ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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*Memento: Remembering Roman Lives*
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About the exhibition

The intention of the exhibition *Memento: Remembering Roman Lives* is exactly that—to remember the people named on these funeral inscriptions. The memorials name sailors from Egypt, Dalmatia and Thrace serving in the Imperial Fleet based at Misenum on the Bay of Naples and their wives; a slave from the Imperial household in Rome; a wrestler from Amastris on the Black Sea; freedmen, freedwomen and their patrons; husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, as well as foster children (their age at death given with precision down to the last hour).

Their stories can only be guessed at.

In 1857 and again in 1858, Sir Charles Nicholson, Chancellor of the University of Sydney, travelled to Italy where he bought nearly seven hundred Greek, Roman, South Italian and Etruscan antiquities. On his return in 1859, these, along with the four hundred artefacts he had acquired in Egypt, were donated to the University to become the genesis of what is now the Nicholson Museum collection.

Among the objects acquired in Italy were 68 Roman marble funerary inscriptions. Of these, 14 come from Rome and 36 from the Bay of Naples. The reliefs were set up in a variety of places: the outside walls of tombs, alongside roads, in columbaria and in Christian catacombs. They all date from between the 1st and 5th centuries AD, a period that saw a change in Roman funerary practice from cremation to inhumation with the coming of Christianity. Five of the inscriptions are Christian, often indicated at the end by the phrase *In Pace*, while the rest are pagan, introduced with the letters *DM*, short for *Dis Manibus* which translates as *To the guardian spirits of the Underworld.*
Common Latin words and phrases

Funerary invocations

D M
an abbreviation for DIS MANIBUS
To the guardian spirits of the Underworld.

IN PACE
In Peace

B M F
an abbreviation for BENE MERENTI FECIT
‘x’ made this for the well deserving (deceased person)

NOTE: There is no easy translation of these two formulaic words that appear at the top of nearly all non-Christian Roman funerary monuments. The Di Manes were the spirits of the underworld, whether deceased or protective is uncertain, although their intent was clear.

i.e. may the deceased rest in peace
### Relationships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PATER</td>
<td>a father</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARENS</td>
<td>a parent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FILIUS</td>
<td>a son</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALUMNUS/A</td>
<td>a foster son or daughter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRIMIGENUS/A</td>
<td>the first born (child)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POSTERUS/A</td>
<td>a descendent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIBERTUS/A</td>
<td>a freedman or woman (i.e. an ex slave)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NATUS/A</td>
<td>a native of, born in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATER</td>
<td>a mother</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONIUNX</td>
<td>a husband or wife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FILIA</td>
<td>a daughter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRATER</td>
<td>a brother</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HERES</td>
<td>an heir or heiress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATRONUS/A</td>
<td>a patron (i.e. slave owner)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANCILLUS/A</td>
<td>a slave</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Emotions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INNOCENTISSIMUS/A</td>
<td>the most innocent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DULCISSIMUS/A</td>
<td>the sweetest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIENTISSIMUS/A</td>
<td>the most dutiful or righteous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARISSIMUS/A</td>
<td>the dearest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMATUS/A</td>
<td>beloved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUPITUS/A</td>
<td>beloved</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANNUS</td>
<td>a year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENSIS</td>
<td>a month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIES</td>
<td>a day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KALENDAE</td>
<td>the first day of the month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDUS</td>
<td>the 15th day of the months March, May, July and October or the 13th day of the other months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIXIT</td>
<td>he or she lived (for X years, months, days)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### The Military

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MILES</td>
<td>a soldier or sailor on a naval ship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MILITAVIT</td>
<td>he served as a soldier/sailor (for X years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MANIPULARIS</td>
<td>a sailor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>a trireme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IIII</td>
<td>a quadrireme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIBURNA</td>
<td>a small fast ship</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Funerary Inscriptions
Roman funerary urn for a woman named Perelia Tyche.  
1st – 4th century AD  
Unknown provenance.

NMR.1013

Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary urn for a man named Publius Aelius Cleruchus.
2nd century AD
Found at San Vito, Palestrina (ancient Praeneste), Italy.

NMR.1015
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary urn for a boy named Quintus Marcus.
2nd – 4th century AD
Unknown provenance.

