

MEASUREMENTS Unobtainable.

STONE TYPE (JH) Unobtainable.

PRESENT CONDITION Unobtainable.

## DESCRIPTION

*Inscription*

Latin inscription in two lines, reading vertically:

TIBE[-]VS

CATIRI

*Tibe[-]us [son] of Catirius*

Roman capitals, the A had an angled cross-bar. The VS is represented on a larger scale and not uniform in style with the rest of the inscription.

*Comments on letter-forms:* Wide-spaced light Roman capitals. From the Lhuyd sketch, it was written on the stone rapidly, the second stroke of the two Rs being loosely attached to the main stem; tall condensed S avoids the usual tendency to model the bows on the C and thus produce too large a letter for the writing-line. (GC-E)

*Comments on the linguistics:* Brittonic Period 6–16. Irish Period 1–14. TIBE[-]VS suggests the Latin praenomen and cognomen *Tiberius* (Kajanto, 1965: 175) or, if a longer name is needed to fill the space (?), *Tibernianicus*, *Tiberianus*, *Tiberillus*, or *Tiberin(i)us* (Mócsy, 1983: 289; *OPEL*: iv,

121–2); however, the -VS could belong to [FILI]VS. If TIR... VS were correct, only *Tironus* in *OPEL* and Mócsy's corpus would fit. CATIRI may derive from nominative \**Caturix* 'battle king', cf. Continental Celtic *Caturis*, and may be either British (giving MW \**Cedyr* (cf. *kedyr* in *Canu Aneirin*: Williams, 1938: 144) or, from the oblique stem, MW \**Cedri*) or Irish (Old Irish *Ca(i)thri*). The case form of CATIRI is unclear. Welsh *cad*r (MW *cadyr*) 'powerful' is a less likely comparandum. (PS-W)  
*References:* *CIB*: 73, 116, 186, 210, 219, 318 (no. 330/66).

## DISCUSSION

The readings of the first line have been: TIR[-]VS (*LW*: 55; *IBC*: 19); TER[MIN]VS (Jones, 1876); TI[BERI]VS (Williams, 1876); [E]TER[NI FILI]VS (Macalister, 1945–9); —]TIR[I FILI(?) ]VS (*ECMW*: 79), but see also *Comments on the linguistics* above.

Nash-Williams dated the inscription to the fifth or early sixth centuries, and Sims-Williams places the inscription in Brittonic Periods 6–16, i.e. probably seventh century, or Irish Periods 1–14, i.e. fifth or sixth centuries.

DATE Fifth to seventh centuries.

REFERENCES *CISP*: NANTD/1; *CHC*: no. 330; *IBC*: no. 54; *LW*: 55; Jones, 1805–9: II, 624, pl. 6.5; Westwood, 1847: 29; Westwood, 1853: 332; Wilkins and Rhys, 1886: 94; *RCAHMW*, 1997: 288 (LECM 3).

## YSTRADFELLTE (Maen Madoc)

SN 9182 1576

B50

## 1. Latin-inscribed stone

*ECMW* no. 73

PRESENT LOCATION Set upright in a rectangular pavement to the west of 'Sarn Helen' (the Roman road between Neath and Brecon), and on the east side of the present mountain road. It originally stood 5m south-east of its present position, encroaching on the edge of the Roman road (Fox, 1940: 210–16).

EVIDENCE FOR DISCOVERY/PROVENANCE First recorded in the eighteenth century 'about a mile from *Ystraedvelty*, in the cross road leading from Brecon over the mountain to Neath. It is a stone called *Maen Maddock*' (Strange, 1777: 8; also *Main Maddock* in Camden, 1789: II, 473); Theophilus Jones (1805–9) described the stone as 'thrown down'; it was reset in the nineteenth century, and

again in 1940 when it was excavated. Its socket was not big enough to have contained a burial, though its position suggests a roadside burial in the Roman tradition. Its broad face was set towards the line of the road, with the inscribed edge facing south-west down the slope, as at present. A rubbing of the inscription ('lower portion of standing stone') was made by T. H. Thomas on 26 May 1902.

MEASUREMENTS h. 280cm (110in.) × w. 73cm (29in.) × d. 39cm (15½in.).

STONE TYPE Mid-pink, pale-pink weathering, fine- to coarse-grained bedded sandstone. The inscribed side of the stone is formed by a joint surface and the inscription has been made across the bedding of one of the thicker (16–19cm) beds. The stone is worked from the Lower Old Red



B50a. Latin-inscribed stone, *Ystradfellte (Maen Madoc) 1*, before it fell in 1940.

