

Catalogue B: the *compita*

NR. 1 - FIG. 17 - PL. 81

LOCATION: Piazza dei Lari.

EVIDENCE: Altar with relief and inscription, rooms on square.

POSITION: Piazza dei Lari is a small rectangular square accessible from Via di Diana and Via dei Lari.

DESCRIPTION: The remains on the square have been described by Calza, Paribeni and Floriani Squarciapino (Calza 1916, 145-148; Paribeni 1916, 422-423 and plan after p. 428, nrs. 46, 47, i; Floriani Squarciapino 1952). I have compiled a catalogue (July 1987).

SQUARE.

The square is paved with basalt blocks. On the south part is a basin (3.30 long (west-east), 1.80 wide, 1.60 deep). It is built in opus latericium.

ALTAR.

A little to the north of the basin is a round marble altar (h. 1.35; diam. 0.88). It is resting on a marble slab (1.15 x 1.03; h. 0.07), on top of a large marble block (1.80 x 1.80; h. 0.47), laid upon a large travertine block (2.15 x 2.15; h. 0.26). The basin is partly resting on the marble block. On Paribeni's plan can be seen that the room to the north of the altar is partly overlapping the travertine block. At present this last block is not visible, while the marble block can only be seen to the east and south of the altar. The upper marble block is made of two parts, joined by an iron-and-lead clamp at the northeast corner. In the top a round depression to receive the altar has been chiselled. The altar was found *in situ*. Calza has noted that it had been damaged on purpose. Part of its inscription was hammered off, its relief heavily damaged. A few fragments were found not far away (one had been used for the repair of a street) and these have now been attached to the altar. The altar has a cornice at its upper and lower end.

The altar has an inscription of four lines (originally perhaps five; h. of letters 0.04), the first three below the upper cornice (they may have been preceded by another line), the fourth one above the lower cornice: [--- *m*]ag(ister/istri) d(e) s(ua) p(ecunia) f(aciendam) c(uravit/uraverunt) | Laribus | Vicin(alibus/is/iae) sacr(am) | aram marmoream (CIL XIV S, 4298).

All around the altar is a relief. The central scene (on the south face) is made up of a square altar, decorated with a garland and *bucrania* and with a fire on the top. To the right of the altar is Hercules. His head is missing. He stretches his empty right hand out towards the altar in an inviting gesture, from his left arm the lion-skin is hanging down. In his left hand must have been the club, but this is no longer recognizable. Behind him is a pig, with a ribbon around its body. Behind the altar is a tree, with a hairy object at the end of one of its branches. Against one of the other branches leans a *thyrsus*. There are two almost identical lateral scenes. On either side of Hercules Pan is seen. The Panes move towards Hercules and hold a *situla*. They are looking back at a dancing Lar. One hand of the Panes is behind the Lares and they are therefore apparently leading the latter towards the altar. The attributes of the Lares are lost.

ROOMS.

Directly to the north of the altar is a small edifice, consisting of two rooms. Upper part of walls modern. Max. preserved h. excl. modern restorations 3.15. No beamholes preserved. Th. of walls c. 0.44, unless indicated otherwise.

OUTER NORTH WALL. L. 6.32.

Street No basalt blocks of Via di Diana touching facade.

a L. 0.93. Latericium.

b L. 1.04. Lower part (to h. 0.19) vittatum B, upper part latericium.

c L. 1.67. Lower part (to h. 0.19) continuation of lower part of b (vittatum B), upper part vittatum

A. Between upper and lower part of c two travertine blocks (threshold?).

Small opening between c and d. W. 0.07. Left side revealing core of wall, right side latericium. Starting at h. 0.39. Below opening part of travertine block (see c), resting on latericium and small tufa stones.

d L. 1.77. Latericium. In lower part some tufa blocks, some basalt blocks and a travertine block.

e L. 0.91. Latericium. Traces of thin plaster. Pier set against e indicated on plan Paribeni, not confirmed.

OUTER EAST WALL. L. 10.62.