NMR.1016
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
DIS MANIB[US]
LVCCELAE TYCHE

TO THE GUARDIAN SPIRITS OF THE
UNDERWORLD
FOR LUCELLA TYCHE

Roman funerary monument for a named woman Lucella Tyche.
1st to 4th century AD
Found at Pozzuoli (anceint Puteoli), Italy.

NMR.1063
Formerly in the collections of Barone at Naples.
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58
CAELIA ASELLA INNOCENTISSIMA
QVE VIXIT ANNIS XII MENSIBVS
DEPOSITA VII DIE ANTE KALENDAS
SETTEN BRIAS
IN PACE

[THIS IS] CAELIA ASELLA,
THE MOST INNOCENT OF GIRLS, WHO LIVED
FOR 12 YEARS AND (?) MONTHS. LAID TO
REST 7 DAYS BEFORE THE CALENDS OF
SEPTEMBER [IE. 25 AUGUST]
[REST] IN PEACE

Roman funerary monument for a girl named Caelia Asella
Late 4th century to 5th century
Found on the Via Latina, Rome.

NMR.1064
Formerly in the collection of Giambattista Guidi.
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for a man named Leo.
1st to 4th century AD
Found in the Molinari vineyard on the Via Appia, Rome.

NMR.1065
Formerly in the collection of Giambattista Guidi.
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
DEPOSSIO HILARES QV[A]E
VIXIT ANNVS VII M[ENSE] VNO D[IEBUS]
XIII DEPOSITA DIAE VII IDVS
(SE)PT[EMBRES] RICOMEDE ET CLYARC[H]O
CONS[ULIBUS]

HERE LIES HILARA WHO
LIVED 7 YEARS 1 MONTH 13 DAYS
LAID TO REST ON THE 7TH DAY BEFORE
THE IDES OF SEPTEMBER
[IE. 7 SEPTEMBER]
RICOMEDES AND CLEARCHUS WERE
CONSULS [IE. 384 AD]

Roman funerary monument for a girl named Hilara.
384 AD
Unknown provenance.

NMR.1066
Formerly in the collection of Giambattista Guidi.
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for a woman named Eufrosyne.

4th century AD

Said to be from a Hypogaea (underground Christian tomb) in Rome.

NMR.1067

Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856-58.
Roman funerary monument for a boy named Primius.

1st to 4th century AD

Found at Cumae, Italy.

NMR.1068

Formerly in the collection of Giuseppe de Criscio.

Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
D[IS] M[ANIBVS]
L[UCIO] AELIO HETAERO ET
AELIAE CAPITOLINAE
PATRONIS
AELIA CHRYSOTHOE

TO THE GUARDIAN SPIRITS OF THE
UNDERWORLD
FOR LUCIUS AELIUS HETAERUS AND
AELIA CAPITOLINA
HER WELL DESERVING PATRONS,
AELIA CHRYSOTHOE
A FREEDWOMAN MADE THIS

Roman funerary monument for a man named Lucius Aelius and his wife
Aelia Capitolina.
150–200 AD
Found at Cumae, Italy.

NMR.1069
Formerly in the collection of Giuseppe de Criscio.
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for a woman named Euhemeria.
1st to 4th century AD
Unknown provenance.

NMR.1070
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for a woman named Sentia Serapias

250–300 AD

Found near Pozzuoli (ancient Puteoli), Italy.

NMR.1071

Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for a man named Aulus Fraucius Carpus and his wife Fraucia Cyrilia.

150–200 AD

Found on the Via Campana, Pozzouli (ancient Puteoli), Italy.

NMR.1072

Formerly in the collection of Giuseppe de Criscio.

Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for a man named Quintus Marius Bassus and his wife Marcia Aeliana.  
1st to 4th century AD  
Unknown provenance.

NMR.1073

Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for a man named Marcus Valerius Hymnus. 200–250 AD

Found on the Via Campana, Pozzouli (ancient Puteoli), Italy.

Formerly in the collection of Giuseppe de Criscio.

Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for a woman named Junia Theodote.
3rd century AD
Found at Pendio Sant'Elmo, Pozzouli (ancient Puteoli), Italy.

NMR.1076
Formerly in the collection of Giuseppe de Criscio.
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856-58.
Roman funerary monument for a man named Julius Alexander
1st to 4th century AD
Unknown provenance.

