



**IMPERIUM KONFLIKT MYTHOS**  
2000 JAHRE | VARUSSCHLACHT®

**Press Release**

## **New Clues as to the Whereabouts of the Lost Varus Inscription LWL-Römermuseum makes a surprise discovery during research for the „IMPERIUM“-exhibition**

**Haltern am See , 16<sup>th</sup> March 2009**

Under Emperor Augustus the Roman Empire 2000 years ago was at the height of its power. The rise of Rome to a power which dominated the whole Mediterranean area is shown by the LWL-Römermuseum in Haltern am See in its new exhibition "IMPERIUM" (16.5.-11.10.). The exhibition organised by the Landschaftsverbandes Westfalen-Lippe (LWL) is part of the exhibition project „IMPERIUM KONFLIKT MYTH. 2000 Years Varus Battle“. It spotlights Augustus' political achievements and the cultural riches of his "Golden Age". The exhibition presents a picture of the man who was defeated in the Battle in the Teutoburg Forest that does away with the widespread image of Publius Quinctilius Varus as a failure.



*Copy of the inscription from Pergamon in honor of Varus. Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften.*

*Photograph: K. Hallof*

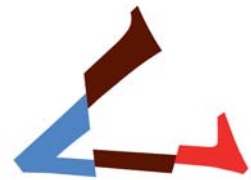
[www.imperium-konflikt-mythos.de](http://www.imperium-konflikt-mythos.de)

„IMPERIUM KONFLIKT MYTHOS. 2000 Jahre Varusschlacht“ ist ein Ausstellungsprojekt im Jahre 2009 getragen von:

**LWL**  
Für die Menschen.  
Für Westfalen-Lippe.

**VARUS  
SCHLACHT** IM OSNABRÜCKER LAND  
MUSEUM UND PARK  
KALKRIESE

**LANDES  
VERBAND  
LIPPE**  **Lippe service**  
Kreis Lippe



IMPERIUM KONFLIKT MYTHOS  
2000 JAHRE | VARUSSCHLACHT®

## Press Release

The LWL is presenting some of the more than 200 world-class exhibits in a series:



*Reconstructed inscription: „The people (of Pergamon) honor Publius Quin(c)tilius Varus“. From: K. Tuchelt, 1979, Frühe Denkmäler Roms in Kleinasien.  
Processing: LWL/Esch*

### A Journey in the East

Between 22/21 and 19 BC Emperor Augustus was on a journey through the east of the Roman empire, which took him to Sicily, Asia Minor and Syria. Varus was one of his companions during his business dealings in the eastern provinces. For a time at least he served as the Emperor's personal financial officer, The citizens of Athens, of the Cycladic island of Tenos (today Tinos) and of Pergamon (today western Turkey) even erected a number of statues in honour of Varus. Although the statues are lost, the extant inscriptions report on the homage paid to the confidant of the Emperor. They are the earliest archaeological evidence of his person.

One of the inscriptions from Pergamon reads "The people (of Pergamon) honour Publius Quin(c)tilius Varus". Probably the inhabitants of Pergamon are thanking Varus in this fashion for generous gifts and other favours. Perhaps they want to gain his favour to profit from it later.



**IMPERIUM KONFLIKT MYTHOS**  
2000 JAHRE | VARUSSCHLACHT®

## Press Release

### Trail Leads to Haltern

The LWL-Römermuseum can show only a copy of the inscription in its exhibition. The stone, which was found at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century by a well on the castle hill of Pergamon, was long thought of as lost.



*The last place the inscription was seen:  
The Römisch-Germanische Museum Haltern.  
Photograph: LWL*

Not an academic treatise, but the description of a bicycle journey made by the journalist and writer, Werner Bergengruen, put the museum's staff on to this track. Bergengruen cycled through many areas of Germany in 1933 and published his memory of the journey in the book "Deutsche Reise" ("German Journey") in 1934. The following passage appears in the book: "In the Haltern Museum I was fascinated by the fragment of a stone monument with a Greek inscription in honour of Publius Quintilius Varus. The find was made at Pergamon and was given as a gift to Haltern".

### Buried amongst Wartime Debris?

Further research showed that the stone was indeed a present given by the Imperial Ottoman Museum in Istanbul to the Römisch-Germanisches Museum in Haltern, precursor of the LWL-Römermuseum. Alexander Conze, who headed the excavations at Pergamon



*The successor: the LWL-Römermuseum in Haltern am See.  
Photograph: LWL/Brentführer*



**IMPERIUM KONFLIKT MYTHOS**  
2000 JAHRE | VARUSSCHLACHT®

## **Press Release**

between 1878 and 1894 arranged the donation. In March 1945 the museum in Haltern was destroyed by a bomb. Although most of the collection had been evacuated by this time this was probably not the case with the inscription. Possibly it is still buried amongst wartime debris under the car park in Haltern.

The inscriptions from the east of the Roman empire suggest that Varus was quite popular there – this was not the case later in Germania, as Bergengruen notes in his travel report: “The inscription says that the people honoured him. But the people of the Lippe and Weser area were of different disposition”.

### **For the attention of the press:**

**The press conference for the opening of the exhibition: 14<sup>th</sup> May 2009 11 a.m. in the Seestadthalle in Haltern am See.**

Seestadthalle  
Lippspieker 25  
45721 Haltern am See

LWL-Römermuseum  
Weseler Straße 100  
45721 Haltern am See

### **Opening hours**

Tuesday to Friday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Saturday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Sunday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### **Admission charges**

Adults: 9 Euro  
families: 20 Euro  
Students: 2 Euro  
Reduced rate: 6 Euro  
Groups with more than 16 persons: 7 Euro per person  
(plus charges for guided tour)



**IMPERIUM KONFLIKT MYTHOS**  
2000 JAHRE | VARUSSCHLACHT®

## **Press Release**

**Press contacts:** Frank Tafertshofer and Martin Holzhaue,  
Telephone: 0251 591-235, [presse@lwl.org](mailto:presse@lwl.org)

### **For the attention of the press**

The pictures are available for downloading at [www.lwl.org](http://www.lwl.org). We should also be glad to send you the pictures and the texts by e-mail. Please phone us if you prefer this. If you enter your name into our subscription list ("Press", "Abo Press-Infos"), we will send you our press releases and pictures to you automatically by e-mail.