

Additional evidence: The Subura

1. A funerary inscription from the first or second century AD.

The inscription records the death of a young boy, Publius Papirius Proculus, who was killed by a falling roof-tile while visiting Rome from Salona in Dalmatia (modern Croatia). The funerary inscription was set up by his mother. Papirius' age is not clear as the stone is damaged: it is variously transcribed as eleven, twelve, thirteen, or nineteen.

Papiria Rhome v(iva) f(ecit) sibi et / Papiriae Cladillae ann(or)um [X](?)XIX / et P(ublio) Papirio Proculo ann(or)um XI[X? fi]li(i)s / condidit hic miseri mater duo funera pa[rtus?] / ossaque non iustis intulit exequiis / tegula nam Romae Proculum prolapsa peremit / pressit Sipunti(!) pressa Cladilla rogum / vota parens nocuere tibi qui numina saeva / ut plura eriperent plura dedere bona / et P(ublio) Papirio Clado viro et P(ublio) Papirio / Celerioni et Papiriae Hispanillae li[b(ertis)] // Q(uintus) Nassius Q(uinti) f(ilius) Tro(mentina) / Certus Draco / aedilis IIIvir i(ure) d(icundo) v(ivus) f(ecit) s(ibi) et / Tulliae Intumae matri // h(oc) m(onumentum) h(eredem) n(on) s(equetur)

The key words are:

tēgula nam Rōmae Proculum prōlapsa perēmit

In Rome a fallen roof-tile killed Proculus

Pick out Proculus' name, **Rōmae** and the Latin word for a roof tile (**tēgula**).

CIL III 2083. The inscription is now in Zagreb Archaeological Museum and can be viewed online at:

<https://edh-www.adw.uni-heidelberg.de/inschrift/suche?qs=tegula&start=20>

Image: <http://lupa.at/22326>

2. Ausonius, a fourth century Roman poet, mourns the death of his grandson Pastor who was killed by a falling roof-tile (*Parentalia* 11):

**occidis ēmissae percussus pondere testae,
abiēcit tectō quam manus artificis.**

*You died when you were struck by the weight of a falling tile,
thrown from the roof by a workman's hand.*

3. Juvenal (*Satire* 3.236ff.) describes a street which could have been in the Subura:

the traffic in the narrow twisting streets, cattle stuck in a jam and their herdsmen swearing at them ... in front of me a great crowd is blocking my way and I'm being crushed from behind. One man jabs me with his elbow, another strikes me with a hard pole, someone else hits my head with a plank of wood, another with a jar. My shins are caked with mud, now I'm being kicked and a soldier is treading on my foot with his hob-nailed boot. ... there's a wagon approaching with the huge trunk of a fir tree, and there's another, with a pine tree. High up they shudder and threaten to fall on the crowd below. And now here comes a cart carrying a load of marble. If its axle breaks it will tip its heavy load on the crowd, and what will be left of their bodies?

- i. What impression does this passage give you about conditions in the streets in Rome?
- ii. What kinds of activities took place?
- iii. What were the dangers and inconveniences?