



Pliny and the Comum Inscription

This information is adapted, with the author's permission, from Appendix 1: A Pliny timeline and the great Comum inscription (pgs. 265-273), Gibson, R. K., and R. Morello. 2012.

Reading the Letters of Pliny the Younger: an Introduction, Cambridge.

Much of our information on the life of Pliny and dates of significant events derives from an inscription which was set up in Pliny's hometown of Comum – his letters rarely provide dates and are often organised achronologically within a Book. Only one original fragment has survived but the remainder is recorded in a manuscript copy of the inscription, dating to the 15th century CE.

The inscription is estimated to have been around 3 metres in length and was most likely displayed in a prominent, public position in Comum, on a building or monument.

The inscription is catalogued as *CIL* 5. 5262 and the fragment and restored text be viewed here:

[LacusCurtius • Sant' Ambrogio of Milan — The Pliny inscription \(uchicago.edu\)](#)

[CIL 5.5262 – Fragment of a building inscription commemorating Pliny the Younger, who willed funds for furnishing and maintaining public baths \(osu.edu\)](#)

The text of the inscription with a translation can be found here, [Pliny's Career - Livius](#), and is copied below:

CIL 5.5262

Gaius Plinius Caecilius Secundus, son of Lucius, of the Oufentine tribe; consul; augur; *legatus Augusti pro praetore consulari potestate* for the province of Pontus and Bithynia, sent to that province in accordance with the Senate's decree by the emperor Nerva Trajan Augustus Germanicus Dacicus, the father of his country; curator of the bed and banks of the Tiber and sewers of Rome; prefect of the treasury of Saturn; prefect of the military treasury; praetor; tribune of the people; quaestor of the emperor; commissioner of the Roman knights; tribune of the Third Gallic legion; magistrate on the Board of Ten; left by will public baths at



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a cost of [*lacuna*] and an additional 300,000 sesterces for furnishing them, with interest on 200,000 for the upkeep. He also left to his city capital of 1,866,666 sesterces to support a hundred of his freedmen, and subsequently to provide an annual dinner for the people of the city. Likewise in his lifetime he gave 500,000 sesterces for the maintenance of boys and girls of the city, and also 100,000 for the upkeep of the library.