Street A number of basalt blocks of Piazza dei Lari touches the facade.

a L. 0.96. Latericium. Pier set against a indicated on plan Paribeni, not confirmed.

Doorway to south room. W. 1.19 (front)/1.06 (back). Left jamb (th. 0.57) showing core of wall, right jamb latericium. In left part lies part of a travertine block with smooth surface. In front of doorway two large tufa blocks.

b L. 0.94. Latericium.

Doorway to north room. W. 2.67. Jambs latericium. Threshold of two travertine blocks. Groove in east part. Depression in north end (l. 0.67). Raised edges to the north and east of depression, pivot-hole in northeast corner. Top 0.15 above street.

c L. 0.92. Latericium. Facing partially missing in lower part. L-shaped latericium-pier set against north part. North side, l. 1.24, east side, l. 0.88, south side, l. 0.60, inner east side, l. 0.62, inner north side, l. 0.66. North side on line with left jamb of northern door to north room.

Doorway to north room. W. 2.77. Jambs latericium.

d L. 0.91. Latericium. Latericium-pier in front of d, north-south 0.58, east-west 0.61, at 0.63 from d and 0.34 from outer north wall. Three long travertine blocks lying near northeast corner. This structure was, according to Paribeni, a "fontana", made of travertine and covered with opus signinum.

OUTER SOUTH WALL. L. 6.45.

Street Basalt blocks.

a L. 3.28. Latericium. Traces of plaster.

Doorway to south room. W. 1.21. Jambs latericium, in both a bolt hole. In east part fragment of a threshold: travertine block resting on latericium and on basalt blocks of street. Raised edge on south and east side, pivot-hole in southeast corner. Part of a round hole in west end. Top at 0.35 above street.

b L. 1.34. Latericium, resting on one row of small, rectangular tufa stones and on basalt blocks of street.

c L. 0.62. Latericium.

OUTER WEST WALL. L. 10.64.

Street A number of basalt blocks of Piazza dei Lari touches the facade.

a L. 0.91. Latericium. Traces of thin plaster.

b L. 2.75. Latericium.

c L. 1.19. Latericium.

d l. 2.74. Latericium.

e L. 0.89. Latericium.

f L. 2.16. Latericium.

NORTH ROOM

A. 5.45 x 7.57 x 5.45 x 7.56. Area c. 41 m².

B. North, a L. 0.44. Latericium. Traces of a thick layer of plaster (min. th. 0.02).

b L. 1.76. Lower part, to h. 0.43, rubble masonry, upper part vittatum A.

c L. 1.68. Lower part, to h. 0.43, rubble masonry, upper part vittatum A. Between upper and lower part two travertine blocks.

d L. 1.04. Lower part, to h. 0.37, rubble masonry, upper part vittatum A, with traces of thin plaster with remains of red paint.

e L. 0.46. Latericium. Traces of thin plaster.

East, a L. 0.47. Latericium. Traces of thin plaster.

b L. 1.21. Latericium.

c L. 0.45. Latericium.

South, a L. 0.41. Latericium.

Small opening between a and b. W. 0.20. Left side latericium, right side showing core of wall. On bottom travertine block (h. 0.28) with smooth surface.

b l. 0.65. North and west side latericium.

c L. 1.22. Latericium. Only two layers of antique bricks. Foundation of threshold?

Doorway to south room. W. 2.51 (up to c). Right jamb latericium.

d l. 0.46. Latericium.

West, a L. 0.46. Latericium.

b L. 2.72. Lower part, to h. 0.34, rubble masonry, upper part vittatum B.

c L. 1.18. Latericium.

d L. 2.75. Lower part, to h. 0.39, rubble masonry, above that vittatum A, above that latericium, above that modern vittatum A.

e L. 0.45. Latericium.

