WELCOME
A warm welcome to the 6th edition of Epistula. It has been a busy and productive six months for the Society and its members and this is reflected in the current issue. In this issue we catch up with book launches, conferences, site tours, new writing tablets from Vindolanda, an image of a bacterial ‘kill zone’(!) and possibly the portrait of a Roman governor on a coin.

There are so many things happening it often feels difficult to keep up, which is why Epistula is here to help. We are always hungry for more so if you have an item of interest related to the study of Roman World, why not let us all know about it for the next issue; we would love to hear about it.

Best wishes for the New Year,
Andrew Birley and Neil Holbrook
Editors

Society News
Events
This Autumn saw a cluster of events across Britain and in London. Activities started in September with a site visit to Vindolanda. Members enjoyed a tour of the site in the warm September sunshine followed by a visit to the museum, a lecture delivered by Dr Andrew Birley: Gallic Soldiers in Roman Britain and at Vindolanda - a special relationship? and a reception in the Vindolanda Museum with the curatorial staff.

In October, the Society, together with the Society for the Libyan Studies, hosted a book launch at Senate House in London. The volume, The African Frontiers, co-authored by David Mattingly, Alan Rushworth, Martin Sterry and Victoria Leitch, is part of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire series edited by David Breeze and Sonja Jilek, and it had been jointly funded by the Roman and Libyan Societies. Copies may be purchased for £10 from the Roman Society office (email: office@romansociety.org).
At the beginning of November, the Society held a colloquium in collaboration with the Association for Roman Archaeology at the British Museum in what has now become an established annual event. This year, the topic was *Health and Medicine in the Roman World*. The proceedings were begun by Ralph Jackson with a lecture entitled *Doctor and Patient in the Roman World*. Nicholas Summerton followed with a lecture (and demonstration!) on *Roman Eye Medicine – manufacture and use* (see his article on page 4-5). After the break, Eberhard Sauer delivered a wide ranging lecture considering *Healing Springs and Spring Veneration* in many parts of the world, and Bryn Walters finished with a thought-provoking paper on *Spring-line Healing Centres in Roman Britain*. John Wilkes summed up the conference.

Finally, Charlotte Higgins delivered the London Evening Lecture at Senate House on 12 November. Her lecture, *Boudicca on the Caledonian Road*, was based on her recent book *Under Another Sky*, which had been shortlisted for the Samuel Johnson Prize. See pages 14-15 for a review of the book.

**Dates for your Diary**

**M.V. Taylor Lecture**  
14 January, Senate House, 5.30pm  
Dr Michel Amandry, *Antinous: Life and Death of a God*

**Roman Society Lecture – Bath Literature Festival**  
2 March, Grand Pump Room, Roman Baths, Bath, 8pm  
Charlotte Higgins, title tbc

**London Evening Lecture**  
11 March, Senate House, 5.30pm  
Philip Kay, *Rome’s Economic Revolution. Economic Growth in the Late Roman Republic*

**Annual General Meeting**  
7 June, Senate House  
The AGM at 2pm will be followed by a series of talks on *Tiberius the Successor*  
Speakers include Peter Wiseman, Amanda Claridge and Eleanor Cowan.
New Monograph

The Society is very pleased to announce the publication of its latest publication, JRS Monograph 12, *Monumenta Asiae Minoris Antiqua XI, Monuments from Phrygia and Lykaonia*, edited by P. Thonemann with the assistance of C.V. Crowther and E. Chiricat. Copies may be purchased from Oxbow Books: http://www.oxbowbooks.com/oxbow/

The first Roman Society app

An introduction and explanation from digital arts company, Braunarts.

We have collaborated with The Roman Society to create a new iPad app entitled ‘The Mystery of Regina’s Tombstone’ which is the society’s first educational resource for mobile devices.

The app was created in parallel with, and using the same content as, the web-based resource on the Roman Society website, specifically to ‘test the waters’ and see what level of uptake there might be from iPad users.

To help us spread the word, we produced three video introductions to the app presented by Mary Beard, Margaret Mountford and Tom Holland. Located on YouTube, the videos are an interesting demonstration of how the app enables and encourages users to find their own paths through the tombstone stories – the videos can be seen on the Braunarts YouTube channel at http://bit.ly/1ctn53m.

Professor Mary Beard introduces the App

The app provides a general introduction to Roman life in Britain 1,800 years ago and links to artefacts and monuments at the British Museum, Verulamium Museum, Arbeia, Corbridge and Palmyra. Created originally as a resource for young people, the app questions and provokes as well as presenting a curious story that links the North East of England with Palmyra in Syria.

