# WOMAN’S GARDEN “STEPPINGSTONE” IS AN ANCIENT ROMAN ARTEFACT

* **Difficulty: Medium**

*An ancient Roman artefact was used as a steppingstone for 10 years*

A woman living in Whiteparish, a village in England, had been using a slab of marble from her garden to get onto her horse for 10 years. She was surprised when she saw a wreath carved on its surface.

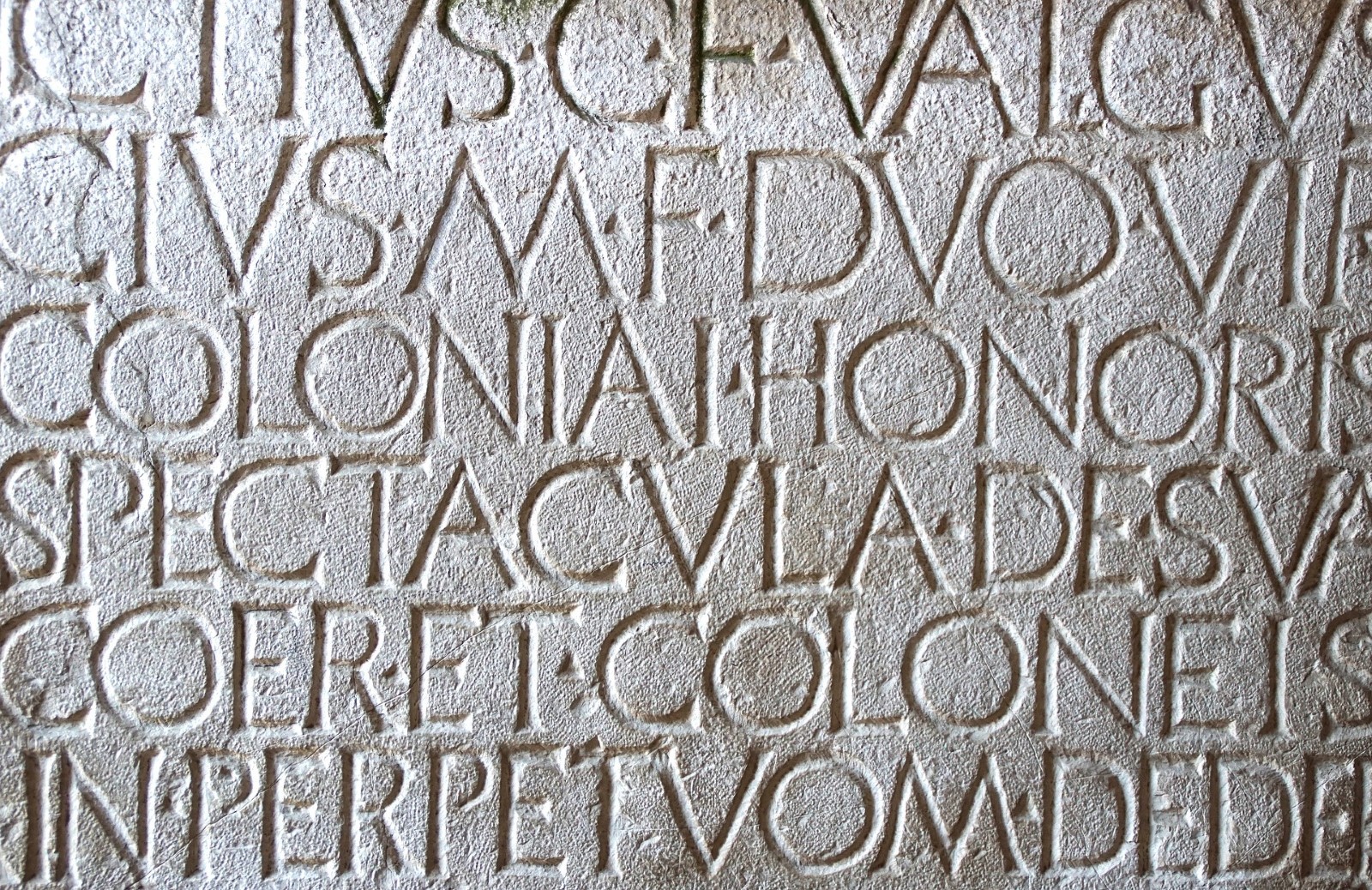
Experts confirmed that it was from the second century A.D. and that it is worth a lot of money. It was probably carved in Greece or Turkey, but nobody really knows how it got to England.

Some of the stone's history is known. It was found in the womans rock garden about 20 years ago. The woman who owns the stables used the mud-covered slab to mount her horses.

An archaeologist who assessed the slab said that it was a rare find. The inscription on the slab reads: "the people (and) the Young Men (honour) Demetrios (son) of Metrodoros (the son) of Leukios".

The slab was not made in England, even though the Roman Empire extended into the British Isles. It was estimated to have been taken to England about 300 years ago. The experts say that artefacts of this kind often got taken to England during grand tours in the late 18th and 19th century. This was when wealthy aristocrats would tour Europe to learn about classical art and culture. The archaeologists think that that is how the slab arrived in England.

What they do not know is how it ended up in this woman's garden. There are several possibilities though. Will Hobbs, a specialist in antiques, said that there are houses known as Cowesfield House and Broxmore House that are very close to Whiteparish where the slab was found. This slab was maybe left at one of these houses during one of the grand tours. He said they also know that one of the houses was destroyed by a fire in 1963 and the rubble was possibly reused to build with in the Whiteparish area, and the slab taken there with the rubble.



## Questions

1. QUESTION1
2. QUESTION2
3. …

## Collocations and Difficult Words

* **WORD** – DEFINITION
* **WORD** – DEFINITION
* …

## Countries, Languages, and Demonyms

* China Mandarin Chinese

## Highlighted Vocabulary

*Remove?*