C. Floor of opus spicatum according to Paribeni, but not confirmed.

D. No data available.

E. Painted plaster was found on the walls. Inside room parts of latericium-piers, belonging to the upper floor, were found: corner-piers, identical to those of the ground floor, but c. 0.10 thinner, decorated with paintings on a yellow background. No staircase was found (Paribeni). Against shop-threshold in south door in east wall (0.25 above floor) lie six travertine blocks, forming two steps (cf. plan Paribeni and plan in SO I). Dividing-wall between west, c and east, b indicated on plan Paribeni and plan in SO I, secondary according to the latter plan. Not confirmed, no core of wall indicating attachment visible.

SOUTH ROOM

A. C. 6.04 (up to facade) x 1.79 x 5.41 x c. 1.72. Area c. 9.5 m².

B. North, a L. cannot be measured (overgrown).

b L. 1.25. Modern.

c L. 0.68. Latericium.

d L. (up to facade) 0.94. Latericium.

East, a L. 0.60. Latericium.

South, a l. 1.36. Vittatum B.

Doorway to street. Threshold 0.27 above floor.

b L. 2.84. Vittatum B. Remains of plaster (th. 0.02).

West, a L. cannot be measured (overgrown). Latericium, with a few tufa stones. Traces of plaster.

C. Partly basalt blocks.

D. No data available.

E. Travertine block lying in southeast corner.

FINDS: ---

PHOTOGRAPHS: Altar: Calza 1916, figs. 4, 4a, 5 (drawing); Floriani Squarciapino 1952, Tavv. LI (drawing), LII; Calza-Nash 1959, Tav. 20.

DATES: The basin on the square has not been dated. For the altar a date in the early first century is suggested by Calza and Floriani Squarciapino, Hermann prefers c. 50 AD (Hermann 1961, 97-99 nr. 43). The first building period of the rooms (latericium) has been dated to the Hadrianic period (SO I, 236). Possibly Antonine according to Heres (oral communication). There are at least two further building periods because the entrance in the north wall was first

narrowed and then closed off. For these later phases rubble masonry, opus vittatum A and B and opus latericium were used (latericium and vittatum are sometimes found in the same wall, in which case the latericium is used for the outer facing). Most of the secondary masonry may be from the period c. 250-275, except for the central section of the north wall (outer north wall, c), which according to Heres is much later (oral communication).

NR. 2 - PLS. 82, 83

LOCATION: Forum.

EVIDENCE: Room.

POSITION: In the centre of the Forum, a little to the south of the Decumanus Maximus. To judge from the overall plan in SO I the room is almost exactly on the north-south axis of the Forum as we see it now, i.e. after the last large-scale building activity on and around it, in the Hadrianic and Antonine periods (SO I, figs. 32, 33).

DESCRIPTION: The room has been dealt with summarily by Bloch (Bloch 1962, 212-213). My description was made in July 1987. The room is a small round edifice, preserved to a maximum height of c. 1.25 from its floor. It is built in latericium. Outside diameter, excl. marble cornice, 4.50. Dist. from back wall to back wall of two opposite niches 3.90. Niches starting at 0.26 from floor. Th. of wall 0.75. Th. of back walls of niches 0.30. The lower rectangular part of the niches has been preserved. Bottoms of bricks and fragments of bricks, sides and backs latericium, unless otherwise indicated.

Meas. of niches (nr. 1 is northern niche, the other niches numbered clockwise; niche 1 is opposite 4, niche 2 opposite 5, niche 3 opposite 6):

1. W. 1.13, d. 0.27 (to remains of tread), dist. 1-2 0.55.
2. W. 0.88, d. 0.45, dist. 2-3 0.54.
3. W. 0.57, d. 0.49, dist. 3-4 1.09.
4. W. 0.88, d. 0.45, dist. 4-5 0.64.
5. W. 0.89, d. 0.45, dist. 5-6 0.65.
6. W. 0.88, d. 0.44, dist. 6-1 0.53.