Sandstone, most likely from the Brownstones Formation, exposed on the higher ground, 1–15km to the north of its current location. (JH)

**PRESENT CONDITION** Weathering has emphasized the bedding planes, but the inscription is deeply cut.

**DESCRIPTION** Pillar stone with Latin inscription.

*Inscription*

Latin inscription in two lines, reading vertically upwards:

DERVACI FILIVS / IVSTI IC IACIT  
 Dervaci filius / Iusti (h)ic iacit  
 (*The stone of Dervacus. The son of Iustus lies here*)

The inscription is cut on a joint face across the bedding plane, so that it is not subject to flaking.

*Comments on letter-forms:* Coarse and irregular Roman capitals with two minuscules, conjoined FI in FILIVS. This inscription must have been transferred to the stone from an exemplar by the cutter himself, who has reversed the D and



B50b. Latin-inscribed stone, *Ystradfellte (Maen Madoc) 1*, showing the nineteenth century (?) base for the stone (1940).

inverted the A of DERVACI, made the L of FILIVS look like its U and reversed its S. In the personal name IVSTI he reverses the S and inverts the T. Leaving out the H of HIC IACIT, he inverts the A. The inscription is deeply cut by a mason who was obviously familiar with working stone, but not with writing. (GC-E)

*Comments on the linguistics:* Brittonic Period 1–3. Irish Period 1–2. DERVACI is a derivative of Celtic \**derwo-* ‘oak’ or ‘true’. It could be Irish or Welsh (if the latter, it would have to date before the change of A to O was shown in writing). The Irish periodization is rather too early for a sixth-century date. Possibly the writing of RV rather than \*RB on which it depends is not significant; or the name may simply be British. Latin *Iustus* was borrowed into Brittonic as *Iust*. (PS-W)

*References:* CIB: 32 n. 55, 56, 230, 304, 344 (no. 344/73).

**DISCUSSION**

T. H. Thomas, visiting the stone on 1 November 1897, commented: ‘I could read the reversed TI of IUSTI distinctly and believe there are traces of an h in the (h)ic’ (pencilled annotation on copy of *LW*). There is no sign of this on his subsequent rubbing, or later readings.

From the limited excavations in June 1940, Fox concluded that the paving around the stone dated from its nineteenth-century re-erection, and that the stone had origi-



B50c. Latin-inscribed stone, Ystradfellte (Maen Madoc) I, as reset in 1940.



B50d. Latin-inscribed stone, Ystradfellte (Maen Madoc) I, the inscription.

nally been set in a socket some 16ft/5m south of its present position (Fox, 1940: fig. 1). A metallised surface located in three trenches was considered to be the Roman road 'Sarn Helen', suggesting that the monument had originally been set into its west edge. Some doubt has been thrown on this by geophysical surveying in 1993, which indicated the presence of an 'unexcavated, sub-surface feature' (represented by low resistance) on the site of the original stone-hole; the survey also indicated the presence of three sides of a rectangular enclosure, and it has been suggested that the metallised surface uncovered by Fox may correspond with part of this postulated enclosure (Hamilton, Lane and Macdonald, forthcoming). No indications of a grave were given by the survey, and it has been suggested that Sarn Helen may lie in its traditional location, to the west of the stone (Morgan, 1907: fig. 1; Hamilton, Lane and Macdonald, forthcoming).

Nash-Williams dated the inscription to the fifth or early sixth century. The letters, such as the R with horizontal descender, correspond to Tedeschi's second palaeographical phase, dated to the first half of the sixth century (Tedeschi, 1992-4: 46; *ibid.*, 2005: 99).

DATE First half of the sixth century.

REFERENCES *CISP*: YFLL1/1; *LW*: 64; *IBC*: no. 50; *CIIC*: no. 344; Strange, 1777: 8, fig. 1.3; Camden, 1789: II, 473, pl. 14, fig. 3; Jones, 1805-9: II, 644, pl. 12.2; Westwood, 1853: 333; Westwood, 1858a: 406-8; Rhys, 1874a: 332; Report, 1901: 68; Rhys, 1905: 74-5; Morgan, 1907; Macalister, 1928: 291, fig. 1; Fox, 1939: 31-2; Fox, 1940: 210-16; *RCAHMW*, 1997: 285 (ECM 8); Tedeschi, 2005: 98-9.

Cast: NMW acc. no. 06.495.

Rubbing (T. H. Thomas 26 May, 1902): NMW acc. no. 16.68/S.R.6.

SAM no. BR018.

# A Corpus of Early Medieval Inscribed Stones and Stone Sculpture in Wales

Volume I

Breconshire, Glamorgan, Monmouthshire, Radnorshire,  
and geographically contiguous areas of  
Herefordshire and Shropshire

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