

## Roman Society Internship Museum Bursary

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As an Archaeology graduate who had just graduated from the University of Exeter, I was very grateful to the Roman Society for the bursary for the museum internship placement and very grateful to the Roman Baths Collection Department for accepting me to work alongside them.

The Internship allowed me to expand and build on my experience gained through my experience working on archaeological sites in the UK and abroad as well as the knowledge gained during my degree. The placement allowed me to work heavily with post-excavation systems, which I hadn't done so before and see what happens to all the material produced on site once it leaves the excavation and archaeological office after the final report is produced.

During my placement, I was involved with a number of different projects, events and activities based in the baths. The biggest project I was involved with is the Beau Street Roman coin hoard (containing well over 17,000 coins from across the Roman Empire), which the Roman Baths Museum are currently individually photographing, detailing, cataloguing, archiving, storing and preparing for permanent display at the Baths. This is following years of cleaning and separation of each coin by a professional conservator and the British Museum. In amongst this, I was being taught how to archive and catalogue (including inputting the data into their central database) any archaeological sites that had come into the Roman Baths due it being the country archaeological depository; this included all aspects of the site such as the finds/ records/ context sheets and registers/ site maps/ photos and laboratory reports. It was important for archivists to be able to easily access and find any particular item from within any site on their records.

The Roman Baths hold a number of regular events throughout the year, and during my placement I was involved with the running and organisation of a couple as well as one independently run and organised by myself. The independent event was part of an event which is held every Monday in the Great Bath called 'Money Monday'. It is designed to

educate people about any aspect of money which the organiser chooses, so I chose to link in the Beau Street Hoard and focus on the Gods and Goddesses on Roman coins, with a selection of coins from the hoard itself for people to observe and interact with. The event was a success with over 100 people (from all nationalities) actively engaging



with the display between the event time of 6pm - 8pm. It was a steep learning curve running the display and I quickly saw what needed improving for my next displays and what worked well; which are thoughts I can keep with me for any future displays/ events.

At the end of my placement I was involved with the Tunnel Tours offered by the Roman Baths. This both allowed me to see for myself the areas not accessible to the general public as well as gain some first-hand experience in being part of the staff on a tour (albeit I was at the back acting as ‘sheepdog’!).

In all the placement allowed me an unprecedented insight into the working of a Museum and just how much work goes into the analysis/ archiving and cataloguing of everything archaeological that comes in post-excavation, as well as how much time needs to be invested for each event, whether it big small or large scale.

Many thanks again to both all the staff at the Roman Baths Museum and to the Roman Society for making the internship possible.

