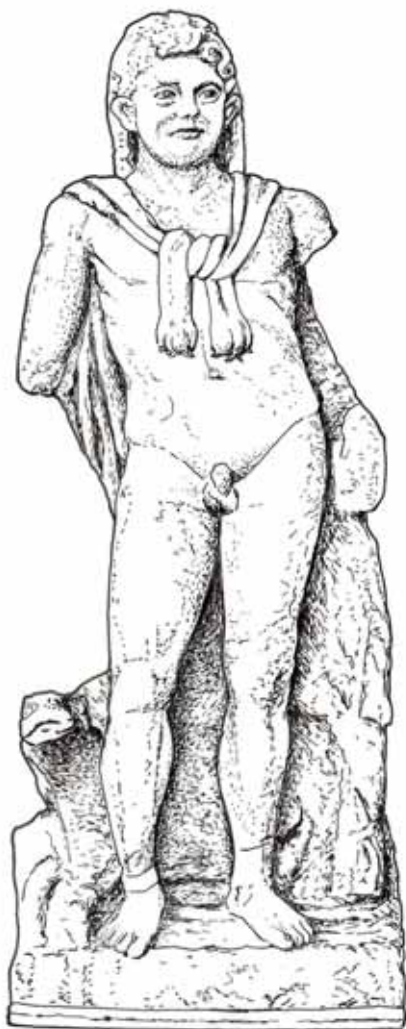


# *The Lapidarium*

Illustrated guide to the exhibits  
in the Lapidarium



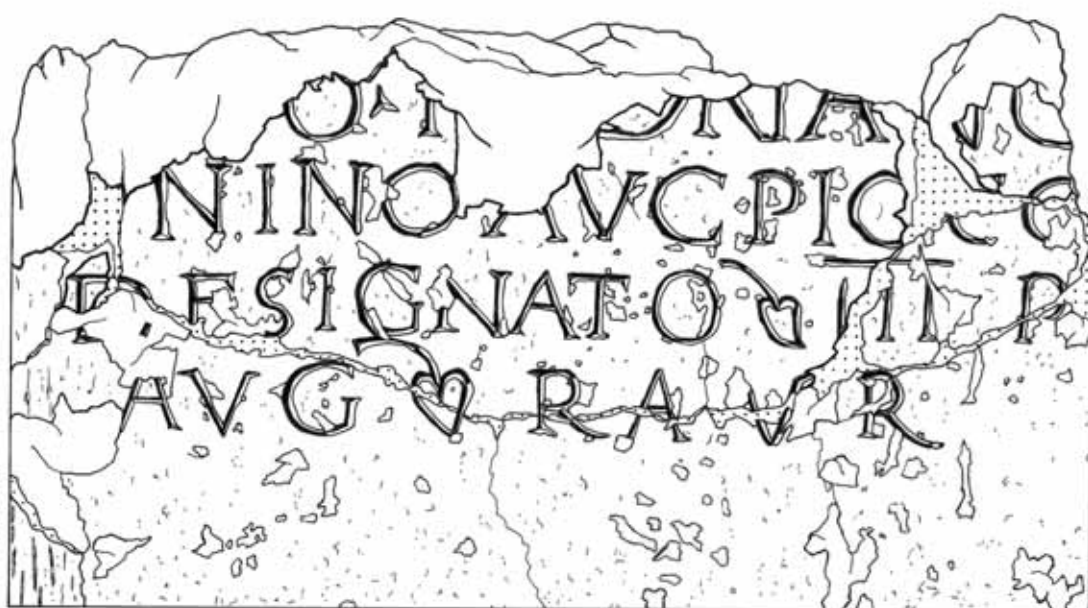
Text: Beat Rütli  
Translation: Isabel Aitken  
Drawings: Felicitas Prescher and Peter Schaad  
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# Illustrated guide to the exhibits in the Lapidarium

These sculptures, architectural monuments, altars, gravestones and inscriptions are only a selection of the most important examples from Augusta Raurica. The majority are made of stone from the immediate neighbourhood.

Not much of the masonry of the Roman town has survived. By the late antique period a lot of the stone was being recycled to build fortifications, and later it was transported to Basel to be used as building material for the growing town.

The exhibition is divided into four sections: stone monuments from religious sites; fragments of buildings; gravestones; and inscriptions. For conservation reasons, the items on display here are replicas.



## Milestone

### *Milestone of Emperor Antoninus Pius*

[IMP.CAES.T]	[Imp(eratori) Caes(ari) T(ito)]
[AELI] O.H[A] DRIANO [AN]	[Aeli]o H[a]driano [An]
[TO] NINO.AVG.PIO.CO[S II]	[to]nino Aug(usto) Pio co(n)[s(uli) II]
DESIGNATO.III P[P]	designato III P(atri) [P(atriae)]
AVG.RAVR	Aug(usta) Raur(ica or -acum)

*To Emperor Titus Aelius Hadrianus Antoninus Augustus Pius, Consul for a second time and designated for a third time, Father of the Fatherland, Augusta Raurica (or Rauracum).*

Milestones flanked the major roads of the Roman Empire. Their purpose was not to give directions but to honour the Emperor and initiator of the road and to give the distance to the next large town. The mile-stone pillars were two to three metres high, a quarter of their height being below ground-level.

This milestone names Augusta Raurica as the administrative centre of the road network, but the usual indication of distance is missing. Perhaps the sole purpose of the stone, set up in the town centre, was to express loyalty to the emperor it names. Milestones giving no information about distance stood, in fact, not in the town centre, but at the edge of the town, from where distances were calculated.

This is the second milestone naming Antoninus Pius to have been discovered in the region of Augst. Perhaps the two stones are an indication of particular road-building activity on the part of this emperor in north-west Switzerland.

139 A. D., limestone, from the edge of the Roman road running along Insula 19, south of the forum in Augst.

*Bibliography:* H. Sütterlin, *Miliaria in Augusta Raurica, Bemerkungen zu den Meilensteinfinden im Bereich der Hohwartstrasse (Grabung 1995.60), Meilenstein 1 des Antoninus Pius, Jahresberichte aus Augst und Kaiseraugst 17 (Augst 1996) 81f. and fig. 15.21, 1a.b ; L. Berger, *Testimonien für die Namen von Augst und Kaiseraugst von den Anfängen bis zum Ende des ersten Jahrtausends, Gesicherte und wahrscheinliche Testimonien, Vol. 6: Augusta Raurica oder Rauracum, in: P.-A. Schwarz and L. Berger, Tituli Rauracenses 1, Testimonien und Aufsätze, Zu den Namen und ausgewählten Inschriften von Augst und Kaiseraugst, Forschungen in Augst 29 (Augst 2000) 23f. and 87–91 and fig. 8–10.**

*Object numbers:* 1995.60.D02331.1,2,3; 1995.60.D02341.1; 1995.60.D02345.2; 1995.60.D02423.1; 1995.60.D02703.2.



## Sacred Monuments

### *An inscription with a dedication to Mercury*

MERCVRIO	Mercurio
AVGVSTO . SACR	Augusto sacr(um)
L . CILTIVS . CELTIL	L(ucius) Ciltius Cetil
LI F QVIRINA . COS	li f(ilius) Quirina (tribu) Cos
SVS I[IIII]I VIR . AVG . L . D . D . D .	sus I[IIII]I vir Aug(ustalis) l(ocus) d(atus) d(ecreto) d(ecurionum)

*Dedicated to Mercury Augustus by Lucius Ciltus Cossus, son of Celtillus, member of the Quirina, one of the Imperial Six. The site (for the inscription) was made available by decision of the town council.*

Lucius Ciltius Cossus was of native Celtic descent, as the name of his father, Celtillus, betrays. He was a member of the college of six men responsible for overseeing observance of the Imperial Cult. This office was usually reserved for freed slaves who had made their fortune. It could be gained by making donations for the public good and entitled the office-holder to a seat of honour in the theatre.