We're particularly proud of the central interface which involves using your fingers to 'paint' Regina's Tombstone and reveal the type of colour decoration that used to grace many ancient tombs and other monuments. We would love to know what you think of this experimental app! Please do explore it and we would be very grateful if you would provide feedback via a review directly to Apple (via the App Store) or by emailing us at office@romansociety.org.

Gabi Braun, Director of Braunarts Ltd

The Regina app is free and was inspired by ‘The Regina Chapter’ of the ‘Journeys in the Roman Empire’ CD-Rom, which was a Braunarts Production for the British Museum and Channel 4, made in collaboration with Verulamium Museum, 2001.

To download the app please go to http://bit.ly/17wM1su
Manufacturing and testing Roman eye medicines (collyria)

In the previous edition of *Epistula* (V,6) I outlined a collaborative project (supported by a very generous donation from Dame Mary Perkins at Specsavers) to manufacture and test out the microbiological efficacy of a number of Roman eye medicines (collyria).

Based on an assessment of the most common constituents mentioned on collyrium stamps combined with information derived from the chemical analysis of collyria found in excavations, we were particularly interested in recipes involving the following: cadmia (zinc carbonate), cerussa (lead acetate), spodii (zinc oxide), stomoma (copper acetate) and gummi (gum arabic). Consequently Sally Pointer kindly agreed to manufacture four collyria described by Celsus (*Philo, Dionysius, Cleon 1 and Cleon 2*) and one by Galen (*Lutron*). The details of the components for these five collyria are provided in the table.

![Figure 1. Cerussa (lead acetate)](image-url)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ancient Component</th>
<th>Modern equivalent</th>
<th>Philo</th>
<th>Dionysius</th>
<th>Cleon 1</th>
<th>Cleon 2</th>
<th>Lutron</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cerussa</td>
<td>Lead acetate</td>
<td>4g</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plumbi eloti et combusti</td>
<td>Lead oxide and lead sulphide</td>
<td></td>
<td>24g</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spodii</td>
<td>Zinc oxide</td>
<td>4g</td>
<td>16g</td>
<td>16g</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cadmia</td>
<td>Zinc carbonate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4g</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stomoma</td>
<td>Copper acetate</td>
<td></td>
<td>4g</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turis</td>
<td>Frankincense</td>
<td>2g</td>
<td></td>
<td>3g</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myrrhe</td>
<td>Myrrh</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12g</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croci</td>
<td>Saffron</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.66g</td>
<td>8g</td>
<td>8g</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aloe</td>
<td>Aloe</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8g</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eris ushi et loti</td>
<td>Iris (burnt and washed)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>16g</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gummi</td>
<td>Gum arabic</td>
<td>4g</td>
<td>2g</td>
<td>4g</td>
<td>24g</td>
<td>16g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papaveris lacrimae</td>
<td>Raw opium</td>
<td>8g</td>
<td>4.66g</td>
<td>4g</td>
<td>16g</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional ingredients</td>
<td>Water</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rose juice</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mendes wine</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table: Constituents of the five manufactured collyria*
As far as possible Sally has sought to use ancient techniques in the manufacture of the collyria and their components. For example, in relation to the Philo collyrium, figure 1 shows the cerussa (lead acetate) formed after the immersion of copper in strong vinegar and figure 2 illustrates the weighed components of Philo collyrium prior to mixing. Unfortunately I have been unable to overcome the legal challenges associated with obtaining and using raw opium and, consequently, this component has been omitted from all the collyria we have manufactured.

One of the most interesting findings so far is that the Philo collyrium exhibits the same microbiological efficacy (in vitro!) as does one of the most commonly prescribed ophthalmological antibiotics that I use as a general practitioner—fusidic acid. Figures 3 and 4 demonstrate the bacterial ‘kill zones’ around Philo and fusidic acid respectively.

Dr Nick Summerton, General Practitioner

A portrait of Didius Gallus?

Roman officials of Britain are hard to locate, and we often seem to have a reluctance to find them, as the story of Collingwood’s rejection of Classicinus’ tomb may remind us. That question was settled long ago, but now we have a new one, and, perhaps this time, no mean procurator: do we now have an actual portrait of a governor?

The question is posed by the discovery of a new coin, today in the Bibliothèque Nationale de France (2010.16: see:http://visualiseur.bnf.fr/CadresFenetre?O=IFN-10323570&I=1&M=chemindefer

On the front we have a bare male head in profile; it could have been anyone in the early empire since it has an Augustan look; but it is unequivocally labelled ΔΙΔΙΟΝ ΓΑΛΛΟΝ.