The bottom of niche 1 is at the same height as the bottom of the other niches, but on the back of the bottom and in the back wall the remains can be seen of a few much damaged steps. The sides of this niche reveal the core of the wall. In the outer wall is a slightly irregular vertical joint corresponding with the left side. A second, irregular vertical joint can be seen in the outer wall, c. 0.35 to the east of the right side. As far as can be seen this last joint passes through the wall diagonally in the direction of the right side, but the exact course of the joint in the wall cannot be ascertained because the top of the wall has been covered with modern cement. In the back of niche 3 is a small segmental relieving brick arch, forming an entity with the sides of the niche. Below it is an opening, as wide as the niche and 0.32 high. This hole is below the present level of the Forum. The bottom of the niche consists of a mass of sherds, pieces of stone and mortar. It slopes downwards in the direction of the floor of the structure, from the bottom of the hole. The highest point of the bottom is at a higher level than the bottoms of the other niches. This niche is directly above an old well (SO I, 73, figs. 19, 21: well P).

The outer wall is encircled by the remains of a cornice of marble blocks (h. 0.27; th. 0.22). There are no blocks in front of niche 1 (from a little to the east of its left side to its right side) and on the south side (from the middle of niche 3 to the middle of the interval between 4 and 5). In the top of each block are two square holes. The cornice has been set against a thick layer of mortar (th. 0.03/0.06).

Diam. of floor 3.00. The remains of a mosaic can be seen on the edge of the floor: large, white *tesserae* (max. meas. 0.02 x 0.025). At a few places in the corner between floor and wall the remains can be seen of a thick layer of hydraulic mortar (max. th. 0.15), sloping downwards towards the floor. It is on top of the mosaic, which continues up to the wall.

FINDS: ---

PHOTOGRAPHS: Bloch 1962, fig. 3.

DATES: The floor of the room is somewhat below the present level of the Forum. The bulk of the latericium of the structure has been dated to the period of Trajan (SO I, fig. 31). For the Forum in this period see SO I, fig. 30 and Meiggs 1973, 131-132, 136. Heres does not exclude the possibility that some of the latericium is older than the Trajanic period (Claudian or Flavian?). Unfortunately moisture hampers the dating of the wall (oral communication).

NR. 3 - FIG. 18 - PL. 84

LOCATION: Bivio del Castrum.

EVIDENCE: Rooms.

POSITION: A little to the west of the spot where the western gate of the Castrum once stood is a crossroads, which is as old as the second century BC and may well be older (SO I, 98, 233, fig. 29). People leaving the Castrum through the western gate could take at least two roads from here: the so-called western Decumanus Maximus or the Via della Foce. The intersection was incorporated in Ostia's city-area after the building of the new town walls, probably by Sulla (Meiggs 1973, 34-36). At the end of the first century AD five streets converged here: the eastern and western Decumanus, Via della Foce, Via Epagathiana and Via del Pomerio (SO I, fig. 30). The visual remains are of a large square where the five roads met. At a late date most of this square was taken up by a huge *nymphaeum* (Ninfeo I,XIV,1), the masonry of which has been dated by Heres to the middle of the fourth century AD (Heres 1982, 180, 411-413). Now two intersections had been created: a western one, of Via della Foce and the western Decumanus, and an eastern one, of the eastern and western Decumanus, Via Epagathiana and Via del Pomerio. On the western intersection and on the middle of Via della Foce is the room dealt with here.

DESCRIPTION: The rooms have been dealt with briefly in SO I (SO I, 107). I have drawn up a catalogue (March 1989).

The structure has been preserved to a maximum height of c. 1.00, and consists of three rooms: a rectangular room towards the nymphaeum, and to the southwest two small rooms, both with a curved outer wall.

OUTER NORTHEAST WALL. L. 6.49.

a L. 6.49; th. 0.67. Quadratum.

OUTER SOUTHEAST WALL.

Top of outer walls of the two southwestern rooms flush with present street-level.

Outer southeast wall of northeastern room. L. 3.67.

a L. 0.84; th. 0.67. Quadratum.

Doorway to northeastern room. W. 1.03. Jambs (th. 0.67) and threshold quadratum. Left jamb damaged or hacked out. In front of left jamb a large travertine block (0.57 x 0.30).

b L. 1.80; th. 0.67. Quadratum.