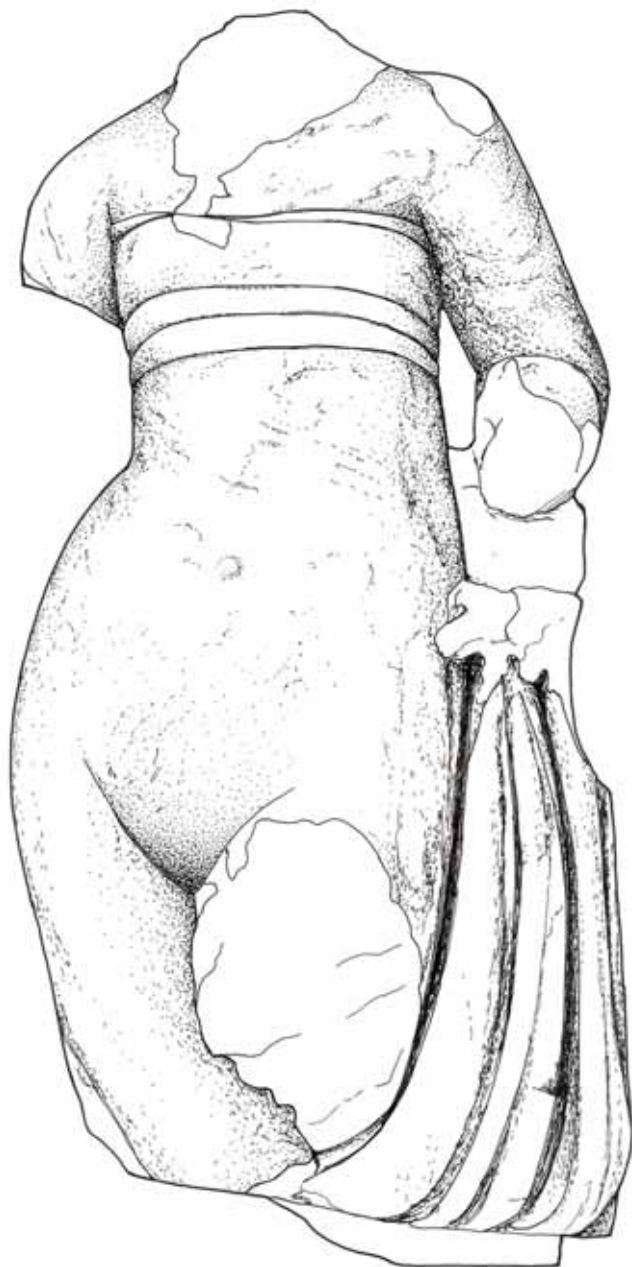
The inscription names the donor as a member of the Quirina. He must therefore have been a Roman citizen; the Quirina was the Roman civic division to which all new citizens in Augusta Raurica belonged. It was exceptional for Cossus, as a Roman citizen, to be one of the Imperial Six. Perhaps his father had been a freed slave.

The inscription stone was reused as building material for one of the fortress towers in Kaiseraugst. The inscription has been picked out in paint in modern times.

50–150 A. D., limestone, from the foundation of one of the fortress towers in Kaiseraugst.

*Bibliography: L. Berger, Führer durch Augusta Raurica (Augst 1998<sup>6</sup>), 24 with fig. 12.*

*Object number: 1906.1151*





## *Venus*

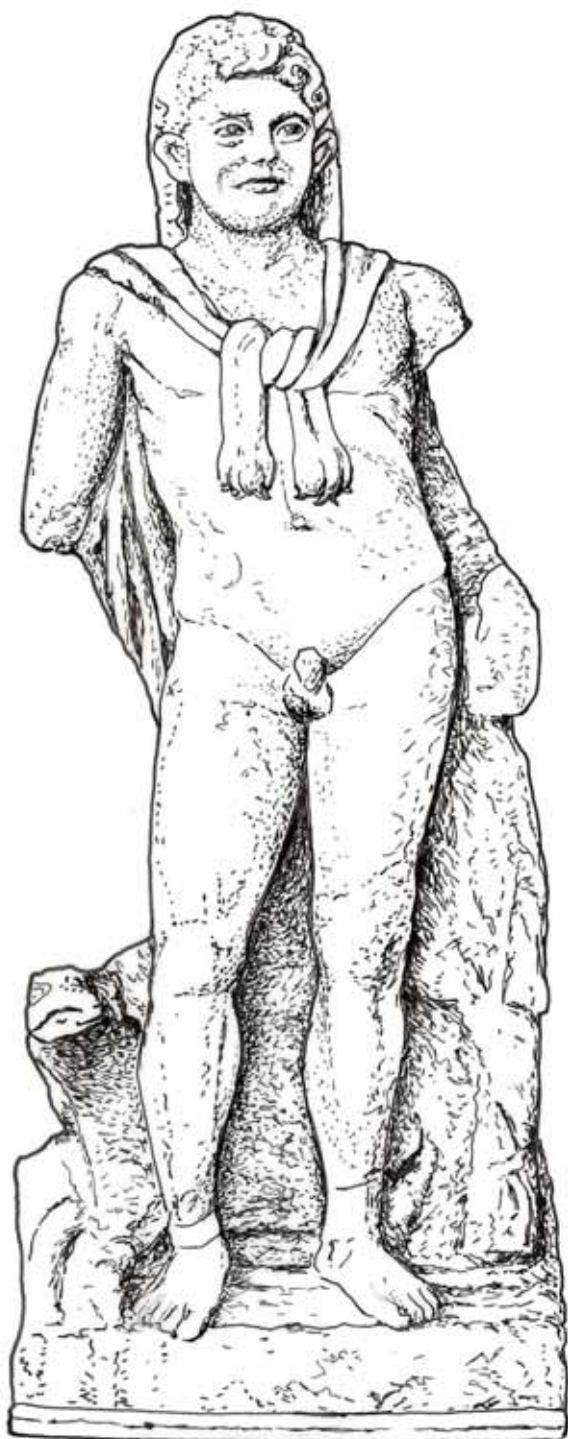
The goddess of love, naked except for a band around her breast, leans against a pillar over which her robe is laid. The flat body of the statue, with its rather stiff and lifeless look, is typical of provincial Roman sculpture of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century A. D.

The little statue, which was originally painted, may have been set in a garden or in the baths. It was found reused as building material, built into the foundations of the late-Roman fortress wall in Kaiseraugst.

200–260 A. D., limestone, from the foundations of the fortress wall in Kaiseraugst.

*Bibliography: C. Bossert-Radtke, Die figürlichen Reliefs und Rundskulpturen aus Augst und Kaiseraugst, Forschungen in Augst 16 (Augst 1992) 23f. and plate. 5.*

*Object number: 1958.12110*



## *Hercules with the Hound of Hell*

This statue shows Hercules after his victory over Cerberus, the Hound of Hell, who kept guard over the underworld. After numerous heroic deeds, Hercules was given immortality by the gods and raised to the status of a god himself. He has a powerful, slightly stocky body and is wearing a lion's pelt, which hangs down his back and is knotted on his chest. The lion's head frames his head like a hood. Originally he was leaning with his left hand on a large club propped at his side. The tamed Hound of Hell lies beside him with its teeth bared and its ears laid back.

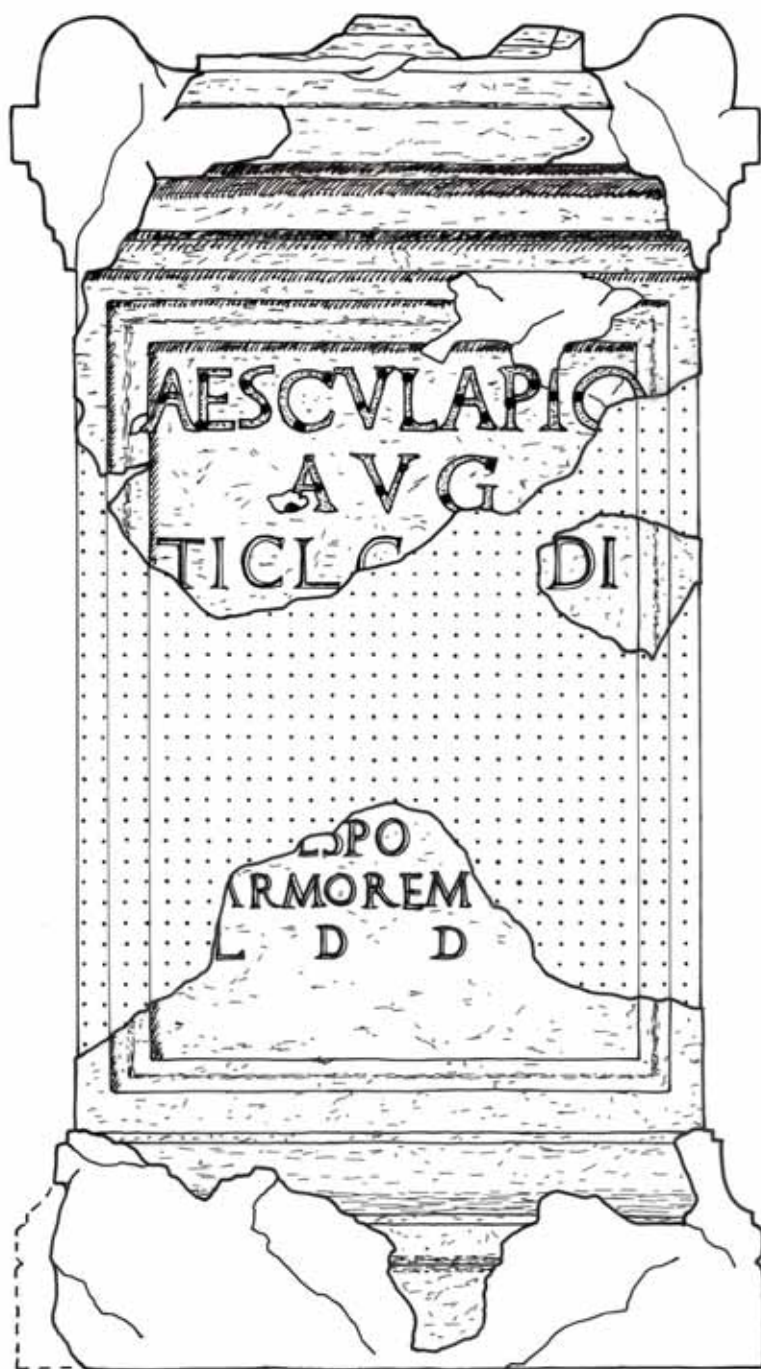
Statues of Hercules in the round are rare in the western provinces of the Roman Empire. This Hercules is one of the most outstanding finds of statuary in Augusta Raurica.