It is inscribed in Greek and is clearly a Roman provincial coin, but its origin is frustratingly unclear, since we can’t read the name of the city that produced it: all that’s visible is TWN, the end of the city’s name. The design on the reverse is Zeus seated with an eagle and sceptre; unhelpful, as it’s hardly diagnostic. But design and fabric suggest a possible origin in Cilicia or Syria. If he were our Didius Gallus, then the coin would belong to an earlier phase of his career when he was honoured by some provincial city, no doubt for some favour or judgment.
Non-imperial portraits are very rare on the provincial coinage, and very few indeed after the reign of Augustus, whose portrait seems to be the model for this coin. But the little we know of Gallus’ career shows it began under Tiberius, and reached its height as a governor, the rank of person who might be honoured by a portrait, under Claudius.

So it’s a problem. Any ideas?
Andrew Burnett

The left-hand side is complete. It is hard to make any sense of this except for the not very informative *me hic* in line 3.

There is still a bit of dirt obscuring some parts, the beginning of line 2 in particular, but the tablet is so thin and fragile that no further cleaning has been possible. However, there is a plausible reading of the lettering on the back, in the large characteristic 'address script', although the bottom of the first letter is missing and the third letter is a bit damaged:

**CORBVLONI**

This produces the name of the recipient of the letter, in the nominative, as: Corbulo.

The very rare *cognomen* Corbulo - perhaps 'Celtic' in origin - is basically known only as the name of the famous general under Nero, Gnaeus Domitius Corbulo, one of the heroes of Tacitus’ *Annals*. See Ronald Syme, 'Domitius Corbulo', *Journal of Roman Studies* 60 (1970) 27-39, at 33, who noted only four other bearers of the name:

- Cornelius Corbulo, CIL XII 2414
- L. Crassicius Corbulo, CIL XIII 5178
- L. Pomponius Corbulo, CIL IX 5329
- L. Helvacius Corbulo, CIL IX 6349

Corbulo’s daughter, Domitia Longina, later married, as her second husband, the future emperor Domitian (who ‘stole’ her from her first husband), and managed to outlive him - in fact she was apparently still alive under Hadrian. But no male descendants are known and it would in any case have been out of the question for such a hypothetical descendant to receive a letter at Vindolanda in the pre-Hadrianic period. So it seemed likely that our Corbulo was probably a 'Celt' of some kind.

However, Werner Eck kindly informs me that a fragmentary unpublished diploma records an equestrian officer called Domitius Corbulo, prefect of an *ala*, evidently in Syria Palaestina late in the reign of Antoninus Pius. Given the dating context of the Vindolanda tablet it seems pretty unlikely that he could be the same man as the recipient of the letter found at Vindolanda - but he might be a son. At all events, surely neither are connected by blood to the famous Corbulo. The explanation is no doubt just that a father called Domitius (a very common *nomen*) cheekily called his son Corbulo because of the famous general.
There are parallel examples of men called Tullius Cicero, who obviously had no family links to the famous orator (whose line died out with his alcoholic son, the consul of 30 BC).

Tony Birley

Vindolanda excavations – living in the round

During the 2013 excavations at Vindolanda Roman fort an exciting discovery was made several metres below the remains of the AD 213 vicus outside the walls of the fort of the 4th cohort of Gauls. The deep excavations explored the remains of a much earlier extramural settlement, one with well-preserved wattle and daub timber buildings that corresponded to the occupation of Vindolanda from c. AD 105-120 by the 1st cohort of Tungrians, a few years prior to the construction of Hadrian’s Wall. The buildings appear to have been abandoned in a hurry, with the inhabitants leaving many of their possessions behind. By AD 122 the structures had been demolished and covered over by the up-cast of boulder clay from the construction of a series of new defences for a new fort. This sequence of events created the perfect conditions for anaerobic preservation, where the tiny amount of residual oxygen in the soil was not sufficient to allow for rapid decomposition of the deposited organic remains.

The discovery of these buildings thrilled the Vindolanda team as it was the first time that they had the opportunity to properly explore timber buildings outside the walls of the large pre-Hadrianic forts at the site.

Therefore these buildings provide a great opportunity to have a detailed look at life outside Roman forts on the northern frontier of Roman Britain before the construction of the Wall.

