

Common Abbreviations

AN / ANN	<i>ann(is)/ann(orum)</i>	years
AVG	<i>Augustus; augustalis</i>	Augustus; augustalis
BM	<i>b(ene) m(erenti)</i>	well-deserving
COH	<i>coh(ors)</i>	cohort
COL	<i>col(onia)</i>	colony
COS	<i>co(n)s(ul)</i>	consul
C R	<i>c(ives) R(omani)</i>	Roman citizens
D D	<i>d(ecreto) d(ecurionum)</i>	by decree of the council
D M	<i>D(is) M(anibus)</i>	to the spirits of the departed
D M S	<i>D(is) M(anibus) s(acrum)</i>	sacred to the spirits of the departed
EX TEST	<i>ex test(amento)</i>	according to his/her will
F	<i>f(ilius/a)</i>	son/daughter
F / FEC	<i>f(ecit)</i>	he/she made it (i.e. set it up)
F C	<i>f(aciendum) c(uravit)</i>	he/she saw to its setting up
H F	<i>h(eres) f(ecit)</i>	the heirs made it
H S E	<i>h(ic) s(itus/a) e(st)</i>	here he/she lies
I O M	<i>I(uppiter) O(ptimus) M(aximus)</i>	Jupiter Best and Greatest
L	<i>l(ibertus/a)</i>	freedman/freedwoman
LEG	<i>leg(io)</i>	legion; <i>leg(atus)</i> governor

MIL	<i>mil(es)</i>	soldier
P	<i>p(osuit)</i>	he/she placed (it)
P M	<i>p(ontifex) m(aximus)</i>	high priest
P P	<i>p(ro) p(raetore)</i> or <i>p(ater) p(atriae)</i>	with the powers of a praetor father of his country
PRAEF	<i>praef(ectus)</i>	prefect
PRAET	<i>praet(or)</i>	praetor
STIP	<i>stip(endiorum)</i>	of ... years' service
S T T L	<i>s(it) t(ibi) t(erra) l(evis)</i>	may the earth lie lightly upon you
TRIB POT	<i>trib(unicia) pot(estate)</i>	with tribunician power
V C	<i>v(ir) c(larissimus)</i>	most distinguished gentleman
VET	<i>vet(eranus)</i>	veteran soldier
V F	<i>v(ivus) f(ecit)</i>	he/she did it whilst alive
VIX	<i>vix(it)</i>	he/she lived
V S L M	<i>v(otum) s(olvit) l(ibens) m(erito)</i>	willingly and deservedly fulfilled a vow
V S L L M	<i>vo(tum) s(olvit) l(ibens) l(aetus) m(erito)</i>	willingly, gladly and deservedly fulfilled a vow

Most common Latin *praenomina*

APP	Appius	N	Numerius
A / AV / AVL	Aulus	P	Publius
C / G	Caius/Gaius	Q	Quintus
CN / GN	Cnaeus/Gnaeus	SER	Servius
D	Decimus	SEX	Sextus
L	Lucius	S	Spurius
M/ (=5-stroke M)	Manius	TI	Tiberius
M	Marcus	T	Titus

Roman voting tribes

AEM	Aemilia	PAP	Papiria
ANI	Aniensis	POB/PVB	Poblilia
ARN	Arnensis	POL	Polia
CAM	Camilia	POM	Promptina
CLA	Claudia	PVP	Pupinia
CLV	Clustumina	QVI	Quirina
COL	Collina	ROM	Romilia
COR	Cornelia	SAB	Sabatina
ESQ	Esquilina	SCAP	Scaptia
FAB	Fabia	SER	Sergia
FAL	Falerna	STE	Stellatina
GAL	Galeria	SVB	Suburana
HOR	Horatia	TER	Teretina
LEM	Lemonia	TRO	Tromentina
MAEC	Maecia	VEL	Velina
MEN	Menenia	VOL	Voltinia
OVF	Oufentina	VOT	Voturi
PAL	Palatina		

Introductory bibliography

- J. Bodel (ed.), *Epigraphic Evidence. Ancient History from Inscriptions*. London, 2001. Introduces many of the most important aspects of epigraphy and provides an excellent guide to the standard collections of inscriptions.
- F. Millar, 'Epigraphy', in: M. Crawford (ed.) *Sources For Ancient History*. Cambridge 1983 etc. (Cambridge University Press). A brief introduction to the use of epigraphical sources for ancient history. Focuses on political history, and the history of events. Includes discussion of specific texts.
- L. Keppie, *Understanding Roman Inscriptions*. London 2001 (2nd ed.) (Batsford). With chapters on the contribution of epigraphy to social and economic history. Highly readable.
- A.E. Gordon, *Illustrated Introduction to Latin Epigraphy*, Berkeley etc. 1983. Useful general introduction, with bibliography (by topic), survey of CIL volumes, practical lists of Latin abbreviations, Roman emperors etc. The main body of the book is dedicated to discussions of individual inscriptions, with extensive comments, translations etc. There is an index of texts discussed, and photos of all texts at the back. Useful for appreciating the importance of the physical appearances and the archaeological context of inscriptions.

Online resources

[Introduction to Greek and Latin epigraphy: an absolute beginners' guide](#)

http://www.saxa-loquuntur.nl/publications-and-corpora/absolute_beginners_guide.html

Examples of online corpora

[Inscriptions of Roman Tripolitania](http://irt.kcl.ac.uk/irt2009/) <http://irt.kcl.ac.uk/irt2009/>

[Inscriptions of Aphrodisias](http://insaph.kcl.ac.uk/iaph2007/index.html) <http://insaph.kcl.ac.uk/iaph2007/index.html>