THE WRITING ON THE WALL

Around twenty ‘distance slabs’ have been found along the Antonine Wall. Once they had completed building a section of the Wall, the builders celebrated their achievement by placing a commemorative slab on the Wall. Here is a selection of the slabs. They can be seen in the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow and the National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh.

They are a unique and important evidence source for historians today.

Look at the ‘distance slabs’ on page 2, and discuss what they can tell us about the Romans during their time in Scotland.

What further questions do they present for us?

1) Distance slab of the Second legion, Bridgeness
For the Emperor Caesar Titus Aelius Hadrianus Antoninus Augustus Pius, Father of his country, the Second Augustan Legion completed (the Wall) over a distance of 4655 paces.

2) Distance slab of the Second Legion, Summerston
For the Emperor Caesar Titus Aelius Hadrianus Antoninus Augustus Pius, father of his country, the Second Augustan Legion completed (this work) over a distance of 3666 ½ paces.

3) Distance slab of the Twentieth legion, Hutcheson Hill
For the Emperor Caesar Titus Aelius Hadrianus Antoninus Augustus Pius, Father of his country, a detachment of the Twentieth Valerian and Victorious Legion completed (the Wall) over a distance of 3000 feet.

4) Distance slab of the Sixth Legion, Duntocher
For the Emperor Caesar Titus Aelius Hadrianus Antoninus Augustus, Father of his Country, a detachment of the Sixth Victorious, Loyal and Faithful Legion completed rampart-work (over a distance of) 3240 feet.

5) Distance slab of the Twentieth legion, Old Kilpatrick
For the Emperor Caesar Titus Aelius Hadrianus Antoninus Augustus Pius, Father of his Country, a detachment of the Twentieth Valerian and Victorious Legion completed (the Wall) over a distance of 4411 feet.
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