Two phases of domestic dwellings were examined, one a series of circular houses (more commonly of native style), the other more traditional ‘Roman’ rectilinear buildings. Both types had been constructed using wattle and daub and the excavations provided a wide variety of artefacts from the floors, pits and drains within them. These included over 80 shoes (men, women and children’s shoes); large caches of buried hazel nuts in sealed pits; well preserved animal bones (cattle, sheep/goat, pigs, chickens, dogs and cats); brooches; perfume bottles; hairpins; beads; wooden combs; stylus pens; stylus tablets; an ink pen and ink tablet (from just outside the circular house) and a large assemblage of pre-Hadrianic pottery.
It will take many months of conservation before the artefacts can be fully examined but this dataset of material culture is one of the most important tightly contextualised archaeological groups to have ever been found at Vindolanda and will continue to shed new light on the role and function of extramural settlements for many years to come.

Andrew Birley

Roman Military works depot

Members may recall the discovery of a Roman military works depot of c. AD 55 just to the south of the city of Exeter, excavated by Exeter Archaeology and mentioned in Epistula I. Further recent excavation by AC Archaeology has revealed the post-trench foundations of a series of what appear to be at least three closely spaced stores buildings in a previously unexcavated area of the site which was not available for investigation in 2010. These buildings add to the discovery of a fabrica and other Roman military buildings outlined in Epistula I. Pottery evidence has now shown the works depot to have been occupied from around AD 55 to AD 75. It is therefore absolutely contemporary in date with the period of occupation most favoured from a study of all of the evidence for the legionary base at Exeter (see Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, Roman Finds from Exeter). Publication of the results from both excavations is expected in a forthcoming edition of the Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society.

John Pamment Salvatore

Roman Archaeology Conference

RAC 2014 is taking place at the University of Reading from 27 to 30 March 2014

The conference will start on the Thursday evening with a keynote lecture by Fraser Hunter (National Museum of Scotland), followed by two-and-a-half days of parallel sessions including sessions sponsored by the Roman Society, TRAC, the Study Group for Roman Pottery and the Roman Finds Group.

Roman Archaeology Conference sessions include:

- In the Shadow of Vesuvius: the centuries before AD 79 (double session);
- New Approaches to the Romano-British Countryside (double session);
- Roman Landscapes and Preventive Archaeology in Northern France;
- The Role of Zooarchaeology in the Study of the Western Roman Empire (double session);
- Augustus: How to Build an Empire;
- Clay and Cult; Roman Terracottas in Domestic, Religious and Funerary Contexts;
- Continuity and Change – the Impact of Foodways on Provincial Pottery Traditions;
- Early Latium: A Laboratory for Excavation, Survey, and Material Culture Analysis;
- New Synergies? The Impact of the Roman Conquest of Italy on Settlement and Society;
- Recent Work on Roman Britain;
- Recent Work on the Roman Frontiers.

Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference sessions include:

- An Archaeology of Gesture: Performing Rituals, Sharing Emotions;
- Back to the Future: Religion, Culture and Cognitive Theory;
- Current Themes in the Bioarchaeology of Roman Skeletons;
- Insularity and Identity in the Roman Mediterranean;
- Interdisciplinary Approaches to Conservation: the Example of the Vesuvian Area;
- Roman Concepts of Landscape: New Approaches and Perspectives;
- Romans and Barbarians beyond the Northern Frontiers;
- Small Finds and Ancient Social Practices;
- Abandonment and Repopulation in the Settlement Record of the Roman North;
- and an Open Session.

Also, for the first time, we welcome the Roman Finds Group and the Study Group for Roman Pottery who are running the following sessions:

- Small but Mighty – Roman Metal Small Finds in Context;
- Deposits Full of Character;
The basic conference fee is £98 including lunches on Friday and Saturday, and there are discounts for students (£-£20), Society members (£-£5) and for booking before 31 December (£-£18). Delegates can also book in for the Conference dinner on the Friday night and a guided tour around Silchester on the Sunday afternoon. For further information see:

http://www.reading.ac.uk/archaeology/Conferences/RA C2014/

John Creighton, University of Reading

The Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference (TRAC) Standing Committee is pleased to announce the availability of the new TRAC website (http://trac.org.uk) and Open Access TRAC Proceedings papers. Our adoption of an Open Access policy for past Proceedings has already expanded the international reach and availability of some of the most influential Roman archaeology papers published in the past twenty years. The new website features information about past and upcoming conferences, the latest calls for sessions and papers, TRAC publications, and the all-new TRAC Community. The TRAC Community offers a social networking experience for those with an interest in Roman archaeology and theoretical aspects of investigating the Roman past. We encourage you to login and join the discussions today.