OUTER SOUTHWEST WALL

Top of outer walls of the two southwestern rooms flush with present street-level. Two quadratum-walls set against outer wall of southern room. Top of walls flush with present street-level. West wall: w. 0.44; l. 0.72. East wall: w. 0.54; l. 2.10.

Outer southwest wall of northeastern room. L. 6.49.

a L. 2.78. Quadratum.

b L. 1.50. Quadratum.

c L. 0.54. Quadratum.

OUTER NORTHWEST WALL

Top of outer walls of the two southwestern rooms flush with present street-level.

Outer northwest wall of northeastern room. L. 3.71.

a L. 1.34. Quadratum.

Doorway to northeastern room. W. 0.95. Jambs (th. 0.67) and threshold quadratum.

b L. 1.42. Quadratum. Lower end of sections a and b moulded from top of threshold upwards (h. of moulding 0.28, d. 0.15).

NORTHEASTERN ROOM.

A. 5.22 x 2.33 x 5.22 x 2.37; area c. 12.5 m².

B. Northeast, a L. 5.22. Quadratum. Reticulate wall (th. 0.35) set against quadratum, lower part up to h. 0.17 irregular and protruding c. 0.06.

Southeast, a L. 1.13. Quadratum (one, loose block).

Doorway Top of threshold at 0.41 above present floor.

b L. 0.17. Quadratum.

Southwest, a L. 5.22. Reticulate wall (th. 0.36) set against quadratum, lower part up to h. 0.19 irregular and protruding c. 0.05.

Northwest, a L. 0.75. Quadratum.

Doorway Top of threshold at 0.35 above present floor.

b L. 0.67. Quadratum.

C. No data available.

D. No data available.

E. ---

NORTHWESTERN ROOM

A. ---

B. Northeast, a L. 2.78. Quadratum.

Southeast, a L. 1.92; th.: northeast part, 0.76; southwest part, 0.43. Rubble masonry. The southwest end of this wall, the dividing wall between the northwestern and southwestern room, is most confusing. It is a mass of travertine blocks, tufa blocks, bricks and rubble masonry.

West, curved wall Th. 0.33. Latericium (modern).

C. Thick layer of hydraulic mortar in the corners of the room, on the floor and the walls (max. th. 0.14).

D. No data available.

E. ---

SOUTHWESTERN ROOM

A. ---

B. Northwest, a L. 1.84. Rubble masonry.

Northeast, a L. 1.50. Quadratum.

Southwest, curved wall This is not a truly curved wall, three sections have been set against each other at an angle.

a L. 2.07; th. 0.58. Quadratum.

b L. 0.67; th. 0.67. Quadratum.

c L. 0.97; th. 0.28. Latericium.

C. No data available.

D. No data available.

E. On top of outer wall of the southern room a tufa *cippus* or altar, with a flat top and a cornice at its lower end (h. 0.53; meas. at lower end 0.50 x 0.52, at upper end 0.44 x 0.44).

FINDS: According to R. Calza a small, rectangular *cippus*, with on three sides depictions of Hercules, Silvanus and Mercury, was found amongst the ruins of this structure (R. Calza 1965(1), 94). She may be mistaken, because the find is not reported in SO I.

PHOTOGRAPHS: ---

DATES: The floors of the rooms are somewhat below the Hadrianic street level.

NR. 4

LOCATION: Found reused as building material and for repairs in the area enclosed by the Tempio d'Ercole (I,XV,5), Aula delle Are (I,XV,3), Caseggiato del Mosaico del Porto

(I,XIV,2) and Via della Foce (Bloch 1962, 212).

EVIDENCE: Inscriptions.