NMR.1077
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for a girl named Laudicia.
125–175 AD
Unknown provenance

NMR.1078
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.

D[IS] M[ANIBVS]
HERMES ET
LAUDICIA PARENTES CARIS
SIMI FECERVNT
LAUDICIAE FILIAE
SVAE DVLCISSIMAE
D[IEBVS] II

TO THE GUARDIAN SPIRITS OF THE
UNDERWORLD
HERMES AND LAUDICIA
[HER] MOST LOVING PARENTS MADE THIS
FOR LAUDICIA
THEIR SWEETEST DAUGHTER
WHO LIVED 5 YEARS 6 MONTHS 2 DAYS
Roman funerary monument for a woman named Flavia Maximilla.  
1st to 4th century AD  
Found at Miseno (ancient Misenum), Italy.

NMR.1079
Formerly in the collection of Giuseppe de Criscio.  
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
D[IS] M[ANIBVS]
C[AIOS] RVTILIO RVFVS
VIXIT ANNIS XIII
MENS[IBVS] III DIEB[VS] XII
C[AIOS] RVTILIVS RVFVS
PATER FILIO FECIT

TO THE GUARDIAN SPIRITS OF THE UNDERWORLD
FOR GAIUS RUTILIUS RUFUS
WHO LIVED 14 YEARS
3 MONTHS 12 DAYS
GAIUS RUTILIUS RUFUS
HIS FATHER MADE THIS FOR HIS SON

Roman funerary monument for a boy named Gaius Rutilius Rufus.
275–325 AD
Found at Baia (ancient Baiae), Italy.

NMR.1080
Formerly in the collection of Giuseppe de Criscio.
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for a man named Marcus Lollius Primitius.
1st to 4th century AD
Found at Miseno (ancient Misenum), Italy.

NMR.1081
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.

TO THE GUARDIAN SPIRITS OF THE
UNDERWORLD
MARCUS LOLLIUS PRIMITIUS
A NATIVE ITALIAN WHO LIVED
35 YEARS AND SERVED AS A SAILOR
FOR 7 YEARS 10 DAYS
VALERIA PRIMILIA MADE THIS
FOR HER WELL DESERVING HUSBAND
Roman funerary monument for a woman named Margaris.
150–200 AD
Found on the Via Campana, Pozzouli (ancient Puteoli), Italy.
NMR.1082
Formerly in the collection of Giuseppe de Criscio.
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.

D[IS] M[ANIBVS]
MARGARI
DI CONIV
GI MEREN
TI C[AIUS] IVL[IVS]
HERMEROS

TO THE GUARDIAN SPIRITS OF THE
UNDERWORLD
FOR MARGARIS
HIS DESERVING WIFE,
GAIUS JULIUS
HERMEROS [MADE THIS]
Roman funerary monument for a man named Gaius Julius Petronianus.
1st to 4th century AD
Found near Pozzouli (ancient Puteoli), Italy.

NMR.1083
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.

D[IS] M[ANIBVS] C[AIUO]
IVLI[O] PETRONIANI EX
LIB[URNA] ARMATA
XLV MIL[ITAVIT] AN[NIS] XXII
C[AIUS] LONGINVS CLEMENS III

TO THE GUARDIAN SPIRITS OF THE
UNDERWORLD
FOR GAIUS JULIUS PETRONIANUS
OF THE LIBURNA ‘ARMATA’
A NATIVE OF EGYPT WHO LIVED
45 YEARS AND SERVED FOR 22 YEARS
HIS HEIR GAIUS LONGINUS CLEMENS
OF THE TRIREME FORTUNA
MADE THIS FOR HIM WELL DESERVING
Roman funerary monument for a man named Gaius Julius Resus.
1st to 4th century AD
Provenance unknown.

NMR.1084
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856-58.

