

Roman tombstones ideas



Funerary banqueting demonstrates:

- Wealth and disposable income,
- Awareness of Roman culture,
- Often used by auxiliary families to show improved status,
- Families were important in Roman culture.



Holding hands indicates:

- Marriage and the marriage ceremony,
- Unity and close relationships,
- Occasionally demonstrates relationships between parents and children, freedmen and patrons.



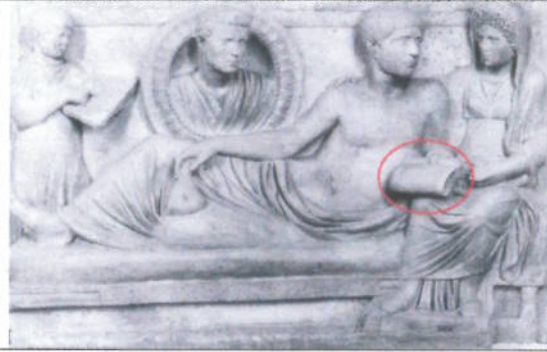
Dolphin motif:

- Alludes to the afterlife,
- Symbolizes death and journey to realms beyond,
- Confusion about where Hades was located,
- Sea creatures also linked to Venus cult.



The toga:

- A garment restricted to Roman citizens,
- It was a requirement to wear the toga when on official business in the forums of Rome,
- Toga confers respectability and implies wealth.
- Stripes called 'clavi' were woven into the togas of important officials.



Last will and testament:

- A legal document demonstrating the rights of a Roman citizen,
- Writing a will was a sign of prestige,
- Implies literacy, which was a skill limited to 1 in 10 people.



Pinecone:

- A symbol of immortality, suggesting a belief in the afterlife.
- Evergreens, such as pines, are often linked with immortality and life,
- Often associated with the military cult of Mithras.

Floral designs:

- This motif indicates fertility
- Raising children was believed to be an important part of a Roman woman's life



Tools of the trade:

- Tools display pride in an individual's career and skill.
- However, this was generally only displayed by Freedmen (Ex-slaves).

The *fascēs*:

- Small bundle of rods with an axe-head, symbolizes public office, in this case a priest in the imperial cult.



Hairstyle:

- Women used hairstyles to mark knowledge of Roman culture.
- The crimped hair and centre parting of Volusia's hairstyle is similar to Empress Julia Domna.