

## MRA-ITA-Rom231



**SAMPLE ID:**

MRA-ITA-Rom231

**SAMPLE TYPE:**

Plaster  
(Sub-Type: fragment)

**DIMENSIONS:**

3.7 cm L x 4 cm W x 1.5 cm H

**WEIGHT:**

13.4 g

**GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION:**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Place</b>
Italy	Rome

**SITE/MONUMENT:**

Catacombe di Domitilla

**HISTORICAL NOTE ABOUT THE SITE/MONUMENT:**

The catacombs are located near Via Appia Antica and are the site of early Christian burials dating from approximately the 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> centuries CE. Dug into tufa at a depth of around 16 meters, the catacombs hold over 26,000 tombs, some of which still contain human remains. The catacombs were named for Domitilla, who donated the land as a gesture of sympathy to Christians. The catacombs were rediscovered in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century by Antonio Bosio, sometimes called the

“Columbus of the Catacombs.” Recent restoration efforts have uncovered frescoes bearing early Christian iconography, Biblical scenes, and pagan imagery (including a depiction of Orpheus and personifications of the seasons).

Further reading:

Bisconti, F. (2018). The Art of the Catacombs. In *The Oxford Handbook of Early Christian Archaeology*, William R. Caraher, Thomas W. Davis, and David K Pettegrew (Eds.) DOI: 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199369041.013.12.

Wikipedia contributors (2020, December 5). Catacombs of Domitilla. In Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Retrieved May 14, 2021, from [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Catacombs\\_of\\_Domitilla&oldid=992419531](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Catacombs_of_Domitilla&oldid=992419531).

**CHRONOLOGICAL PERIOD (SAMPLE):**

1st-5th century

**PHOTOS/DOCUMENTS (PROVENANCE):**



Mural painting of Christ as the Good Shepherd (photo by <http://campus.belmont.edu/honors/catacombs/catacombs.htm>, public domain)



Corridor in the Catacombs of Domitilla (photo by Dnalor 01, Wikipedia Commons/ CC-BY-SA 3.0)