As the god of trade, profit, strength and the curing of diseases, his statue stood as a votive offering or an object of worship in the sacred precincts of the Grienmatt shrine.

2<sup>nd</sup> century A. D., limestone, from the area of the Grienmatt shrine in Augst.

*Bibliography: C. Bossert-Radtke, Die figürlichen Reliefs und Rundskulpturen aus Augst und Kaiseraugst, Forschungen in Augst 16 (Augst 1992) 50–52 and plates. 19–20.*

*Object number: 1924.128*



## *An altar consecrated to Asclepius*

<i>AESCVLAPIO</i>	Aesculapio
<i>AVG</i>	Aug(usto)
<i>TI CL CL[AV]DI</i>	Ti(berius) Cl(audius) Cl[au]di
[ANVS ---]	[anus ---]
[---]	[---]
[ARAM SIGNA ET]	[aram signa et]
BAS]ES POSV[IT ET]	[bas]es posu[it et]
[M]ARMORE MV[NIVIT]	[m]armore mu[nivit]
L D D[D]	l(ocus) d(atus) d(ecreto) [d(ecurionum)]

*Tiberius Claudius Claudianus(?) ... has had an altar, statues and bases erected to Asclepius Augustus, and executed in marble. The site was made available by decision of the town council.*

Asclepius, the god of healing, to whom the altar is dedicated, was seldom worshipped in the region of Augusta Raurica. His epithet, “Augustus”, “the exalted one”, used as a title for the Roman emperors, shows that the cult of the emperor was very important in the provinces.

The donor’s name, Tiberius Claudius Claudianus, tells us that he can only have received Roman citizenship under the emperors Claudius (*Tiberius Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus*) or Nero (*Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus*) at the earliest.

Probably Tiberius Claudius had the altar erected in thanks for a recovery from illness. The fact that the town council made the site available for the stone to be erected suggests that the donor must have been an important person in Augusta Raurica. Further indications of this are the good quality of the stonemasonry and the bronze – and perhaps gilded – lettering with which the inscription was once inlaid: the first two lines have chiselled right-angled slots and bore-holes to take the now missing bronze letters.

50–100 A. D., so-called Solothurn marble, from the former temple-forecourt in the Grienmatt in Augst.

*Bibliography:* P.-A. Schwarz, *Inscriptiones Selectae Coloniae Augustae Rauricorum, Ausgewählte Inschriften aus Augst und Kaiseraugst, Choix d’Inscriptions d’Augst et Kaiseraugst, Augster Blätter zur Römerzeit* 6 (Augst 1988) 22f. and fig. 10.

*Object numbers:* 1914.218; 1914.219; 1914.616 (=219a); 1914.617.



## Funerary Monuments

### *Eustata's gravestone*

<i>DM</i>	D(is) M(anibus)
<i>ET MEMORIE AE</i>	et memori(a)e ae
<i>TERNE EVSSTATE</i>	tern<a>e Eusstat<a>e
<i>CONIVGI DVLCI</i>	coniugi dulci
<i>SSIME QVI VISIT</i>	ssim<a>e qui visit
<i>A[NN]O[S] LXV</i>	a[nn]o[s] LXV
<i>AMATVS</i>	Amatus
<i>POSVIT</i>	posuit

*To the Manes and the eternal memory of Eustata, the sweetest of wives, who lived for 65 years. (Her husband) Amatus erected (this stone).*

This gravestone is believed to be one of the oldest pieces of evidence for Christianity in the area of present-day Switzerland. The image in the pediment can be interpreted as an anchor, which in Christian art was a symbol of constancy and hope.

The anchor symbol and the names of Eustata “the steadfast one”, and Amatus, “one who is loved (by God)” suggest that the dead woman was a Christian, despite the dedication to the Manes, the spirits of the dead.

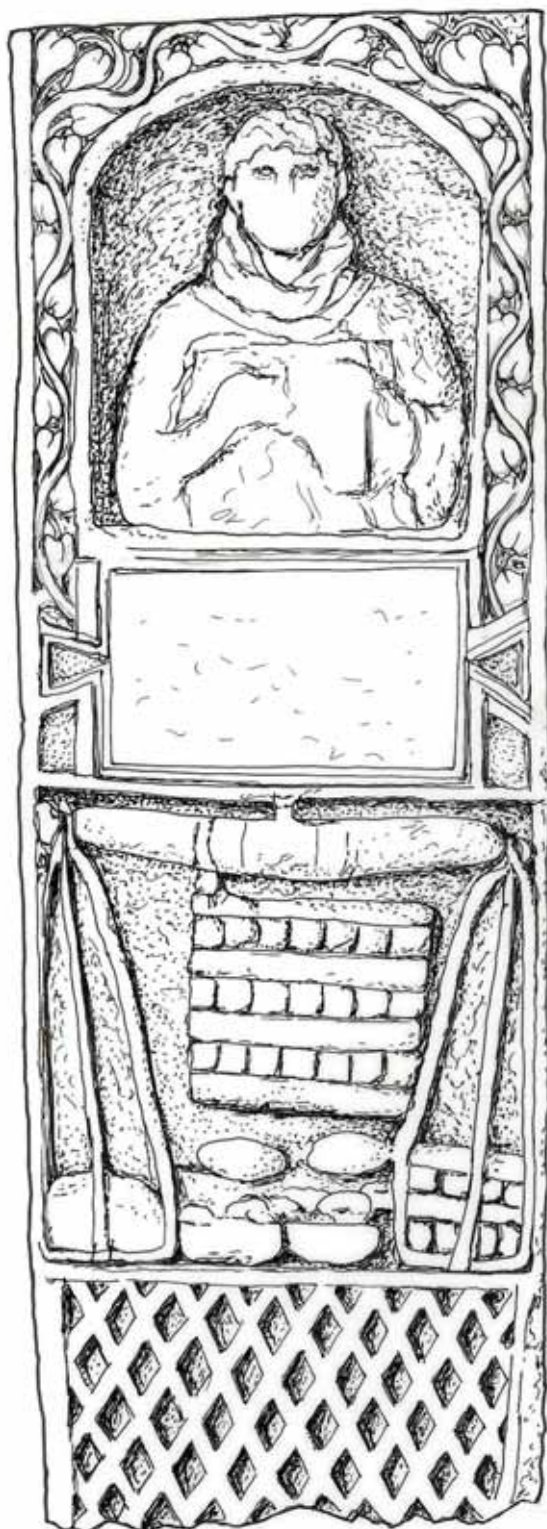
It was quite common to find pagan and Christian concepts juxtaposed in late antiquity.

300–350 A. D., red sandstone, from the so-called older fortress necropolis in Kaiseraugst.

*Bibliography: W. Boppert, Formularuntersuchungen zu lateinischen Grabinschriften aus Augusta Raurica, in : -P.-A. Schwarz and L. Berger (Eds.), Tituli Rauracenses I, Testimonien und Aufsätze, Zu den Namen und ausgewählten Inschriften von Augst und Kaiseraugst, Forschungen in Augst 29 (Augst 2000) 107-113. -P.-A. Schwarz, Zur “Topographie chrétienne” von Kaiseraugst (AG) i 4 bis 9. Jahrhundert, Zeitschrift für Schweizerische Archäologie und Kunstgeschichte 59, Issue 3 2002, 155.*

*Object number: 1949.1505*







## *A Merchant's Gravestone*

In the upper section of this massive tombstone, in an ivy-wreathed niche, is a portrait of the dead man, wearing a hooded cloak and holding a writing tablet in his hands. Below is the inscription tablet where painted letters once explained whose grave it was.

The lower part of the gravestone illustrates the dead man's profession: above a folding grille, iron bars stacked in layers and a pair of scales identify him as an iron merchant.

The large and richly decorated tombstone shows that the merchant in this self-assured portrait was one of the wealthy inhabitants of Augusta Raurica.

The custom of erecting stone monuments to the dead along the arterial roads was introduced in the north only with the Roman occupation. This gravestone combines native and Roman elements: the deceased man wears a Celtic hooded cloak, but has chosen a Roman type of burial. This is one of only a few representations of native civilians in the area of present-day Switzerland.

The gravestone was once surmounted by a pediment and stood in a cemetery on the road leading to Basel.

70–100 A. D., limestone, on the road to Basel near to the Ergolz bridge in Augst.

*Bibliography: C. Bossert-Radtke, Die figürlichen Reliefs und Rundskulpturen aus Augst und Kaiseraugst, Forschungen in Augst 16 (Augst 1992) 95-97 and plates. 48-51.*

*Object number: 1894.477*



### *The tombstone of Attius Severus*

<i>D . M</i>	D(is) M(anibus)
<i>M . ATTIO .</i>	M(arco) Attio
<i>SEVERO .</i>	Severo
<i>SEVERIA</i>	Severia
<i>NVS . FIL .</i>	nus fil(ius)

*To the Manes. For Marcus Attius Severus (his) son Severianus (has erected this stone).*

In the pediment is a recumbent crescent moon. It is an expression of the belief that the souls of the dead rise up to the stars.

