

SEMO SANCUS: a statue of Semo Sancus Dius Fidius on the island in the Tiber, where an inscription of the second century was found in 1574 (CIL vi. 567). The marble base on which this inscription is placed supported a statue which, because of the similarity of names, the early Christians mistook for one of Simon Magus (Justin Mart. Apol. pr. 25, 56; Iren. contra haeres. i. 23; Tert. adv. gent. 13; Cyrill. Hierosol. Catechesis 6; Euseb. Hist. eccles. ii. 13, 14). There is no evidence for the existence of any shrine or altar here, and the cult of Semo Sancus may well have been connected with that of IUPITER IURARIUS (q.v.), and this statue may have stood at or near his temple (HJ 636; Besnier 273-279, 286-289; Rosch. iv. 318.319; RE i. A. 2255).