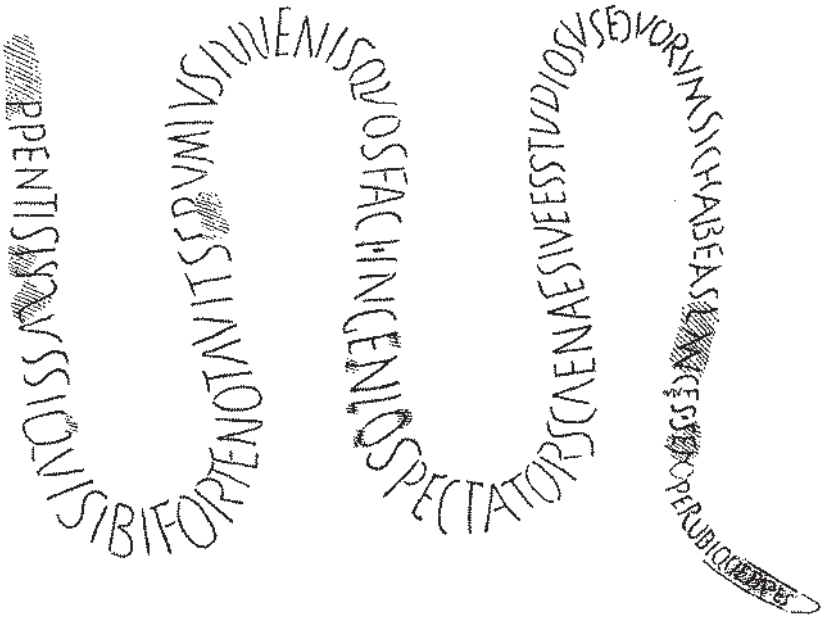
On January 23rd / a she-bear gave birth, on a / Thursday.
III,2,1 (House of Trebius Valens; in the atrium) | CIL IV 8820

VALEN(S) DOMIN(A)
 VALENS DOMINA ESSEM
 SALVTEM ROGAM(VS)

Your mistress, Valens, / wish I were your mistress, Valens! / We
 pray for health.

III,2,1 (House of Trebius Valens; in the atrium) | CIL IV 8824

[Handwritten inscription, likely a curse or wish, written in a cursive script. The text is mostly illegible due to the cursive style and some fading. It appears to be a wish for health, similar to the inscription on page 220.]



(SER)PENTIS LVSVS SI QVI SIBI FORTE NOTAVIT
 SEPVMIVS IVVENIS QVOS FAC(I)T INGENIO
 SPECTATOR SCAENAE SIVE ES STVDIOSVS E(Q)VORVM
 SIC HABEAS (LANC)ES SE(M)PER VBIQ(VE) PARES)

If anyone has chanced to see the game of the snake, which the young Sepumius skilfully performs, whether you are a spectator in the theater, or a lover of horses, may you always keep the scales in balance, wherever you are.

Via Nolana | CIL IV 1595 | metrical (two distichs) | remarkable ‘carmen figuratum’ (the only one from Pompeii) written in serpent script, without indication of verse endings; with suggestive ‘s’ sounds, cf. Krutschwitz 2004, 57; studiosus equorum is a poetry quotation (Ovid, Amores 3,2,1); the final phrase may be a wish for good fortune, cf. Milnor 2014, 26



FELICIO TOMINTARE

Felicio, you got it bad!

VI,14,40 (near the garden) | CIL IV 4566 | with a picture of a man with a giant phallus

NOLANIS FELICITER

Good luck to the residents of Nola!

VI,14,43 (House of the large brothel; façade) | CIL IV 1512

468

CONTIQ(VE)

Fell silent ...

VI,15,16 (bar) | CIL IV 4675 | metrical; poetry quotation (Virgil, Aeneid 2,1)

469



FLACCVS

II

Flaccus / (...)

VI,15,20 (façade) | CIL IV 4677 | perhaps the name of the poet Horace (Quintus Horatius Flaccus)

470

FELICEM AVFIDIVM FELICEM SEMPER DEVS
FACIAT

May god bless Aufidius Felix forever / and ever.