The economically formulated inscription names the deceased according to Roman custom by his first name, family name and byname. His son, Severianus, on the other hand, does not refer to himself as a member of the Attius clan. He follows the indigenous custom of deriving his family name from the byname of his father. In the course of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, the Roman name system gradually fell into disuse: it is no longer obligatory to call a man by all three names.

The stone, which originally marked a grave on an arterial road, was given a second use as the covering of a drain in the fortress of Kaiseraugst.

150–200 A. D., red sandstone, from a drain in the fortress in Kaiseraugst.

*Bibliography: P.-A. Schwarz, Inscriptiones Selectae Coloniae Augustae Rauricorum, Ausgewählte Inschriften aus Augst und Kaiseraugst, Choix d'Inscriptions d'Augst et Kaiseraugst, Augster Blätter zur Römerzeit 6 (Augst 1988) 6f. with fig. 2.*

*Object number: 1976.8537*



### *The gravestone of Dannicus*

<i>DANNICVS . EQES . ALAE</i>	Dannicus eq(u)es alae
<i>INDIAN . TVR . ALBANI</i>	Indian(ae) tur(ma) Albani
<i>STIP . XVI CIVES . RAVR .</i>	stip(endiorum) XVI cives Raur(icus)
<i>CVR . FVLVIVS . NATALIS . IT</i>	cur(averunt) Fulvius Natalis it
<i>F[LAV]IVSBITVCVS . EX . TESTAME</i>	F[lav]ius Bitucus ex testame(nto)
<i>HSE</i>	h(ic) s(itus) e(st)

*Dannicus, cavalry soldier in the unit commanded by Indus, from the squadron of Albanus, with 16 years of service, of the Raurica tribe. Fulvius Natalis and Flavius Bitucus took care (to erect this gravestone) according to his last will. He lies buried here.*

The gravestone of the deceased Dannicus is one of the few pieces of evidence we have of a native Raurican, a soldier who originally came from the region of Augusta Raurica.

Dannicus was an ordinary soldier in a cavalry regiment and at the time of his death, after 16 years of service, was stationed in Corinium Dobunnorum, the present-day Cirencester, in Great Britain.

The gravestone shows Dannicus on horseback, wearing a decorated helmet, chainmail and sword, riding over a fallen enemy with his lance poised.

50–70 A. D., from Corinium-Cirencester, Great Britain.

*Bibliography: Collingwood and Wright, The Roman Inscriptions of Britain I. Inscriptions on Stone (Oxford 1995) 32f. and plate III, 108.*

*The original gravestone is in the Corinium Museum in Cirencester.*



## Building monuments

### *Corinthian capital*

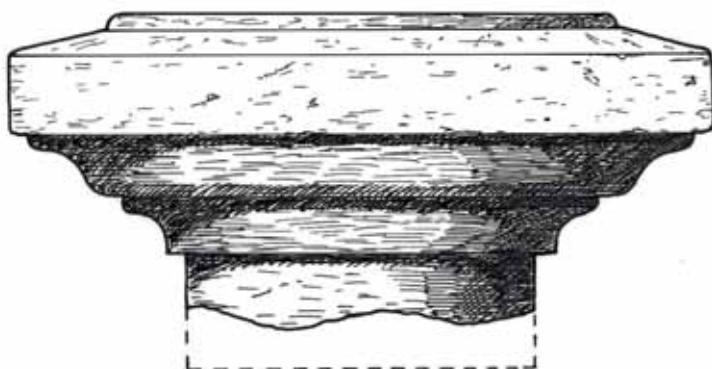
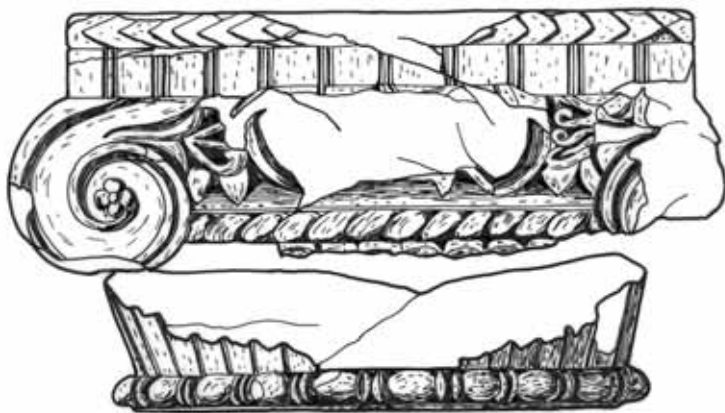
Capitals with decorative elements taken from the plant kingdom, in the form of serrated and feathered leaves growing out of the shaft of the column, were predominant in Roman architecture. Columns of this so-called “Corinthian order” adorned grand public buildings, especially the large temples. The shafts of the columns were smooth or fluted. In Augusta Raurica, the temple on Schönbühl and the Grienmatt shrine were probably adorned with Corinthian columns.

The column displayed here has been badly fragmented. It was reused as building material in the late-Roman period. For this reason, we cannot say for certain whether this fragment actually belonged originally to a Corinthian capital or rather to a composite capital, in which plant motifs were combined with other decorative elements. The forum temple probably had composite capitals.

1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> century A. D., limestone, from an unknown find site in Augusta Raurica.

*Bibliography: M. Trunk, Römische Tempel in den Rhein- und westlichen Donauprovinzen, Ein Beitrag zur architekturgeschichtlichen Einordnung römischer Sakralbauten in Augst, Forschungen in Augst 14 (Augst 1991) 104–120.*

*Object number: 1906.177A*





### *Composite capital*

Capitals where the decoration combines plant motifs with scroll-like elements are called ionicising composite capitals.

The distinctive spiral volutes on either side are typical of the Ionic order of pillars, adopted from the Greeks, while foliage is typical of Corinthian architecture.

Splendid pillars like these, with fluted shafts, adorned grand public buildings and temples. The capital on display here probably belonged to the basilica, the magnificent hall on the forum used for hearing legal cases and conducting business.

1<sup>st</sup> century A. D., limestone, from the area of the basilica in Augst.

*Bibliography: M. Trunk, Römische Tempel in den Rhein- und westlichen Donauprovinzen, Ein Beitrag zur architekturgeschichtlichen Einordnung römischer Sakralbauten in Augst, Forschungen in Augst 14 (Augst 1991) 120–125 and fig. 60.*

*Object number: 1904.172*

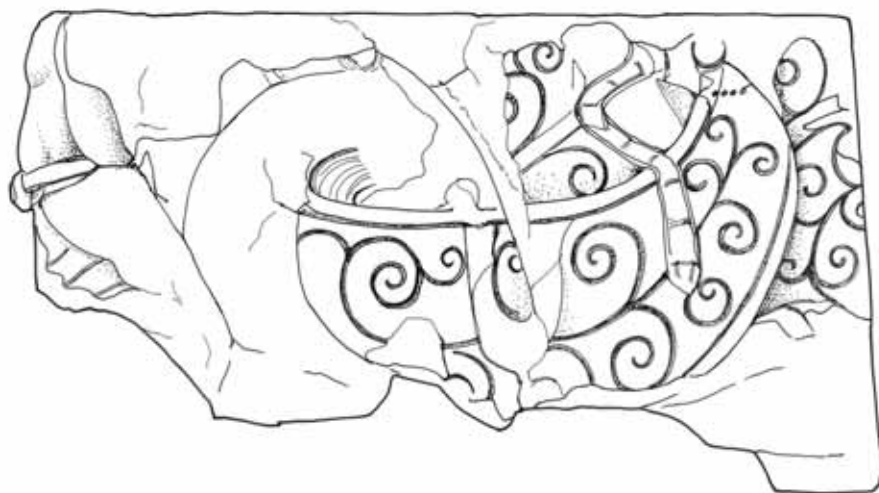
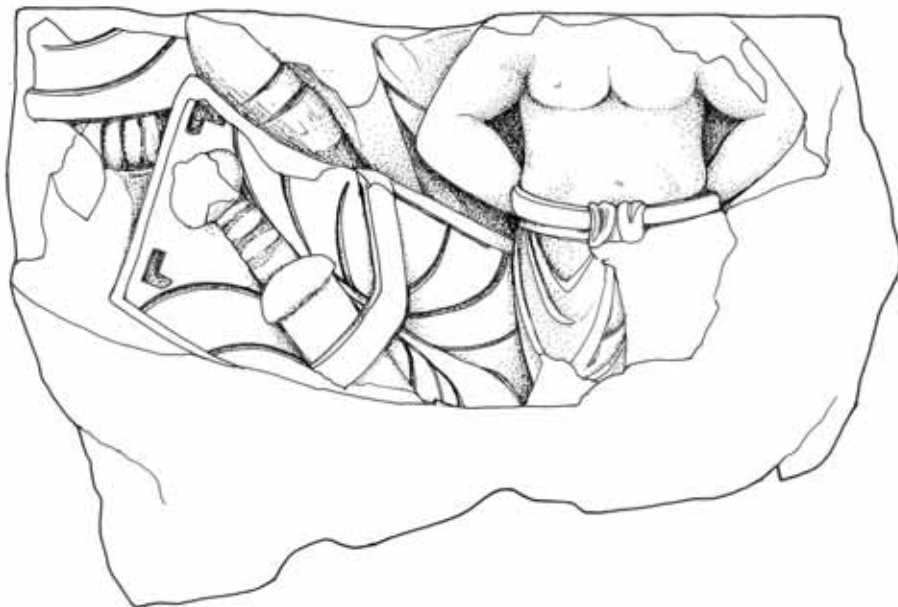
### *Tuscan capital*

The capitals of so-called Tuscan pillars have a simple decoration of convex moulding and grooves. This architectural form is related to the Grecian Doric order, but comes from Italy. The shafts of the Tuscan pillar are not fluted but smooth.