D[IS] M[ANIBVS]
C[AI]O IVLIO RESO MANIP[VLARI]
EX III FIDE NAT[O] BESS[I]
BIXIT AN[NI]S LV MILIT[AVIT] AN[NIS] XII
M[ARCVS] RUFINVS AVCTVS

TO THE GUARDIAN SPIRITS OF THE UNDERWORLD
FOR GAIUS JULIUS RESUS
A SAILOR ON THE TRIREME 'FIDES'
A NATIVE OF THE BESSI [A THRACIAN]
WHO LIVED 55 YEARS
AND SERVED 12 YEARS
MARCUS RUFINUS AUCTUS
HIS HEIR MADE THIS FOR HIM
WELL DESERVING
Roman funerary monument for a man named Marcus Quinctius Gaius, his wife Flavia Urbana and their unnamed freedmen and women.

1st to 4th century AD

Unknown provenance

NMR.1085

Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for a woman named Julia Eutychis.
1st to 4th century AD
Found at Pozzuoli (ancient Puteoli), Italy.

NMR.1086
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for a man named Aulus Terentius Augrinus.
150–250 AD
Found on the Via Campana, Pozzouli (ancient Puteoli), Italy.

NMR.1087
Formerly in the collection of Giuseppe de Criscio.
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for a woman named Plutiala Procula. 
1st to 4th century AD 
Unknown provenance. 

NMR.1088

Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for a man named Lucius Trebius Atemidorus.
1st to 4th century AD
Unknown provenance

NMR.1089

Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for the unnamed son of Tyche
1st to 4th century AD
Found on the Via Latina, near Rome, Italy.

NMR.1090
Formerly in the collection of Giambattista Guidi.
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.

[ENTHADE KEI]MAI
ZEAS[EN THNETOIS] KYKLOUS PI
SYRO[N LYL]ABANTON
KAI MENES HIER[E]S HEX EPI
TOISI KYKLOUS
ALL ETI NEPIACHON ME TYCHE
KATETHEKATO METER
TOID ENI LAINEOI TUMBOI ME
GA PENTHOS ECHOUSA

HERE I LIE
HAVING LIVED AMONG MEN DURING THE
CYCLES OF FOUR YEARS
AND IN ADDITION TO THEM SIX
CYCLES OF THE HOLY MOON
BUT WHILE I WAS STILL A CHILD
MY MOTHER TYCHE LAID ME
IN THIS STONE TOMB
SUFFERING GREAT GRIEF
TO THE GUARDIAN SPIRITS OF THE UNDERWORLD
FOR FELIX
THE SWEETEST CHILD
HIS NURSE [MADE THIS]
FOR THE SAKE OF HIS MEMORY

*The θ (theta) at the beginning of the last line, its roots in the word thanatos, has probably been added at a later date to signify that felix is now dead.
Roman funerary stele for a girl named Setonia Omfale.
1st to 4th century AD
Provenance unknown.

NMR.1092

Formerly in the collection of Giambattista Guidi.
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for a woman named Gellia Ias.
2nd to 3rd centuries AD
Found at Miseno (ancient Misenum), Italy.

NMR.1093
Formerly in the collection of Giuseppe de Criscio.
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for a boy named Primus.

1st to 4th century AD

Found near on the Via Domitiana near Pozzouli (ancient Puteoli), Italy.

NMR.1094

Formerly in the collection of Giuseppe de Criscio.

Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for a man named Marcus Caecilius Primion and his wife Aiutrix.
1st to 4th century AD
Found on the Via Campana near Pozzouli (ancient Puteoli), Italy.

NMR.1095
Formerly in the collection of Giuseppe de Criscio.
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for a man named Alexander.
1st to 4th century AD
Found in the Villa of the Quintili, Italy.

NMR.1096
Formerly in the collection of Giambattista Guidi.
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
TO THE SPIRITS OF THE UNDERWORLD
FOR MARCUS MARIUS CELSUS
A SAILOR ON THE TRIREME ATHENONICE
A NATIVE OF THE BESSI (A THRACIAN)
WHO LIVED 45 YEARS AND SERVED
27 YEARS
LUCIUS VALERIUS BUCCI
MADE THIS [FOR HIM] DESERVEDLY
Roman funerary monument for a man named Hermes.
2nd to 4th century AD
Found near Naples, Italy.

NMR.1098
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for a man named Anicius Hermes and a woman named Pompeia Cytherides.

1st to 4th century AD.

Found at Miseno (ancient Misenum), Italy.

NMR.1099

Formerly in the collection of Giuseppe de Criscio.

Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for a baby boy named Arrius Romanus.
1st to 4th century AD
Found at Miseno (ancient Misenum), Italy.