Salvete

Darrell J. Rohl and Ian Marshman
TRAC Standing Committee

CRE XV at UCL & KCL promises to appeal to Romanists

Now entering its 15th year, the Current Research in Egyptology Conference (CRE) will be hitting London this coming April. Hosted jointly by University College London (UCL) and King’s College London (KCL) for the first time in its history, it is poised to attract a wide spectrum of scholars and early career researchers to discuss and debate all things Egyptian from prehistory to the rise of Islam and beyond.

The involvement of several participants from last year’s Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference in the Organizational Committee of CRE this year offers an encouraging sign for the appeal of the conference to Romanists and hopes to foreshadow a healthy discussion of the current state of research into the Roman period in Egypt, as well as the relationship between the fields of Roman studies and Egyptology. CRE XV has already attracted institutional support from the Egypt Exploration Society, the London Centre for the Ancient Near East, the British Association for Near Eastern Archaeology as well as the Institute of Classical Studies in the form of student bursary schemes and other financial support. It is hoped that further institutional involvement will help reflect the diversity of the study areas involved with the conference and help to promote inter-disciplinary dialogue. The conference will take place in central London from 9-12 April. Further information can be found online at:

cregyptology.org.uk

Jason Lundock, King’s College London

ΡΩΜΑΪΚΟ ΣΕΜΙΝΑΡΙΟ / Roman Seminar
Advancing knowledge of Greece’s Roman past

Programme of Lectures 2014: “Greece and the Aegean during the early Imperial Period”


February 2014: Workshop in Thessaloniki – Final dates and speakers TBA “Roman Archaeology in Greece Today”

Thursday 6 March 2014: Angelos Chaniotis (Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, School of Historical Studies) “Μνήμη και ταυτότητα στην Αφροδισιάδα στους αυτοκρατορικούς χρόνους”

April 2014: TBA

Thursday 22 May 2014: Tony Spawforth (Newcastle University, School of History, Classics and Archaeology) “Greece and the Augustan Cultural Revolution”
Unless otherwise stated, lectures will take place in Athens at 7 pm, either at the German Archaeological Institute (Fedioi 1) or at the Benaki Museum (Koumpari 1 & Vas. Sofias).

For information: romanseminar@gmail.com

The Organizing Committee: Francesco Camia (NHRF – IHR), Valentina Di Napoli (ESAG), Vassilis Evangelidis (Hellenic Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs), Dimitris Grigoropoulos (DAI Athen), Stavros Vlizos (Benaki Museum).

14th International FIEC Congress
25-30 August 2014, Bordeaux (France)
Second Circular

Registration Process

You are most welcome to attend the 14th International Congress of the International Federation of the Societies of Classical Studies (FIEC), which will be held in Bordeaux (France) between Monday 25 August and Saturday 30 August 2014.

All relevant information concerning scientific or practical matters related to this event is to be found on the Congress website (http://fiec2014.sciencesconf.org/).

This information will be gradually and regularly updated until the beginning of the Congress. You can download the first circular (November 2012), in which you will find the terms of the call for papers.

The Congress will comprise two different types of papers:

1) Lectures (45 minutes) pronounced during plenary sessions by the speakers invited by the International Committee.
2) Communications (20 minutes) taking place during the different panels.

In order to make exchanges easier, the papers will be presented in one of the following languages: English, French, German, Italian and Spanish.

II. Fees, conditions and registration procedure

Registration will be managed through the Congress website. It will be possible to pay by credit card, bank transfer or cheque. There are different levels of participation, each with a different fee (Regular, Students, Accompanying persons, Invited speakers, Delegates of the FIEC member associations). We would like to draw your attention to the following points:

1. Online registration through the conference website is mandatory for everyone.
2. The payment for registration provides access for all participants (excluding accompanying persons) to the following benefits:
   • free access to all plenary and various panels of the conference
   • management of online registration, practical and tourist information, monitoring and personalised welcome, badge, programme, conference kit folder, coffee breaks
   • gala dinner on Thursday 28 August (at the Palais de la Bourse)
3. Accompanying persons (husbands or spouses or partners not attending the conference) pay small registration rights (corresponding to the amount for registration). They can also register for the gala dinner and excursions.
4. The general assembly of the FIEC Delegates and the FIEC Board will take place on Wednesday 27 August in the afternoon. It will be followed by a dinner (provided by the organising Committee of the Congress).
5. Concerning accommodation, a list of hotels will be automatically sent to participants when registering. University housing on the campus of the University of Bordeaux will be available to students who request it through the online registration form.
6. Guided tours of historic Bordeaux and excursions to the vineyards (with tasting) will be available to participants at very competitive rates, through the online registration form.
Programme synopsis: Roman and Iron Age Silchester; Farming and settlement landscapes in the Silchester hinterland; A Roman villa near Boxford; the latest discoveries from the Neolithic at Horton quarry; Aerial photography and remote sensing; Iron Age metal working in Slough.