Tuscan pillars were very common in Augusta Raurica, especially in private houses. Today you can see copies in the reconstructed Roman House.

1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> century A. D., limestone, from an unknown find site in Augusta Raurica.

*No object number*



### *Weapon frieze from a victory monument*

The corner block shows a fettered man. To his left are a shield and a short sword.

To his right, round the corner, a so-called Amazon shield with a tendril motif and the upper part of a curved Celtic trumpet are depicted.

The block next to it is decorated with shields, bundles of arrows and spear-shafts. The two relief blocks were part of a victory monument; we do not know where in Augusta Raurica it stood.

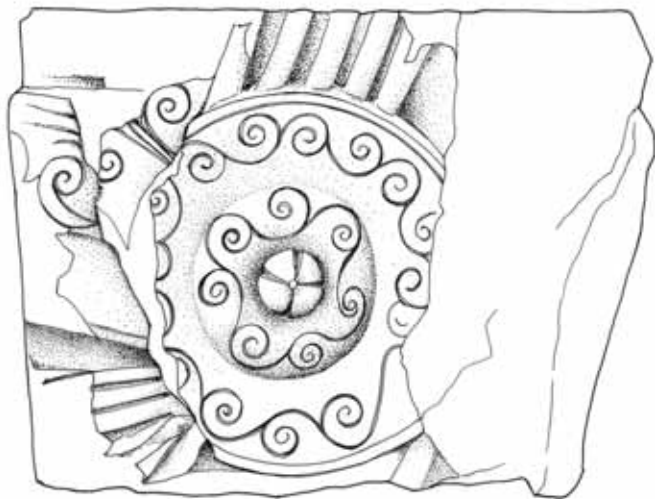
The prisoner, the pelta-shaped Amazon shield and the wind instrument represent the vanquished barbarians. Monuments like this were for propaganda. They illustrated the Roman entitlement to rule and at the same time warned against revolt against Rome.

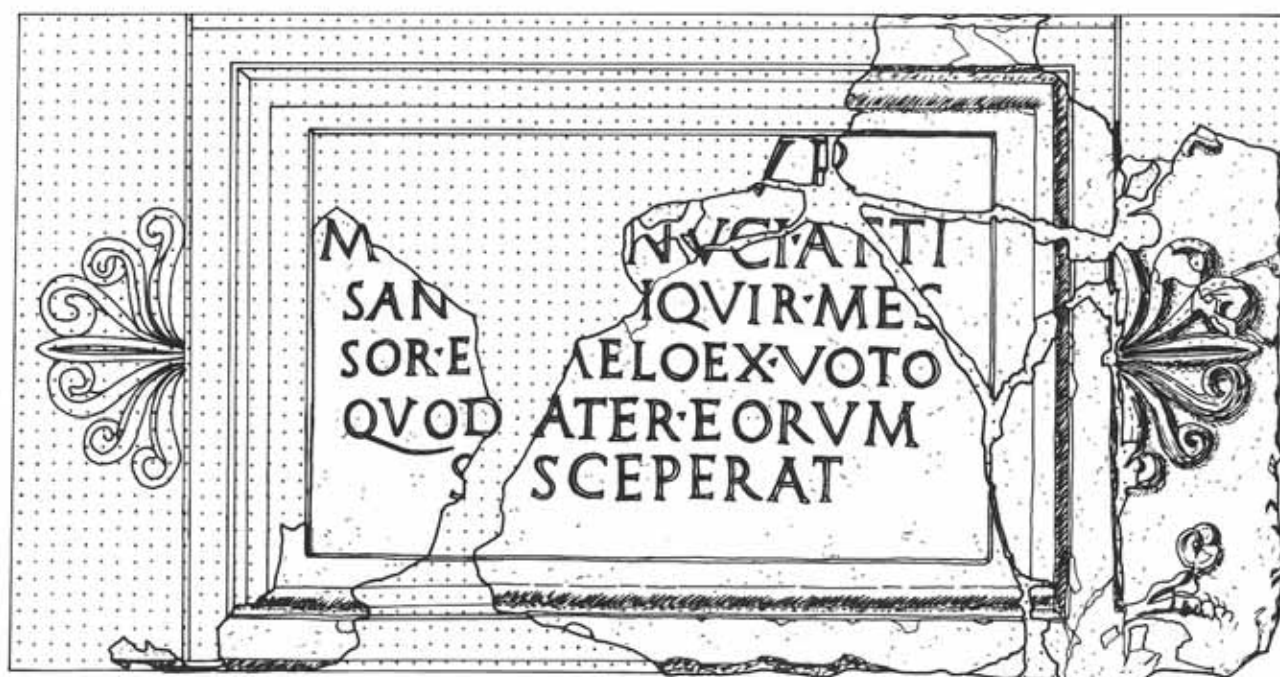
The two blocks were reused to build the foundations of the late-Roman fortress in Kaiseraugst.

70–100 A. D., limestone, from the southern gate of the fortress in Kaiseraugst

*Bibliography: C. Bossert-Radtke, Die figürlichen Reliefs und Rundskulpturen aus Augst und Kaiseraugst, Forschungen in Augst 16 (Augst 1992) 61f., fig. 11 and plates. 27–29.*

*Object numbers: 1933.134.135*





## Inscriptions, building monuments and funeral monuments

### *An inscription with a dedication to Mercury*

[MERC] VR	[Merc]ur(io)
M. [ET . Q . SA]NVC I . ATTI	M(arcus) [et Q(uintus) Sa]nuci Atti
SAN[VCI FIL]I QVIR . MES	San[uci fil]i Quir(ina tribu) Mes
SOR . ET . MELO . EX . VOTO	sor et Melo ex voto
QVOD . PATER . EORVM	quod pater eorum
S[V]SCEPERAT	s[u]sceperat

*To Mercury. Marcus Sanucius Messor and Quintus Sanucius Melo, sons of Attius Sanucus, of the Quirina civic division, to honour a vow made by their father.*

With this dedication to Mercury, the two sons, Marcus and Quintus, fulfilled a vow made by their father. In their choice of names, the two did not follow the Roman custom of keeping their father's family name, Attius. Instead, in the Gallic-Germanic manner, they formed a new name from their father's byname: thus from Sanucus they derived a new family name, Sanucius.

The inscription names the family as members of the Quirina civic division . This was one of 35 divisions of Roman citizens into one of which every Roman citizen was enrolled. All new citizens in Augusta Raurica belonged to the Quirina.

A great deal of this inscription, which is in two fragments, has had to be reconstructed. Originally it must have been a panel from an altar or the base of a statue. It was reused in the 4<sup>th</sup> century as building material for two fortress towers in Kaiseraugst.

1<sup>st</sup> to mid 2<sup>nd</sup> century A. D., limestone, from the tower foundations of the fortress in Kaiseraugst.

*Bibliography: P.-A. Schwarz, Inscriptiones Selectae Coloniae Augustae Rauricorum, Ausgewählte Inschriften aus Augst und Kaiseraugst, Choix d'Inscriptions d'Augst et Kaiseraugst, Augster Blätter zur Römerzeit 6 (Augst 1988) 18f. and fig. 8.*

*Object numbers: 1904.139 and 1906.1152*



### *Head of Hercules*

This stone block depicts a bust of Hercules on a round shield. From its wedge-like shape, it must have been built into the arch of an official building, most probably a town gate, triumphal arch or bridge. It served as a decorative element with power to ward off evil.

The stone seems to have been used again in late Roman times as building material for the fortress wall.

160–200 A. D., sandstone, reportedly from the fortress wall in Kaiseraugst.

*Bibliography: C. Bossert-Radtke, Die figürlichen Reliefs und Rundskulpturen aus Augst und Kaiseraugst, Forschungen in Augst 16 (Augst 1992) 68f. and plate. 32.*

*Object number: 1904.171*





### *An altar dedicated by an administrator*

[---]

[---]TIS AVG

DISP. HOR

. V . S . L . L . M .

[---]

[---]tis Aug(usti servus)

disp(ensator) hor(reorum)

v(otum) s(olvit) l(ibens) l(aetus) m(erito)

*For ....., ...tis, slave of the Emperor, administrator of the grain store, has fulfilled his vow gladly, with joy and in full.*

This little votive altar consists of a pedestal and inscription tablet, the latter broken off at the top. When it was found, the chiselled letters still bore traces of red paint.

The name of the donor has not survived in full. From the remaining letters it can be reconstructed as Fortis, Mitis or Restis. As administrator for grain, he was responsible for gathering the annual tax in kind in the form of grain. Although *dispensatores* belonged to the slave class, as slaves of the Emperor they nevertheless held an important office and were therefore respected.

50-250 A. D., sandstone, from the area of the fortress in Kaiseraugst.