NMR.1100
Formerly in the collection of Giuseppe de Criscio.
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for a woman named Herbula Protia.
1st to 4th century AD
Unknown provenance.

NMR.1101
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for a woman named Beriola.
1st to 4th century AD
Found at Baia (ancient Baiae), Italy.

NMR.1102
Formerly in the collection of Giuseppe de Criscio.
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for a woman named Junia Secunda.
1st to 4th century AD
Unknown provenance.

NMR.1103
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.

TO THE GUARDIAN SPIRITS OF THE UNDERWORLD
MARCUS JUNIUS (FLOR)ENTINUS AND JUNIA FELICITAS MADE THIS FOR JUNIA SECUNDA THEIR WELL DESERVING PATRON AND FOR THEMSELVES AND FOR THEIR DESCENDENTS
Roman funerary monument for a man named Aulus Ammonius
1st to 4th century AD
Unknown provenance

NMR.1104
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856-58.
Roman funerary monument for a baby boy named Domitus Heraclianus.  
1st to 4th century AD  
Found at Miseno (ancient Misenum), Italy.

NMR.II05  
Formerly in the collection of Giuseppe de Criscio.  
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for a woman named Asclepiod...

1st to 4th century AD

Unknown provenance.

NMR.1106

Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.

Dis (Manibvs)
Asclepiod... Erm
Odori filiae Nicome
Desse vix(it) an(nis) XXX
Frat er bene m(erenti) f(ecit)

To the Guardian Spirits of the Underworld
For Asclepiod(?)
The Daughter of Ermidorus from Nicomedia(?)
Who lived 30 years
Her brother made this [for her being]
WELL DESERVING
Roman funerary monument for a woman named Ursena Creste
175–225 AD
Found near Pozzouli (ancient Puteoli), Italy.

NMR.1107
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for a girl named Phlegoste.
1st to 4th century AD
Unknown provenance.

NMR.II08
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for two men named Aulus Terentius and Marcus Lucis Flavianus.
1st to 4th century AD
Unknown provenance.

NMR.1109
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for a girl named Vitellia Felicitas
300–400 AD.
Found at Pozzouli (ancient Puteoli), Italy.

NMR.1110
Formerly in the collection of Giuseppe de Criscio.
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for a man named Onesimus.
1st to 4th century AD
Unknown provenance.

NMR.III
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for a man named Marcus Octavius Eusebius Gemellus.

1st to 4th century AD

Found on the Via Domitiana near Solfatara, Italy.

NMR.1112

Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for a woman named Laelia Priscilla.
200–225 AD
Found in a tomb on the Via Cumana, Pozzouli (ancient Puteoli), Italy.

NMR.1113
Formerly in the collection of Giuseppe de Criscio.
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for a woman named Heleae Agrippinae.
1st to 4th century AD
Found at Miseno (ancient Misenum), Italy.

NMR.1115
Formerly in the collection of Giuseppe de Criscio.
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for a man named Quintus Aemilius Trophimus.  
1st to 4th century AD  
Unknown provenance.  

NMR.1116  
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for a man named Tiberius Claudius Amianthus.
50 - 100 AD
Found near a monument in the Vigna Codini (columbarium), between the Via Appia and the Via Latina near Rome, Italy.

NMR.1118
Excavated by J.P. Campana in 1840.
Acquired by Giambattista Guidi after 1840.
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856-58.
Roman funerary monument for a girl named Felicitas.
1st to 4th century AD
From Miseno (ancient Misenum), Italy.

NMR.1120
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.
Roman funerary monument for a man named Diogenes.
Written in ancient Greek.
200–250 AD
From Miseno (ancient Misenum), Italy.

NMR.1121
Purchased by Sir Charles Nicholson in Naples, 1858.
Roman funerary stele for a boy named Gaius Julius Petronianus
1st to 4th century AD
From Miseno (ancient Misenum), Italy.

NMR.II22
Purchased by Sir Charles Nicholson in Naples, 1858.
Roman funerary monument for a girl named Felicitas.
1st to 4th century AD
From Miseno (ancient Misenum), Italy.

NMR.1123
Purchased by Sir Charles Nicholson in Naples, 1858.
Roman funerary monument for a man named Marcus Julius Apuleius.
1st to 4th century AD
From Miseno (ancient Misenum), Italy.