POSITION: ---

DESCRIPTION: A group of marble inscriptions:

1. *Ti. Cla[udio Cais]ar(e) August(o) Germanico | pont(ifice) m[ax(imo) tribunicia] pot(estate) XI co(n)s(ule) V cens(ore) p(atre)] p(atriciae) Laribus Augustis s[ac(rum)]. Magistri primi d(e) s(ua) p(ecunia) f(ecerunt).*
2. *[Ti. Claudio Caisar(e) Au]g(usto) Germanico po[nt]if(ice) [m]ax(imo) trib(unicia) p[ot(estate) XI] co(n)s(ule) V cens(ore) p(atre) p(atriciae) | [---]us [---]s [sac?]rum.*
3. *Magistri anni primi s(ua) p(ecunia) f(ecerunt) | [L. S]eiu[s.] Herm[e]ros | [L. S]eius H[e]r[me]rotis l(ibertus) Primus | [L. Sei]us [---] l(ibertus)] Diom[e]des.*
4. *L[ustratio] VI K. Iulias | Dedicata K. Ianuaris | Ti. Claudio Caisare Augusto [V] | Ser. Cornelio O[r]f[ite]o [co(n)s(ulibus)].*
5. *Laribus A[ugustis] sacrum | L. Seius Hermeros, [L. Seius Primus] | L. Seius Diomedes [magistri primi s(ua) p(ecunia) f(ecerunt)].*
6. *M[a]gistri anni | primi s(ua) p(ecunia) f(ecerunt).*
7. *Mag(istri) [a]n(ni) pri(mi) s(ua) p(ecunia) f(ecerunt).*

Bloch has made the following remarks about the appearance and original position of the inscriptions. Nrs. 2, 3 and 4 come from the outer walls of a shrine. Nr. 2 probably belonged to an architrave, nrs. 3 and 4 were part of a marble decoration imitating opus quadratum. The latter two are slightly curved. The other inscriptions come from the interior of the shrine. Nr. 1 probably belonged to an architrave, nr. 5 was a base or the facing of a base. The inscriptions were at some point in time damaged on purpose (Bloch 1962, 212-218, with a detailed description and measurements).

FINDS: ---

PHOTOGRAPHS: Bloch 1962, figs. 4, 5 (drawing), 6, 7.

DATES: The inscriptions belong to a shrine put into use in 51 AD. A *lustratio*, that is a *lustratio vici* (the ritual cleansing of a district), took place on June 26th.

NR. 5

LOCATION: Found to the east of the Terme del Mitra (I,XVII,2).

EVIDENCE: Altar with inscription.

POSITION: ---

DESCRIPTION: An inscription on a small altar of white marble, with horn-shaped protuberances on the top (h. 0.455; w. 0.28; d. 0.22; h. of letters 0.029/0.027) (Bloch 1953, nr. 12): *Deaes Tribi | aes et Loco | Divino | l(ibens) a(nimo) v(otum) s(olvit).*

FINDS: ---

PHOTOGRAPHS: Bloch 1953, fig. 7 (drawing).

DATES: ---

NR. 6

LOCATION: Found near the Palazzo Imperiale.

EVIDENCE: Inscription.

POSITION: ---

DESCRIPTION: An inscription on a marble slab: *Po[st]umus Plotius M. f. quarto | A. Genucius A. f. iter(um) duoviri | locum dederunt compiti aedificandi | C. Cartilius C. f. Poplicol(a) duovir VII | cens(or) III compitum transtulit | D. Caecilius D. D. l. Nicia medicus | L. Marcius L. l. Stephanus | P. Naevius P. l. Heraclida | mag(istri) vici maceriem | et columnam de suo fecerunt | C. Cartilius C. l. Hera[cl-] (CIL XIV S, 4710; Calza 1916, 148. Cf. SO III, 211-212).*

FINDS: ---

PHOTOGRAPHS: ---

DATES: The inscription has been dated to the end of the Republican period or early Augustan period, because Poplicola died during or shortly before the beginning of the reign of Augustus (in the twenties or thirties BC) (Meiggs 1973, 39-40, 475-478, 512; SO III, 169-207).

NR. 7

LOCATION: ---

EVIDENCE: Inscription.

POSITION: ---

DESCRIPTION: A mutilated inscription, the point of discovery of which is unknown, containing some fragmentary names and mentioning an [*aedic*]ulam Larum Au[g(ustorum)], that was erected or rebuilt *in pensua sua* (CIL XIV, 26).

FINDS: ---

PHOTOGRAPHS: ---

DATES: ---