D.13. Inscriptions on Lead Pipes

One might even imagine that it was under Trajan that Hostilius Firminus had acquired the villa and that one of the first actions of the new owner was to install proper plumbing.¹⁸

A third lead pipe stamp was discovered in the early twentieth-century excavations and presented by Lugli as Caesernius Lucernio fec.²⁰ Its present whereabouts are unknown. Lugli described the circumstances of the find in the following way: “A large sheet of lead that bears the inscription of a certain Caesernius Lucernio was discovered in a bad state of preservation near the calidarium and was probably used as a division of some tank or cistern.”²¹ The find-spot was near the sewer labelled “I”, about one meter below the level of what Lugli calls the calidarium (rooms S1-3= rooms 44, 47, and 48).²²

The name Caesernius Lucernio is not known from any other source.²³ There was an aristocratic family of Caesernii that originated from Aquileia, but there is no reason to assume a connection.²⁴ About

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²⁰ Lugli 1926, col. 581 no. 1.
²¹ Lugli 1930, 66.
²² Lugli 1926, col. 581; for the plan of the excavations to which he refers, see his Tav. III.
²³ The cognomen Lucernio is not completely unknown, however, for it appears six times in Kajanto’s collection of Latin cognomina; see I. Kajanto, The Latin Cognomina (Helsinki 1965) 343. There is no Caesernius among these: one comes from the province of Baetica, another from Pannonia Superior, and four appear in Christian (i.e. late antique) inscriptions. In view of these findings, it is somewhat surprising to find someone called Lucernio in Licenza during the first or second century A.D.
²⁴ Only two prominent Caesernii are known from the first century A.D., namely the senator Caesernius Veiento, praetorian proconsul of Crete and Cyrene in the mid-forties A.D. (not in PIR²), and the equestrian T. Caesernius Statius Quinctius Macedo (PIR² C 181), who had two sons. They became senators during the first half of the second century A.D. The consular sons are T. Caesernius Macedo (PIR² C 181).