NMR.1124

Purchased by Sir Charles Nicholson in Naples, 1858.
Roman funerary monument for a man named Gaius Gentius Valens.
98–117 AD
From Miseno (ancient Misenum), Italy.

NMR.1125
Formerly in the collection of Giuseppe de Criscio.
Acquired by Sir Charles Nicholson in Italy, 1856–58.

TO THE GUARDIAN SPIRITS OF THE UNDERWORLD
FOR GAIUS GENTIUS VALENS A SAILOR IN THE PRAETORIAN FLEET AT MISENUM ON THE QUADRIREME 'MINERVA'. FROM DALMATIA HE LIVED 40 YEARS AND SERVED ON THIS [SHIP] 19 YEARS. WELL DESERVING HIS HEIRS TONATIUS SEVERUS AND METTIUS SEVERUS [MADE THIS]
Appendix: A statement from the curators.

The aim of *Memento: Remembering Roman Lives* is to do exactly that, to remember the lives of the individuals named on the Nicholson Museum’s collection of 68 Roman funerary inscriptions.¹ The inscriptions themselves date from the first to fourth centuries AD and record brief glimpses of the relationships, social status, occupations, gender, and ages of a disparate group of people from this period in history.

Two curatorial approaches to the stone inscriptions were necessary in order to achieve this goal.

Firstly, each inscription needed to be transliterated and translated in line with modern standards of Classical Latin and Classical Greek.² Prior to this exhibition, the Roman inscriptions were last examined as part of the second edition of the Handbook of the Nicholson Museum, published in 1948.³ Since then there have been new ways of thinking about Latin in funerary contexts, which have been incorporated into the translations for this exhibition, as well as different interpretations or errors in the original publication corrected.⁴ These new translations are also reflective of the need to modernise elements of the language for the modern museum visitor, highlighting the emotional elements in each inscription to instill a personal and immediate connection between the visitor and the ancient person memorialised.

Secondly, a new way of providing access to the content and engaging audiences with the exhibition needed to be developed. To provide the visitor with the essential information for each object, including transliteration, translation and museum label information (name date, provenance, number, credit line) via traditional museum wall paneling was impractical due to the volume of textual information, the scale necessary for legibility, and the desire for direct engagement. To

¹ The 68 inscriptions are counted as the complete set of inscriptions collected by Sir Charles Nicholson. This includes 66 physical stones, two of which have inscriptions on either side. Only 62 are represented in the catalogue as throughout the research process it was determined that one inscription was a fake and two others were too fragmentary to warrant inclusion. One further urn was not included as it was on display in the Nicholson Museum exhibition 50 Objects 50 stories and included in the exhibition catalogue, published 2012. Due to the physical limitations of the museum, only 51 of the inscriptions were installed in the final exhibition.

² Three of the inscriptions are written in Classical Greek and the rest are in Latin.


⁴ One particular change between the 1948 publication and this exhibition is in the interpretation of inscription numbered NMR.1091 (p.37 of this catalogue). Examination of the lettering suggests that the α ‘theta’ at the beginning of the last line of the inscription was not a part of the original inscription, rather it stands for the word thanatos, meaning death, which would have been added after the individual named became deceased.
resolve this issue an exhibition reflective kiosk was designed with touch screen accessibility. Each page of this catalogue represents an individual page within the kiosk. Navigation between these pages is provided in a visual representation of the exhibition, where users can simply touch on the exhibition section they are interested in and then touch on each individual stone to discover the translation. There is no curatorial narrative directing a visitor to engage with the inscriptions in any particular order. Rather each visitor curates their own experience, by engaging with as many inscriptions and stories as they wish in any order. This approach enables the visitor to develop a more personal connection with the ancient individual memorialised.

Memento: Remembering Roman Lives connects us to the lives of 107 husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, sons, daughters and foster children, naval officers, wrestlers, nurses, patrons, freedwomen, freedmen and slaves.

Michael Turner and Candace Richards

Further reading

Publications


Online resources


5 A kiosk in the museum environment is a digital interface installed in the gallery which is primarily used to convey information to a visitor, usually about the museum or gallery itself, directional information such as floor maps, or exhibition content.