Parking for the disabled is adjacent and there is plenty of space in local car parks. The venue is five minutes from Newbury Station. Please bring a packed lunch or eat out in a range of restaurants and pubs. Price £10 payable at the door.

For more information see, www.berksarch.co.uk or email t.coombs1@btopenworld.com

Teaching and Learning Latin – Courses with the Cambridge School Classics Project

Cambridge School Classics Project
University of Cambridge
11 West Road
Cambridge CB3 9DP

Tel.: +44 (0)1223 330579
Fax: +44 (0)1223 330584

Free courses for non-specialist Latin teachers

We are delighted to announce that, thanks to significant funding from the Classical Association, we are running a wide range of free courses this year (2013-14) for non-specialist teachers of Latin. If you are a specialist teacher, please forward this information to any colleagues who are currently teaching Latin and wish to improve their knowledge of Latin.

The aim of the courses is to help non-specialists increase their subject knowledge of Latin language, literature and Roman civilisation and the courses cover the whole curriculum from KS3 up to A Level. The courses will focus on subject content, rather than teaching strategies, although we'll no doubt touch on the latter from time to time as we go. The courses are taking place in London, Bristol and Manchester on the following dates:

Archaeology in Berkshire

1 March 2014, St. Nicolas Hall, Newbury, RG14 5HG

Archaeology in Berkshire 2013 brings together professional archaeologists, archaeological societies and those interested in archaeology to hear about the latest projects in Berkshire and the surrounding counties. All are welcome.

Proposals for communications can be submitted as from now on the website: http://fiec2014.sciencesconf.org

We hope to see a great many of you in Bordeaux and remain at your disposal for any further information.

Valérie Fromentin and Sophie Gotteland (contact: fiec2014@gmail.com)
Conferences/learning

London
11-12 January 2014: Stages 17-23 Language and Roman Civilisation
1-2 February: Stages 24-29 Language and Roman Civilisation
29-30 March: AS and A2 Language and Literature
7-8 June: A2 Language and Literature

Bristol
18-19 January 2014: Stages 30-34 and KS4 Literature
22-23 March: Stages 35-40 and KS4 Literature
10-11 May: Stages 21-29 Language and Roman Civilisation

Manchester
25-26 January 2014: AS and A2 Language and Literature
15-16 March: Stages 21-29 Language and Roman Civilisation
17-18 May: Stages 30-40 and KS4 Literature

Feel free to come to just one day, one weekend or all of them! We'll be happy to see you at whichever courses suit your requirements. For those attending courses covering KS4 or A level content, we hope also to be able to offer some free additional support via our distance learning courses.

If you are interested in attending one or more of these courses, please contact me for further details. Please note that while the courses are free, we are unable to help with the costs of any transport, food or accommodation.

For further information, please contact Elizabeth Howell Distance Learning Manager

email: learning@cambridgescp.com
http://www.IndependentLearners.com

Continuing Professional Development: "How to teach the Cambridge Latin Course"

Note: There is a charge for this course

As part of the CSCP’s commitment to high standards in Classics education, we are offering a one-day course on teaching the Cambridge Latin Course, which will run on two occasions in the spring of 2014.

The one-day course will be appropriate for all those who are interested in best practice in developing reading fluency for students of Latin. It is designed to support all teachers of Latin, whether you have been teaching the CLC for some time or are new to it, and the course will be appropriate for specialist and non-specialist teachers. The same course will run two times.

Each one-day course will cover:
- the differences between teaching students Latin and teaching students to read Latin;
- practical strategies for using the CLC’s inductive approach and linguistic map;
- integrating cultural understanding into linguistic development;
- the CLC as preparation for original Latin literature.

Dates and venues for the courses
Friday 7 March in Manchester
Saturday 15 March in Bristol

How to teach the Cambridge Latin Course: Session Descriptions

Session 1: The differences between teaching students Latin and teaching students to read Latin

One of the primary aims of the Cambridge Latin Course is to teach students to read Classical Latin literature in a linear fashion, from left to right. To develop this skill of reading fluency, students need to understand more than just the meaning of the vocabulary and the force of the terminations, they also need to develop an awareness of, and sensitivity to Latin sentence structure and information flow. This session will investigate the issues relating to the development of a reading competence that go beyond teaching students vocabulary and grammar and will present practical strategies for helping students to become fluent readers of Latin.