*Bibliography: P.-A. Schwarz, Inscriptiones Selectae Coloniae Augustae Rauricorum, Ausgewählte Inschriften aus Augst und Kaiseraugst, Choix d'Inscriptions d'Augst et Kaiseraugst, Augster Blätter zur Römerzeit 6 (Augst 1988) 24f. and fig. 11.*

*Object number: 1900.311*



## *An inscription with a dedication to Sucellus*

<i>IN HONOR</i>	In honor(em)
<i>DD DEO SV</i>	d(omus) d(ivinae) deo Su
<i>CELLO SILV</i>	cello Silv(ius?)
<i>SPARTL DDD</i>	Spart(us?) l(ocus) d(atus) d(ecreto) d(ecurionum)

*In honour of the sacred (imperial) house, Silvius (?) Spartus(?) has (dedicated this) to the god Sucellus. The site (for the inscription) was made available by decision of the town council.*

Sucellus was a Celtic god, who was probably worshipped in France and Switzerland as a fertility god or god of plenty.

The family name “Silvius” shows that the donor was of Celtic descent. His first name is not given.

The formula, “In honour of the sacred imperial house” is an expression of loyalty and devotion to the ruling house and was customary in the northern provinces.

The inscription is contained within a frame which has handles at either side; only the base of the right-hand handle remains. It was found together with an altar to Apollo (not exhibited here) and the statue of Hercules.

180–250 A. D., limestone, from the former courtyard of the Grienmatt shrine in Augst.

*Bibliography: P.-A. Schwarz, Inscriptiones Selectae Coloniae Augustae Rauricorum, Ausgewählte Inschriften aus Augst und Kaiseraugst, Choix d'Inscriptions d'Augst et Kaiseraugst, Augster Blätter zur Römerzeit 6 (Augst 1988) 26f. and fig. 12.*

*Object number: 1924.126*



### *An inscription with a dedication to Mercury*

<i>MERC.AVG</i>	Merc(urio) Aug(usto)
<i>QATTIVS</i>	Q(uintus) Attius
<i>MESSOR</i>	Messor
<i>V S L M</i>	v(otum) s(olvit) l(ibens) m(erito)

*To Mercury Augustus. Quintus Attius Messor fulfilled his vow gladly and in full.*

Mercury, the god of trade and profit and the protector of travellers, was the chief god of the native population. The epithet “Augustus”, “the exalted one”, one of the titles of the Roman Emperor, shows how traditional Celtic beliefs had merged with the Roman cult of the Emperor.

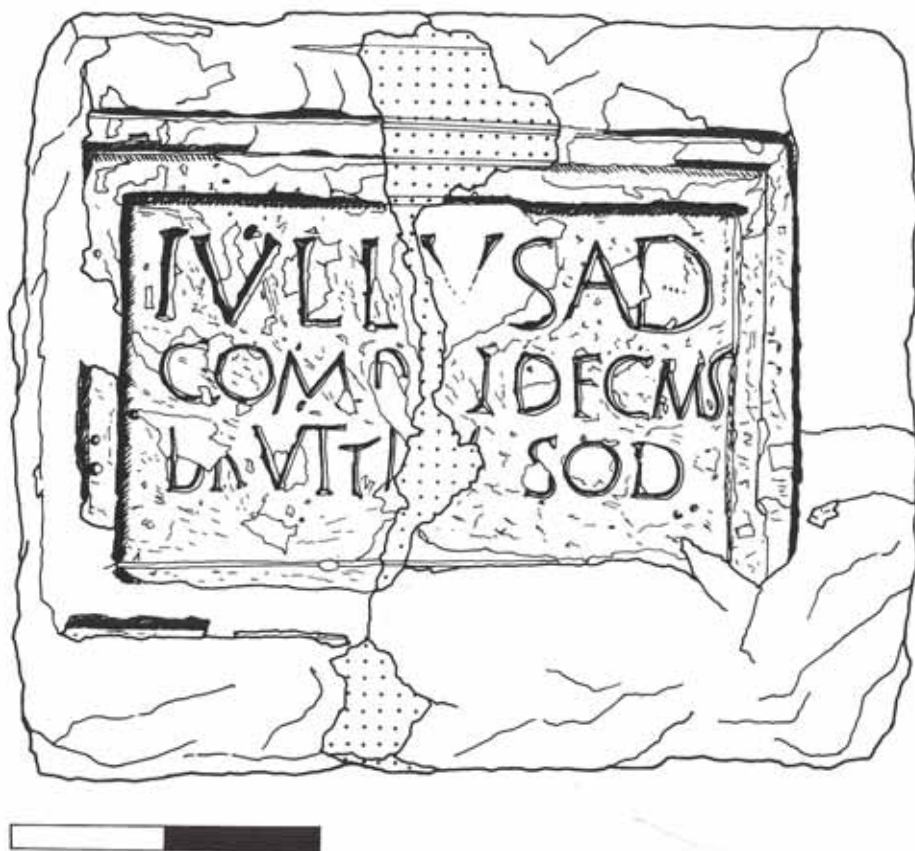
The Attius family, to which the donor belonged, has also left another dedication to Mercury and a gravestone in Augst. There is also evidence of a Quintus Attius Messor in Tarragona in Spain, but we do not know whether the two were related or simply had the same name.

The inscription has been refashioned into a building block and was reused as building material for the erection of the fortress in Kaiseraugst.

1<sup>st</sup> century A. D. to mid-2<sup>nd</sup> century, limestone, from the foundation of one of the fortress towers in Kaiseraugst.

*Bibliography: P.-A. Schwarz, Inscriptiones Selectae Coloniae Augustae Rauricorum, Ausgewählte Inschriften aus Augst und Kaiseraugst, Choix d'Inscriptions d'Augst et Kaiseraugst, Augster Blätter zur Römerzeit 6 (Augst 1988) 20f. and fig. 9.*

*Object number: 1906.1150*



### *Building inscription of Iullus and Decmus*

IVLLVS AD  
CAMA[R]I DECMVS  
BRVTTI [D]ES O D

Iullus Ad  
coma[r]i Decmus  
Brutti [d]e s(uo) o(mnia) d(ederunt)

*Iullus, son of Adcomarus, and Decmus, son of Bruttus, have donated everything from their own means.*

All the people named in the inscription have Celtic names and were native inhabitants.

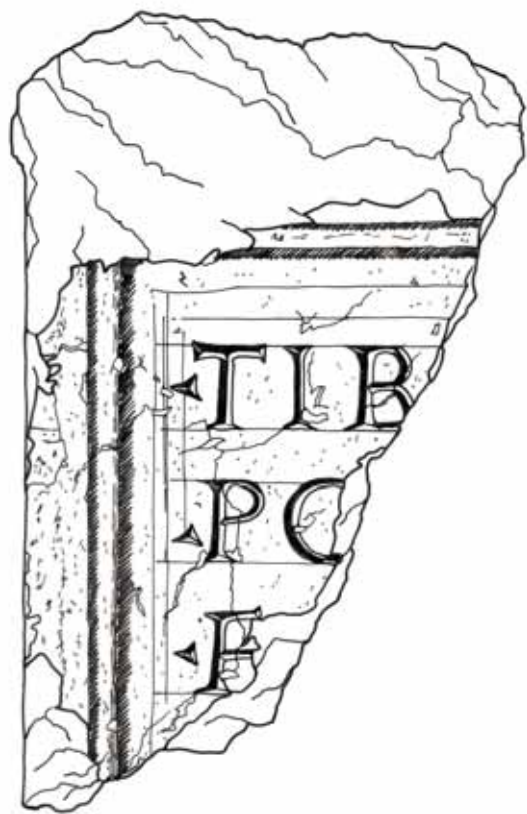
We do not know for which building the inscription was made. The names of the donors may suggest that it was a shrine in the Celtic tradition, such as a small, rectangular, so-called Gallo-Roman temple, used predominantly by the local population.

This broken inscription was reused as building material for a Roman street.

1<sup>st</sup> century A. D., red sandstone, from a street near the theatre in Augst.

*Bibliography: P.-A. Schwarz, Inscriptiones Selectae Coloniae Augustae Rauricorum, Ausgewählte Inschriften aus Augst und Kaiseraugst, Choix d'Inscriptions d'Augst et Kaiseraugst, Augster Blätter zur Römerzeit 6 (Augst 1988) 44f. and fig. 21.*

*Object number: 1949.1561*





### *Tiberius's inscription*

. TIB[ERIVS STATVAS ---]	Tib[erius statuas ---]
. PO[SVIT DE SVA PECVNIA IN]	po[suit de sua pecunia in]
. F[ORO COLONIAE ---]	f[oro coloniae ---]
[---]	[---]

*Tiberius... (with his own money) donated (statues) for the forum (of the Colony...)*

When it was first found, the quality of the workmanship and the beginning of the name “Tiberius” suggested that this might be an inscription of the Emperor Tiberius (whose official name was *Tiberius Caesar Augustus*) or Claudius (*Tiberius Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus*). However, in imperial inscriptions the name “Tiberius” is always given as TI and not written out in full.

The name “Tiberius” was very popular generally, so it is probably a (rich) citizen of Augusta Raurica whose name has come down to us here. Unlike an imperial name, this one has not been abbreviated.

The reconstructed parts of the inscription are only a suggestion. All we know for certain is that the donor has rendered services to the town and has been honoured with this plaque.

150–250 A. D., so-called Solothurn marble, from the foot of the Curia in Augst.

