



EÖTVÖS LORÁND UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Humanities
DEPARTMENT OF ANCIENT HISTORY



HUNGARIAN ACADEMY of SCIENCE
II. Section of Philosophy
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FOUNDATION

‘Roman curse tablets from the temple of Mercury at Uley in southern Britain’

More than two hundred ‘curse tablets’ (*tabellae defixionis*) have been found at two sites in southern Britain which are little more than twenty miles apart, the temple of Sulis Minerva at Bath (c. 120 tablets) and the temple of Mercury at Uley (c. 85 tablets). They are letters written to the gods on sheets of lead, formally requesting the punishment of thieves and the restitution of stolen property, which provide our richest manuscript source for the life of civilians in Roman Britain. The Bath tablets, which I published in 1988 as *Tabellae Sulis*, have now been accepted by UNESCO as part of the Memory of the World. I published an interim account of the Uley tablets in 1993, and have added to it at intervals. I am now preparing a comprehensive edition which I will summarise in my lecture, when I will talk about British ‘curse tablets’ in general and the Uley tablets in particular.

ROGER TOMLIN lives in Oxford where he is a Fellow of Wolfson College, having retired in 2010 as the University Lecturer in Late-Roman History. He is also a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and President of the British Epigraphy Society, having been the editor since 1975 (with Richard Wright until 1976 and Mark Hassall until 2007) of the annual ‘Roman Britain (Inscriptions)’ survey in the journal *Britannia*. In this capacity he compiled the Addenda and Corrigenda to the reprint (1995) of Collingwood and Wright’s *Roman Inscriptions of Britain (RIB I)*, co-edited (with Sheppard Frere) the eight fascicules of *RIB II* (1990–95), and wrote up *RIB III* (2009) from his own work and that of Wright and Hassall. As well as many shorter contributions to Roman history and epigraphy, ranging from the army to Saint Augustine, but especially within Roman Britain, he has published the Bath curse tablets as *Tabellae Sulis* (1988) and the Bloomberg London stylus tablets as *Roman London’s First Voices* (2016).