Session 2: Practical strategies for using the CLC’s inductive approach and linguistic map

In this session we'll look at two fundamental aspects of the CLC’s design that are often overlooked or misunderstood. The first is the inductive approach, in which students meet examples of a new linguistic feature and are encouraged to identify the general rule themselves. The second is the linguistic map of the CLC, i.e. the order in which linguistic features are introduced, which can appear erratic to the untrained eye but which is in fact very carefully arranged for the development of reading fluency.
This session will take practical examples from across the CLC to illustrate best practice in introducing students to new linguistic features and to demonstrate why those features appear in the order they do.

Session 3: Integrating cultural understanding into linguistic development

One of the CLC's aims is that students should learn to view the reading of Latin as a method of finding out information about Roman culture and civilisation. This session will therefore demonstrate practical ways of integrating cultural learning with the reading of the stories. There is much more in the stories, model sentences and line drawings than may be apparent at first sight - how can we teach students to use these materials as sources for learning about the ancient world? How can we integrate the cultural essays in each Stage with the students' reading so that they become more than 'background' information?

Session 4: The CLC as preparation for original Latin literature

Building on the principles of the Cambridge Latin Course as outlined above, this session will look at some of the issues relating to teaching Latin literature to students who have perhaps only been studying the language for two or three years. What are the difficulties students experience and the possible solutions? How can the CLC be instrumental in managing the transition from made-up stories to original Latin? How can teachers achieve the balance between encouraging their students to appreciate what they are reading as literature, and the need to pass an examination?

The cost of the course will be £99 per person to include materials, refreshments and lunch. If you would like to book a place on one of the courses please email the office at office@cambridgescp.com or ring on 01223 361458.

Course organisers: Bar Roden and Verity Walden, University of Cambridge School Classics Project.

Latest news about WJEC Level 1 and 2 Certificates in Latin

WJEC has recently introduced a new range of qualifications in Latin at Level 1 and Level 2. Level 1 is equivalent to Foundation Tier at GCSE and requires knowledge of CLC Books I and II; Level 2 is equivalent to Higher Tier and requires knowledge of CLC Book III.

Known as 'Certificates in Latin', the new qualifications are designed as an alternative to GCSE, in the same way that IB or Pre-U are alternatives to A Level. Each Certificate carries the same 'league table' points (performance points) as a GCSE and is regarded as a GCSE by universities.

Further information about the qualifications

The approved specifications, together with sample question papers, mark schemes and set texts, are available from the WJEC website at wjec.co.uk/latin

Free teaching and learning materials

Free teaching and learning materials for the qualifications (e.g. vocabulary testers, online 'explorer' versions of the texts, audio and web links) are also available from the same website.

Blood of the Provinces. The Roman Auxilia and the Making of Provincial Society from Augustus to the Severans by Ian Haynes

Available through all good bookshops, or direct from Oxford University Press. For details see (http://www.oup.com/localsearch/clas_academic/?i=9780199655342)
Woman in Ancient Rome by Paul Chrystal

Extracts from the Amberley Press Release:

This is a unique insight into one of the world’s most successful civilisations. The book explores the role of women in Roman society, law, religion, medicine and politics, as well as how they have been depicted in art and literature. It also includes the celebrities of the era from Sempronia to Agrippina.

The history of women in ancient Rome is fascinating and exhilarating. It gives a unique insight into one of the world’s most dynamic, successful super-power civilisations and, at the same time, illuminates any number of admirable, exciting, evil, slatternly and dangerous women fighting to be heard and seen against insurmountable odds in a world run by men.


The news of another book about Roman Britain provoked an initial groan; and, to make it worse, one by a journalist... But it turns out to be one of the best and, once started, it’s hard to put down. Its structure and narrative are finely crafted; anticipation of encountering its treatment of the familiar, and often the unfamiliar, draws the reader on.

And, for a journalist, she writes so well; and in paragraphs! But then, she reveals herself at heart a classicist.