*Bibliography: P.-A. Schwarz, Inscriptiones Selectae Coloniae Augustae Rauricorum, Ausgewählte Inschriften aus Augst und Kaiseraugst, Choix d'Inscriptions d'Augst et Kaiseraugst, Augster Blätter zur Römerzeit 6 (Augst 1988) 30f. and fig. 14.*

*Object number: 1933.629*



### *Head of a river god*

Out of a semi-circular, niche-like hollow stares the head of a bearded man with large eyes, a bulbous nose and a wild moustache. This is the upper section of a fountain. Water once flowed out of the mouth opening, through a pipe, into a basin.

The expression of the face suggests that this is a water god. Perhaps, however, it is Neptune, the god of rivers and the sea, who is depicted here.

The stone was reused, with the relief facing downwards, in the construction of a ramp leading up to a workshop area.

150–180 A. D., sandstone, from the shop and workshop premises in the Schmidmatt in Kaiseraugst.

*Bibliography: C. Bossert-Radtke, Die figürlichen Reliefs und Rundskulpturen aus Augst und Kaiseraugst, Forschungen in Augst 16 (Augst 1992) 92 and plate. 46.*

*Object number: 1984.26583*



## *Legionary building inscription*

[--- VEXIL LEGIO]NVM I ADIV[TRICIS ---]      [--- vexil(lationes) legio]num I adiu[tricis ---]  
[--- VII] GEM FELI[---]                                      [--- VII] gem(inae) feli[(cis) ---]

*...units of the Legio I Adiutrix (the first auxiliary Legion) and the Legio VII Gemina Felix (the fortunate Seventh Twin Legion) ...*

This fragment of a building inscription, naming two legions, is evidence of the presence of troops in Augusta Raurica: units of the two legions must have been engaged in building work in Augusta Raurica in the 70s of the first century A.D. At this time a bridge was erected over the Rhine and to the south of Augusta Raurica a town wall was begun, although this was never finished.

This oblong, carefully hewn block was originally part of a large monument in the town. It was reused as building material for the circumference wall of the late-Roman fortification on Castelen Hill in Augst.

70–79 A. D., limestone, from the foundations of the late-Roman fortification on Castelen Hill in Augst.

*Bibliography: B. Zimmermann, Zur Authentizität des «Clemensfeldzuges», Jahresberichte aus Augst und Kaiseraugst 13 (Liestal 1992) 290 with fig. 1; Peter-A. Schwarz, Jahresberichte aus Augst und Kaiseraugst 14 (Liestal 1990) 40 fig. 12.*

*Object number: 1913.70*

*Numéro d'inventaire: 1913.70*



### *Building inscription of Barbius and Rufinus*

[IN . H .] <i>D . D .</i>	[In h(onorem) d(omus) d(ivinae)
[BA] <i>RB . IVL</i>	[Ba]rb(ius) Iul(ianus)
[---R] <i>VFINVS</i>	[--- R]ufinus
[AED .] <i>CVM . OR</i>	[aed(em)] cum or
[NAM] <i>ET OM</i>	[nam(entis)] et om(ni)
[CVLTV . FAC . C]	[cultu fac(iendum) c(uraverunt)]

*In honour of the divine (imperial) house, .... Barbius Iulianus (and...?) Rufinus have had this building erected and decorated with great magnificence.*

From the inscription we gather that one or two inhabitants of Augusta Raurica have paid for the embellishment, or perhaps even the erection, of a public building, perhaps a temple. It was quite common for rich citizens to finance the building of temple complexes in part or in full.

The formula, "In honour of the divine imperial house", is an expression of loyalty and devotion to the ruling house and was common in the northern provinces.

The inscription, which had already been moved from its original site in Roman times, was found in Insula 24, to the south of the theatre. The stone is one of the few inscriptions to have been reused as building material in the upper town during the late period.

150–250 A. D., red sandstone, from Insula 24 in Augst.

*Bibliography: P.-A. Schwarz, Inscriptiones Selectae Coloniae Augustae Rauricorum, Ausgewählte Inschriften aus Augst und Kaiseraugst, Choix d'Inscriptions d'Augst et Kaiseraugst, Augster Blätter zur Römerzeit 6 (Augst 1988) 28f. and fig. 13.*

*Object number: 1939.1927*





### *Funerary relief of a centurion with his wife*

This small, carefully carved relief, which was originally mounted on a tomb, depicts two people in the costume of the provincial Roman population of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D. To the left is a woman in a long dress with sleeves and with a woollen cloak wrapped around her. To the right is a man in a tunic with a broad belt, fastened with a ring buckle, and a cloak which is clasped on his right shoulder with a disc-shaped fibula. This is the dress of a soldier. His rank can be deduced from the staff which he holds in his right hand. He was a centurion, an officer who was responsible for the training and equipment of about 80 legionaries. With his staff, the insignia of his rank, he could administer punitive blows to his subordinates. The woman was probably his wife.

The relief must have been removed from a cemetery to the spot where it was later found, in the fortress.

210–250 A. D., sandstone, from the area of the fortress in Kaiseraugst.

*Bibliography: C. Bossert-Radtke, Die figürlichen Reliefs und Rundskulpturen aus Augst und Kaiseraugst, Forschungen in Augst 16 (Augst 1992) 97-99 and plates 52-53.*

*Object number: 1962.2079*



## *Comus's gravestone*

<i>DM</i>	D(is) M(anibus)
<i>AETERNAE</i>	aeternae
<i>MEMO</i>	memo(riae)
<i>COMVS</i>	Comus

*To the Manes and the eternal memory. Comus.*

This gravestone is shaped like a gabled house of the dead. The inscription tablet is framed by a twisted cord. The bottom part of the stone, where it is only roughly hewn, was buried in the ground.

The missing text has been completed from copies of the inscription made in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. When it was found, the lettering was badly weathered and barely decipherable. The stone was reused later as the cover for a grave.

150–250 A. D., red sandstone, from the so-called newer fortress necropolis in Kaiseraugst.

*Bibliography: P.-A. Schwarz, Inscriptiones Selectae Coloniae Augustae Rauricorum, Ausgewählte Inschriften aus Augst und Kaiseraugst, Choix d'Inscriptions d'Augst et Kaiseraugst, Augster Blätter zur Römerzeit 6 (Augst 1988) 8f. and fig. 3*

*Object number: 1904.136*



### *Pediment from a funerary monument with a sphinx*

In this sharply pointed pediment, ready to pounce, sits a sphinx, a composite winged creature with a lion's body and a woman's head. The sphinx was an all-devouring spirit of death. However she could also ward off evil: she was believed to protect the grave and so ensure the peace of the dead.

The pediment was once framed by two enormous palmettes and surmounted a funerary monument on a road outside the urban area of Augusta Raurica.

1<sup>st</sup> century A. D., limestone, from an unknown find site in Augst.

*Bibliography: C. Bossert-Radtke, Die Figürlichen Reliefs und Rundskulpturen aus Augst und Kaiseraugst, Forschungen in Augst 16 (Augst 1992) 100f. and plate 54.*

*Object number: 1904.119*



### *Marinius's funerary plaque*

<i>MARINI</i>	Marini(o)
<i>COSSI</i>	Cossi
<i>FILIO ATILI</i>	filio Attili
[ANVS ---]	[anus ...]

*For Marinius, son of Cossus, Attilianus has...*

It is not clear what Attilianus's relationship to the dead man was: possibly he was a son, but he might also have been a freed slave, who had the funerary plaque made because he was heir to the deceased. Cossus, Marinius's father, has a byname which is common amongst local people of Celtic descent.

The lower part of the plaque has been broken off and is missing.

50–250 A. D., red sandstone, from the cemetery on the road to Basel in Augst.

*Bibliography: P.-A. Schwarz, Inscriptiones Selectae Coloniae Augustae Rauricorum, Ausgewählte Inschriften aus Augst und Kaiseraugst, Choix d'Inscriptions d'Augst et Kaiseraugst, Augster Blätter zur Römerzeit 6 (Augst 1988) 10f. and fig. 4.*

*Object number: 1904.132*





## *Funerary inscription of a chief administrator*

[---]	[---]
AC. P	ac(tarius) p(editum) [---]
QVI. VIX[IT ---]	qui vix[it ---]
VINCEN. I[---]	Vincen(tius) h[er(es) ---]?

*(For)...., chief administrator of the infantry, who lived for .... years. Vincentius (his) heir (?)*

This funerary inscription names one of the few known military ranks from the late period in Augusta Raurica. The deceased military clerk, the details of whose name and age have not survived, was responsible for the provisioning and pay of infantry soldiers. He must have been stationed in the fortress in Kaiseraugst.

His heir, Vincentius, whose name means “he who is victorious (over the sorrows of the world)”, may have been a Christian.

This was not the first time the stone had been used. It had once been a building inscription, but it was later cut down to a smaller format, a new inscription was carved on the back and it was used as a gravestone. The stone has inscriptions on both sides: it is the back which is shown here.

It found a third use as a slab to enclose one side of an early mediaeval grave.

275–370 A. D. limestone, from the so-called newer fortress necropolis in Kaiseraugst.

