

STRIGILATED URN INSCRIBED FOR LUCIUS VERSENUS PAULINUS

ROMAN, 1ST–2ND CENTURY AD
MARBLE

HEIGHT: 48 CM.

DIAMETER: 32 CM.

PROVENANCE:

*FOUND IN NAZZANO IN DECEMBER 1807 BY
MATTEO CRUCIANI, IN THE WOODED AREA
CALLED "MONTE MANCINO".*

*RECORDED IN TERRACINA BEFORE 1884 BY
MARIE RENÉ DE LA BLANCHÈRE,
IN THE GARDENS OF THE
ANTONELLI FAMILY.*

*THEN IN THE BROUWER COLLECTION,
AMSTERDAM, ACQUIRED IN 1979.
THEN IN THE VAN LEEUWEN COLLECTION,
MAASTRICHT,
ACQUIRED IN 1992.*

*THEN IN THE ELLIS COLLECTION,
BIRMINGHAM, ACQUIRED IN 1998.
FINALLY IN THE C. COLLECTION, LONDON,
ACQUIRED IN THE EARLY 2000S.*



This marble cinerary urn of a well-balanced cylindrical form presents a classical design, by its shape as well as its decor. The strigillated decoration that we can see on the back is interrupted by a framed panel of an oblong shape completed with two triangles on each side. The lid is decorated with vegetal leaves.

The panel is inscribed with three lines in Latin:

D(iis) M(anibus) / L(ucii) Verseni / Paulini

Which means: "to the Manes gods of
Lucius Versenus Paulinus".



The Manes are Roman deities that represent the souls of deceased loved ones. They were honored in the Parentalia and Feralia ceremonies in February. The letters D.M. are often included on cinerary urns and tombstones to refer to these gods. Our urn has, for all of these aspects, a really classical design that we can admire on similar examples, such as two urns of the Vatican collections (ill. 1 & 2).

Comparatives:



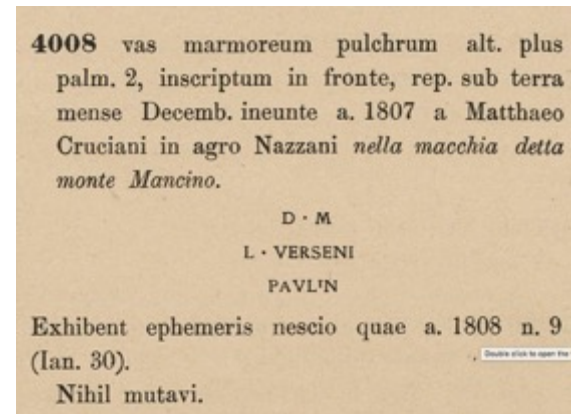
Il. 1: Strigillated Urn, found in Ostia, marble, Vatican, Museo Gregoriano Profano, inv. N° 10697.



Il. 2: Strigillated Urn, found in Roma, via Appia, marble, Vatican, Museo Gregoriano Profano, inv. N° 10590.

Publications:

- Eugen Bormann, *Inscriptiones Aemiliae, Etruriae, Umbriae, Latinae. consilio et auctoritate Academia Litterarum Regiae Borussicae edidit Eugenius Bormann.*, 1888-1926, p. 588, no. 4008.



- *Ephemeris Epigraphica*, vol. VIII, 1899, p. 157, no. 637.

- Thomas Ashby, "La via tiberina e i territory di Capena e del Soratte nel period romano", *Memorie: Atti della Pontificia Accademia romana di archeologia*, volume I.2, 1924, p. 149, note 94.

- Maria Pia Muzzioli, *Cures Sabini (Forma Italiae, IV, 2)*, Rome, 1980, p. 170.

- Nazzano e il suo territorio, *Soveria Mannelli*, 2002, p.82, n. 8.

- *Electronic Archive of Greek and Latin Epigraphy*, no. EDR 145761.