The book is organised, officially, geographically; so we start with invasions and conquest (Kent and Essex), before moving on to Boudica (Norfolk) and then travelling around (literally, in her camper van) westwards and then northwards to the Wall, Scotland and York, before returning south to the end of Roman Britain (Norfolk, again, and Sussex). The model is of course The Odyssey (or, for Epistula, should one rather say The Aeneid?), and as her camper van sails around the strange world of Roman Britain, we encounter many places we may know or may not know, places often inhabited in spirit or body by strange creatures like Collingwood, Stukely or Fulford; and when Jenny Hall takes our travelling hero into the cave of Centennium House, we wonder if she too will ever escape.
Books

Every reader will find his or her own pleasures and lessons here. It may be the main thesis, that the Romans have shaped our physical and emotional selves more than is sometimes acknowledged, at least by those who regard the Roman occupation as merely a temporary blip on the progression of our island’s history. For me, there were two things. The first is the way that Higgins caresses the places she visits with a love and deep knowledge of literature; for example, she fascinates as she entwines the story of female warriors from Boudica to Victoria via Tacitus, Horace, Holinshed, Shakespeare and many others. The second is her sense of place and her ability to recreate it; perhaps Londoners are privileged, as she walks up Edgware Road or through Barnsbury Square, but she is a keen observer of natural landscapes, whether wandering through the Mendips or struggling (as we all do) to find Silchester. We feel we too, her companions, have sailed with her in the camper van, and are there, on the site, listening to her.

And, what a pleasure to have all this as a book, with subtleties that can be revisited; and not a TV programme.

Andrew Burnett


The late John Rhodes was responsible for innovative displays of Roman pottery kilns as Keeper of Antiquities at Oxfordshire County Museum Service and later as Director of Reading Museum of the superb display of the Silchester Collection. There are three Roman contributions. Christopher Young writes on the Oxfordshire kilns while Jill Greenaway provides fascinating insights on the inception of the Silchester displays, and the manner in which they combine fact with imagination. Finally Martin Henig takes museums to task for their lack of John Rhodes's empathy with the past and courage to challenge accepted orthodoxies, and suggests how archaeological and historical knowledge might be combined in order to revise the current rather simplistic understanding of Roman Britain, predictably purveyed in too many museums, and suggests instead that visitors should be presented with alternative hypotheses (for example of the ethnography of Roman Britain and what happened after AD 400).

By Martin Henig
Creating Ethnicities and Identities in the Roman World edited by A. Gardner, E. Herring and K. Lomas (London: Institute of Classical Studies Supplement 120)

The Iron Age on the Northumberland Coastal Plain by Nick Hodgson, Jonathan McKelvey and Warren Muncaster (Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums, 2012)

This new book describes the impact of Hadrian’s Wall on the rural population of north Britain.

The rectilinear Iron Age settlements of the Northumberland coastal plain immediately north of Hadrian’s Wall have seen little research since the pioneering work of George Jobey in the 1960s and 1970s, but developer-funded archaeology has now offered opportunities for much more extensive work. This book reports on three Iron Age earthwork-enclosure complexes (at Blagdon Park 2, East Brunton and West Brunton), excavated in 2002-8 in advance of surface mining and developments at Newcastle Great Park. As well as these three settlements several lesser and unenclosed sites and pit alignments are described, giving the most complete sample so far of the Iron Age landscape in this area.

Over 60 radiocarbon dates, reported and discussed in detail, allow the chronology of the settlements to be much more closely understood than before. The scientific dates suggest that the earthwork-enclosures were formed around 200 BC as the latest phases on roundhouse settlements continuously occupied since the late Bronze Age, when the landscape was already subdivided by pit-defined boundaries. In the chronology of these developments lowland Northumberland and Tyne and Wear can now be seen to mirror the Iron Age of much of eastern England between Yorkshire and the Wash.

But the new evidence suggests that Hadrian’s Wall had a much more drastic impact on the indigenous population than previously thought. All of the sites reported here were abandoned by the second century AD, and probably not long after the Wall was built. It is argued that rather than regulating the economic movements of its northern neighbours, on the Northumberland coastal plain the presence of Hadrian’s Wall brought an agrarian civilisation of long standing to an end.

This new view of Hadrian’s Wall and Iron Age settlement in the North costs £19.95 and is available from the Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums Online Shop:

http://www.shoptwmuseums.co.uk
The Ancient Mediterranean Environment between Science and History edited by W.V. Harris

This book was published in August (Columbia Studies in the Classical Tradition). It costs 112 euros and it can now be ordered from www.brill.com.

The Power Game in Byzantium: Antonina and the Empress Theodora by James Allan Evans

Continuum (now Bloomsbury Publishing) published this book in 2011 in the U.K. and 2012 in the U.S.A.

CONTRIBUTE

The success of the e-Newsletter depends on contributions from members and if you have an item of interest related to the study of Rome and the Roman Empire please send it to: office@romansociety.org

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Contributions should include a title and normally no more than 300 words of text (as a WORD (.doc or .docx) or rich text (.rft) file), plus an image and references / web links where further details are provided (please note that contributions are likely to be edited). Please send images in .jpeg .tiff or .pdf format – please do not send images embedded in WORD files if at all possible.
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