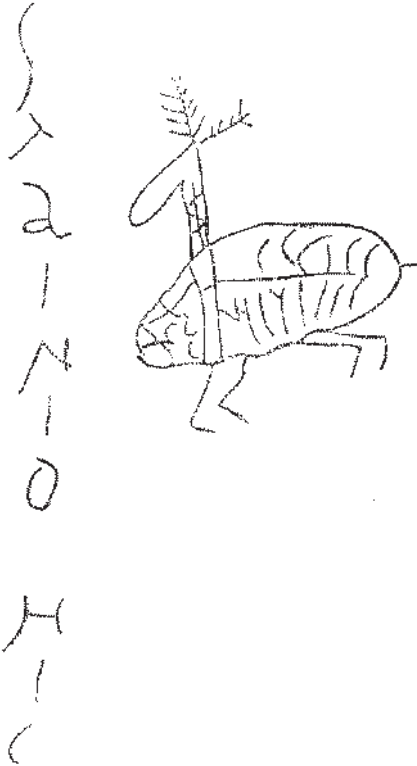
VI,16,4-5 (façade) | CIL IV 6815

SERVOS BONVS

Restitutus, / good slave

VII,7,2-5 (in a small room of the rear peristyle) | CIL IV 4719

564



S/A/B/I/N/I/O/ /H/I/C

S/a/b/i/n/i/u/s /h/e/r/e

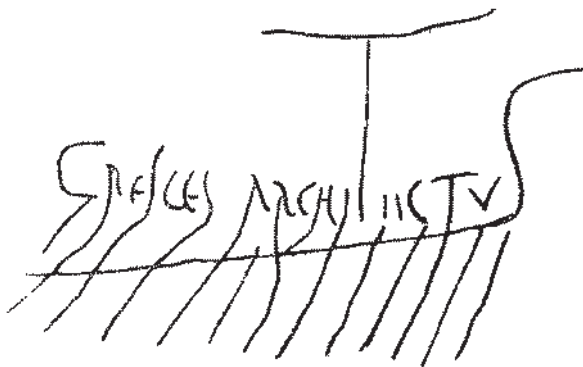
VII,7,2-5 (in a small room of the rear peristyle) | CIL IV 4722 | according to Solin 2014, 102, the name is Sabinio, a form not attested elsewhere

AEPHEBV
SVCCESO PATRI
SVO SALVT

Ephebus / to Successus, his / father: greetings!

VII,7,2-5 (in the peristyle, on a column) | CIL IV 4753

569

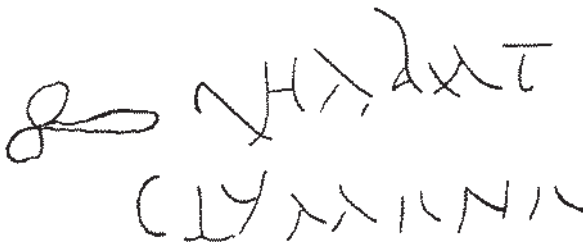


CRESCES ARCHITECTVS

Crescens, the architect

VII,7,2-5 (in the peristyle, on a column) | CIL IV 4755

570



(A)MORE TVO MOREOR
 (VS) AMANTEM
 (...) PEREO VITA IN AM(ORE)
 (...) VITA AMO TE (...)
 VENVST(...)
 AMANTE(...)
 L NINIV

I'm dying of love for you / (...) lover / (...) I'm consumed by love,
 darling, / (...) darling, I love you (...) / gracefully (...) / lover (...) /
 Lucius Ninnius

VII,9,1 (*Building of Eumachia; on a fragment of marble found in the
 Forum*) | CIL IV 9054a-b



SOLLEMNES
BENE FVTVES

Sollemnis, / you fuck well.

VII,12,18–20 (brothel) | CIL IV 2185 and 2186 (written both above and after n° 617) | some five other graffiti follow the pattern ‘x, you fuck well’, cf. Levin-Richardson 2011, 65 and n^{os} 609, 616, 640, 652, 658, further 639; these texts are likely to have been written by women as clients of the brothel, cf. Buonopane 2009, 235 with note 38, further Varone 2005, 96 (who calls the evidence for women visiting the brothel ‘inquietante’); several other texts may also be due to female clients, e.g. n° 638; the name Sollemnes (Sollemnis) occurs once more in the brothel (CIL IV 2218a)

VITALIO BENE FVTVES

Vitalio, you fuck well.

VII,12,18–20 (brothel) | CIL IV 2187

DABIT VNDE (R)EM
SERVARE PO(SSIMVS) HS
XX C IIII

A bronze pitcher has disappeared from the tavern. / If someone brings it back, he will receive / 65 sesterces; if he hands over the thief / from which we can reclaim the object: / 84 sesterces.

VIII,5,33–34 (shop; façade) | CIL IV 64 | dating from the republican period according to Cooley/Cooley 2014, 263

788a



BAXXIS ΔOMNA

Bacchis, mistress

VIII,6,4 (in a room near the atrium) | CIL IV 4950 | with a mix of Greek and Latin, cf. Biville 2003, 229; the words are written in a drawing

789

VRSI ME COME(DANT)

The bears may devour me ...

VIII,6,5 (façade, left of the entrance) | CIL IV 4951 | apparently from a popular song or poem; the words are attested twice in Herculaneum (CIL IV 10656 and 10660) and see also n° 840, cf. Cugusi 2008, 73

CAESIA SEI N
SEI PARVOM P
ES BIBE LVDE
NEC SEMPER

Caesia, if ... / as a little ... / eat, drink, play ... / not always ...

