

Roman Gods in Britain

ANCIENT STORIES IN STONE

Saying thank you to the gods and goddesses for their help was an important part of Roman religion. Below is the second of two altars found in the **River Tyne**. An altar is a special stone that Romans used to give thank-you gifts to the gods. But what does this one say? Let's look at the clues!



OCIANO can also be spelled OCEANO - what god might this be?

This altar is **for**:

OCIANO = **TO** OCEANUS

- this word has an O on the end like in our first altar, telling us it means **TO** or **FOR** **Ocianus**. Ocianus is just another way of spelling of the name of the Roman god **Oceanus**, the god of the tidal waters! Some people think he might have been linked with the **North Sea**

It has been built **by**:

LEG VI VI P F
LEGIO 6 VICTRIX PIA FIDELIS

Our 6th Legion Victrix, Loyal and Faithful are back again! Did you remember that the line over the first VI tells us to read it as a number?

The same soldiers who made the altar to **Neptune** have also made this altar to **Oceanus**.

They have made it **because**:

The imagery on this altar is nice and clear: a ship's **anchor**. The soldiers have created this altar to thank him for their safe journey across the sea. Remember they have travelled from **Germania** (modern day Germany) all the way to **Britannia**, sailing across the North Sea. This would have been a long - and very bumpy - journey!

Saying thank you to both **Oceanus** and **Neptune** could also be a way for the soldiers to mark their successful journey from the tidal waters of the North Sea into the river waters of the Tyne.