*Bibliography: L. Berger, Führer durch Augusta Raurica (Augst 1998<sup>6</sup>) 21f. with fig. 11; P.-A. Schwarz, Bemerkungen zur sog. Magidunum-Inschrift (CIL XIII 11543) und zum Grabstein eines actarius peditum (CIL XIII 11544), in: P.-A. Schwarz and L. Berger, Tituli Rauracenses 1, Testimonien und Aufsätze, Zu den Namen und ausgewählten Inschriften von Augst und Kaiseraugst, Forschungen in Augst 29 (Augst 2000) 162–165, fig. 101 below, fig. 104.*

*Object number: 1907.450*



### *Funerary inscription of a cavalry soldier*

[---]	[---]
[ALAE] <i>MOES</i> [ICAE]	[alae] Moes[icae]
[TORQV] <i>ATAE</i> [PRAE]	[torqu]atae [prae]
[POSIT] <i>VS VEX</i> [ILL]	posit]us vex[ill]
[ATION A] <i>LAE HIS</i> [P]	[ation(is) a]lae His[p(anorum)]
[HER FAC C] <i>VRA V</i> [IT]	[her(es) fac(iendum) c]urav[it]

*...of the Moesian cavalry unit, decorated with the torque, and commander of a division of Spanish cavalry troops. His heir has had this made.*

This badly damaged inscription names two cavalry regiments of the early imperial army, which were stationed in Augusta Raurica before 50 A. D.

The names of the units reveal that the cavalrymen were recruited in the Danube region and in the Iberian peninsula respectively. For its bravery, the Moesian unit had been honoured with the usual military decoration of the time, in the form of a bronze neck ring, or torque.

These units may have been part of the garrison of a small military camp situated at that time in Kaiseraugst.

The stone, whose edges have all been broken off, was reused as building material for the western fortress wall in Kaiseraugst.

First half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century A. D., limestone, from the western wall of the fortress in Kaiseraugst.

*Bibliography: P.-A. Schwarz, Inscriptiones Selectae Coloniae Augustae Rauricorum, Ausgewählte Inschriften aus Augst und Kaiseraugst, Choix d'Inscriptions d'Augst et Kaiseraugst, Augster Blätter zur Römerzeit 6 (Augst 1988) 32f. and fig. 15.*

*Object number: 1960.1075*



### *Funerary plaque of Olus and Fuscinus*

*OLV. ANN. XII*  
*ET. FVSCINVS. AN.*  
*XVI. FVSCI. FILI*  
*H. S. S*

Olu(s) an(norum) XII  
et Fuscinus an(norum)  
XVI Fusci fili  
h(ic) s(iti) s(unt)

*Olus, 12 years old, and Fuscinus, 16 years old, sons of Fuscus (or Fuscus) lie buried here.*

These two boys, who died young, bore the family name of Fuscus. The younger is called by his first name, Olus, the older by his byname Fuscinus. The father of the two, who had the gravestone made, was a Romanised Celt; either he had Roman citizenship or, as a freed slave, had taken the name of his master.

The shape of the frame around the inscription, with its handle pointing upwards, is unique. Usually there is one handle on each side, to left and right. The unusual shape of the gravestone might have had something to do with a supernatural burial ritual, perhaps as a reaction to the premature deaths of the two youngsters.

1<sup>st</sup> century A. D., limestone, from the cemetery on the road to Basel in Augst.

*Bibliography: B. W. Häuptli, Olus und Fuscinus – zwei «Sklaven» in Augst, Jahresberichte aus Augst und Kaiseraugst 21, 2000, 231–243; B. W. Häuptli, Olus und Fuscinus II – Die verschollene Gens Fuscia, Jahresberichte aus Augst und Kaiseraugst 22, 2001, 155–159.*

*Object number: 1947.190*



## *Blandus's funerary plaque*

*BLANDVS . VIN*

Blandus Vin

*DALVCON . HIC . S . E*

dalucion(is) hic s(itus) e(st)

*FILI . PRO . PIETATE . POSIER*

fili pro pietate posier(unt)

*Blandus, (son) of Vindaluco, is buried here. Out of piety, his children have had (this stone) erected.*

“Blandus”, the name by which the dead man was called, is his byname meaning “cajoler”, “flatterer”. Bynames, which formed the third part of Roman men’s names, often bore a message; they might allude to qualities a person would wish to have or they could be nicknames pointing to physical or mental attributes.

Vindaluco, Blandus’s father, has a Celtic name, so Blandus was a Roman citizen of native Celtic descent.

1<sup>st</sup> century A. D., quartz sandstone, from the cemetery on the road to Basel in Augst.

*Bibliography: P.-A. Schwarz, Inscriptiones Selectae Coloniae Augustae Rauricorum, Ausgewählte Inschriften aus Augst und Kaiseraugst, Choix d’Inscriptions d’Augst et Kaiseraugst, Augster Blätter zur Römerzeit 6 (Augst 1988) 14f. and fig. 6; B. W. Häuptli, Olus und Fuscinus – zwei «Sklaven» in Augst, Jahresberichte aus Augst und Kaiseraugst 21, 2000, 234 f.*

*Object number: 1894.478*





## *A veteran's funerary plaque*

[---]

[E] *T DIENS XX[II]*

*VETAERANVS*

*MILITAVIT IN*

*L P M SIG*

[---]

[e]t diens XX[II]

vetaeranus

militavit in

l(egione) P(rimae) M(artiae) sig(nifer)

*(... who) lived for (... years, .... months) and 22 days, a veteran. He served in the Legio I Martia (the First Mars Legion) as standard-bearer.*

This veteran, whose name has not survived, was responsible during his time of service for the banner of his unit. In battle, standard-bearers were to be found in the thick of the fighting, where the troops rallied around them.

The Legio I Martia was created by Emperor Diocletian as border troops. It was stationed in Kaiseraugst around 300 A.D., where it probably began the building of the fortress. In the south-eastern part of what had once been the upper town, the Legion later ran a large brick-works, whose remains can still be seen today.

This stone plaque was later reused as the cover of an early mediaeval grave.

4<sup>th</sup> century A. D., red sandstone, from the so-called newer fortress necropolis in Kaiseraugst.

*Bibliography: P.-A. Schwarz, Inscriptiones Selectae Coloniae Augustae Rauricorum, Ausgewählte Inschriften aus Augst und Kaiseraugst, Choix d'Inscriptions d'Augst et Kaiseraugst, Augster Blätter zur Römerzeit 6 (Augst 1988) 36f. and fig. 17.*

*Object number: 1904.135*



## *Funerary plaque of L. Munatius Plancus*

L. MVNATIVS.L.F.L.N.L.PRON  
 PLANCVS.COS.CENS.IMP.ITER.VII VIR  
 EPVLON.TRIVMP.EX.RAETIS.AEDEM.SATVRNI  
 FECIT DE.MANIBIS.AGROS.DIVISIT.IN.ITALIA  
 BENEVENTI.IN GALLIA.COLONIAS.DEDVXIT  
 LVGV DVNVM.ET.RAVRICAM

L (ucius) Munatius L(uci) f(ilius) L(uci) n(epos) L(uci) pron(epos)  
 Plancus co(n)s(ul) cens(or) imp(erator) iter(um) VII vir  
 epulon(um) triumph(havit) ex Raetis aedem Saturni  
 fecit de manibus agros divisit in Italia  
 Beneventi in Gallia colonias deduxit  
 Lugudunum et Rauricam

*Lucius Munatius Plancus, son of Lucius, grandson of Lucius, great-grandson of Lucius, Consul, Censor, twice proclaimed Commander-in-Chief, member of the council of seven who have charge of sacrificial feasts, he triumphed over the Raetians, founded the temple to Saturn with the spoils of war, distributed land in Benevento in Italy and founded the colonies of Lyon and Raurica in Gaul.*

This funerary inscription, enumerating the deeds of the commander-in-chief and governor of Gaul, mentions in the last two lines the founding of the colony of Raurica, a colony in the territory of the Celtic tribe of the Rauricans.

It was G. Julius Caesar himself who had charged L. Munatius Plancus with the task of this foundation, shortly before he was assassinated on 15 March 44 B.C. Probably it was the confusions of civil war after Caesar's death which prevented the colony from proceeding beyond the planning stage. The construction of the town in fact only began under Emperor Augustus, around 15-10 B.C. At this time, it was re-founded, with the extended name of Colonia Paterna(?) Munatia(?) Felix(?) Apollinaris Augusta Emerita Raurica, which was later shortened to Augusta Raurica. "Augusta" lives on today in the name of the village of Augst.

The inscription comes from the monumental tomb of Plancus on the Gaeta promontory, on the coast between Rome and Naples, where it is mounted above the entrance to the burial rotunda.

Circa 15 B. C.

*Bibliography: R. Fellmann, Das Grab des Lucius Munatius Plancus bei Gaëta, Schriften des Institutes für Ur- und Frühgeschichte der Schweiz 11 (Basel 1957); L. Berger, Testimonien für die Namen von Augst und Kaiseraugst von den Anfängen bis zum Ende des ersten Jahrtausends, Gesicherte und wahrscheinliche Testimonien, Vol. 1: Colonia Raurica, in: P.-A. Schwarz and L. Berger, Tituli Rauracenses 1, Testimonien und Aufsätze, Zu den Namen und ausgewählten Inschriften von Augst und Kaiseraugst, Forschungen in Augst 29 (Augst 2000) 13–15 and figs. 1–2.*