*VIII,7,19 (Small theatre; on the outer west wall) | CIL IV 4972 | metrical
(beginnings of hexameters), with line 3 echoing a common theme in
gravestone texts (cf. n° 604)*

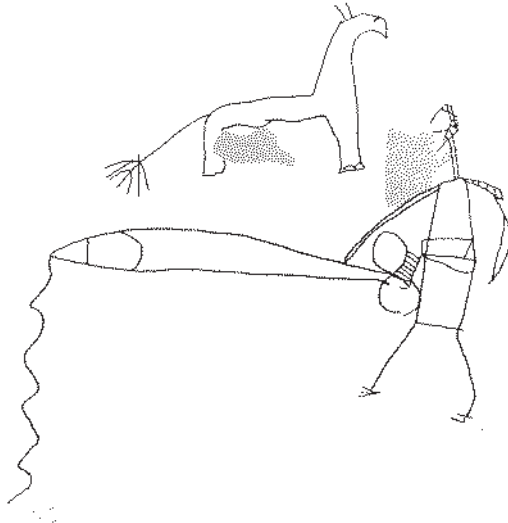
797

SOLVS AMARE V
MVLTA OPVS SVNT S
QVOD NESCEIRE DARE

Only (he can) love, (who ...) / much is necessary ... / because not
know to give ...

*VIII,7,19 (Small theatre; on the outer west wall) | CIL IV 4973 | metrical
(beginnings of hexameters)*

798



EVPLIA FELA
EVPLIA

Euplia sucks it for 5 asses, / Euplia sucks it, / Euplia

IX,2,26 (in the portico before the garden, on a pillar) | CIL IV 5048

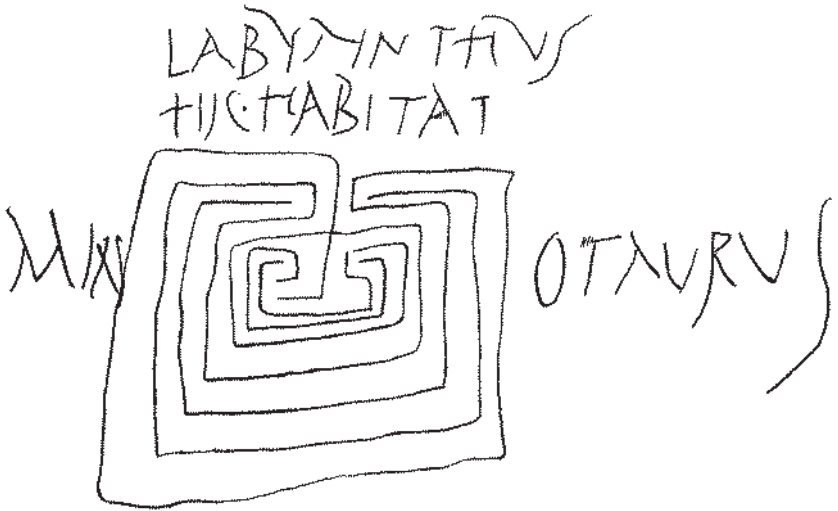
856

M LVCRETIO FLAM(INI) MARTIS DECVRI
ONI
POMPEI(S)

To Marcus Lucretius, priest of Mars, council mem-/ber / in
Pompeii

IX,3,5 (House of Marcus Lucretius; in a letter depicted in a painting) |
CIL IV 879

857



LABYRINTHVS



RVFV EST



RVFVS EST

It's Rufus.

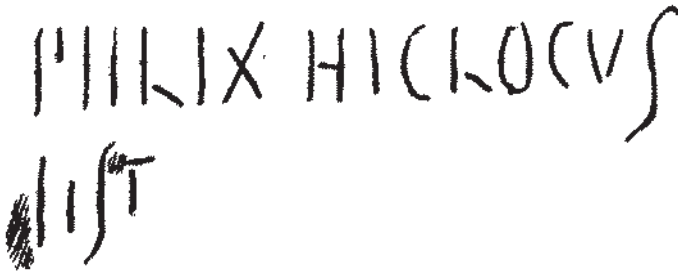
*Villa of the Mysteries (in the atrium, on the north wall) | CIL IV 9226
| for caricature in graffiti as a form of active communication, cf. Voegtle
2012, 115-116*

NOSTER NVMMVS
MAGNA HABET PECVNIAM

The club funds should be divided, in my opinion, for / our
cashbox / is full of money.

*Location unknown | CIL IV 1597 | metrical (iambic senarii);
interpretation uncertain, perhaps merely a play with sounds (m, n, o, u),
cf. Kruschwitz 2004, 44-45*

1013



FELIX HIC LOCVS
EST

Oh happy place!

Location unknown | CIL IV 2320

1014

CARMINA
COMMVNEM NE
ARMA VIRVMQVE CANO TRO (...)

Songs ... / normal, not / arms and the man I sing (from) Troy...

*Location unknown (IX,1,4 according to Milnor 2009, 310) | CIL IV 2361
| metrical; last part poetry quotation (Virgil, Aeneid 1,1)*