Welcome

This edition of Epistula arrives in the afterglow of a highly successful RAC and TRAC at the University of Edinburgh in April. Over 400 delegates were able to immerse themselves in sessions that showcased the breadth of archaeological research into the Roman world. Read on for an account of the conference, and also an opportunity to catch up on all the Society’s events and news over the last 6 months. Needless to say, there’s also plenty to look forward to in the second half of 2018, and over the following pages you’ll find a digest of some of the most exciting upcoming events with a Roman flavour.

Our interview this issue is with Professor Maureen Carroll, who provides a taste of recent excavations in southern Italy on the Imperial estate at Vagnari. We are also launching a competition with a £50 prize to write a 350-word piece about any intriguing Roman artefact for Epistula (see p.11 for more details).

It is sometimes observed that nothing dates faster than one person’s vision of the future, but our news and books section shows that views of the past can run it a close second. Both new discoveries and refining existing knowledge of our Roman heritage continue to produce surprises. One exciting development is a serious archaeological contender for Julius Caesar’s landing base in 54 BC, while surveys of two Roman towns in Italy has produced stunning results with Ground Penetrating Radar. Meanwhile, an appeal for information about a figurine of Omphale found in Winchester in the 1830s provides a reminder of how much can be learnt from old finds.

As always, I hope you enjoy this issue of Epistula, and please do keep sending in your news about research, forthcoming events, and new publications.

Matthew Symonds Editor

Society news

Events roundup

In February, Professor Roger Bagnall delivered the M.V. Taylor Lecture on Papyrology and Ancient History: a changing relationship, and at the beginning of March the Society jointly hosted with the Hellenic Society an evening of lectures on the Culture of the Greek Cities in the East including lectures by Professors Bert Smith, Ewen Bowie, and Karen Ni-Mheallaigh.

Karen Ni-Mheallaigh at the Culture of the Greek Cities in the East event

On 8 May, the Society hosted an event with the British School at Rome when Professor Simon Keay and Dr Peter Campbell gave a presentation on:
Society news

The 2018 meeting of RAC/TRAC in Edinburgh was a splendid occasion, attracting over 400 delegates, many from overseas, to Britain’s most beautiful city. Highlights of the conference included Dr Lisa Fentress’s compelling keynote lecture *Slaving societies*, which set out in vivid detail disturbing parallels between the slave trade in the early modern period and in the time of the Roman empire. The National Museum of Scotland offered a spectacular setting for the opening reception (we are very grateful to Dr Fraser Hunter for making this possible), while wilder merry-making characterised the TRAC ceilidh. The hugely successful conference trip to the Antonine wall was expertly led by Professor David Breeze and Dr Rebecca Jones.

A plethora of panels on topics ranging from the vocabulary of Roman design, to the role of meat consumption in the construction of identity, to Roman frontiers prompted lively discussion. It was wonderful to see so many younger scholars taking part in the conference. I had the pleasure of presenting the Archaeology BA dissertation prize to Daisy Bendall of the University of Leeds (‘To what extent can we say that Londinium was a realisation of an archetypal provincial capital and Roman urbanism in the western provinces during the high empire?’). The 2018 meeting also saw the inauguration of the Sheppard Frere prize, awarded to the best poster presentation (this was won by ‘Bullseye: Analysis of Ox skulls used for target practice at Roman Vindolanda’, which was a collaborative effort by Rhys Williams, Tim Thompson, Caroline Orr, and Gillian Taylor of Teeside University). Indeed, delegates had the opportunity to enjoy a dazzling array of posters from younger scholars.

Particular thanks go to the Roman Society’s ever dynamic Archaeology Committee, notably Dr Andy Birley, who put so much work into organising the conference, along with the Edinburgh team, Dr Ben Russell and Professor Jim Crow, who hosted it; the Appleton Tower, in the heart of Edinburgh, proved an ideal venue. As ever, the conference would have been quite impossible without all the meticulous behind-the-scenes work of our secretary Dr Fiona Haarer, who manages to take any challenge in her stride.

Professor Catharine Edwards
Outgoing Roman Society President

Roman Society AGM and Nero colloquium
Almost a hundred members and guests attended the Society’s AGM and colloquium on *Nero: art, politics, culture* on Saturday 2 June at Senate House.

We are delighted that Professor Tim Cornell was elected as the new President – pictured here (2nd from the right) with the outgoing President, Professor Catharine Edwards and three of their predecessors (from left to right), Professor Peter Wiseman, Professor Dominic Rathbone, and Dr Andrew Burnett.

Former, current and future Presidents of the Roman Society at the AGM

The colloquium featured talks by Dominic Rathbone (*Nero: naughty but nice?*), Carrie Vout (*Nero and the art...*) and Professor Tim Cornell.

Navigating the Harbours and Canals of the Portus Romae: new approaches. All these lectures are available to watch on YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/c/RomanSociety](https://www.youtube.com/c/RomanSociety)

In February, members also enjoyed a guided visit to the new Bloomberg Mithraeum site followed by a reception and opportunity to view some of the finds. We are grateful to MOLA for organising this trip, especially Sophie Jackson.

*The London Mithraeum*
Society news

of dissolution), and Matthew Leigh (Pliny the Elder and Nero). Catharine Edwards delivered her Presidential Lecture, Seneca’s Letters: how (not) to write about Nero, and we were particularly pleased that Eugenio La Rocca was able to join us. He gave a fascinating paper on The parietal mosaic with the apotheosis of a poet from the Mouseion on the Oppian hill.

Watch all the lectures here on the Society’s YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/c/RomanSociety.

The Classical Now

On Thursday, 26 April 2018, members of the Roman and Hellenic Societies enjoyed a private view of ‘The Classical Now’ exhibition at King’s College London. The Classics Department at KCL kindly hosted the event, and the curator, Dr Michael Squire, introduced the exhibition and conducted us through the two exhibition spaces in Bush House and Somerset House with lively and illuminating comment. The exhibition’s aim was to show the persistent engagement of contemporary (that is to say, 20th- and 21st-century) artists with the classical traditions of art in Greece and Rome. The range and variety of objects and media on display were truly exceptional, as was their quality. Film, video, mosaic, pottery, engraving, sculpture, and painting all combined to demonstrate that however ‘of the moment’ contemporary artistic production may be, it often has its roots firmly planted in antique soil. Much of the material on show was loaned from the exceptional resources of the Musée d’art antique de Mougins in Provence, but a good number of items were contributed from other collections. Those who could not manage to visit the exhibition in person can at least get some idea of the fascinating works on show by accessing the exhibition’s web site: http://modernclassicisms.com/exhibition-2/

The Societies are most grateful to the Department of Classics at KCL, the cultural programming assistant, Rosanna McNamara, and above all Dr Squire for a thoroughly delightful and informative visit.

Eugenio La Rocca presenting at the Roman Society’s colloquium

Dates for your Diary

On 21 July, members can enjoy a visit to Cotswold Archaeology and Corinium Museum’s storeroom at Northleach, before a talk and a tour of the Museum in Cirencester – further details are available on the website: http://www.romansociety.org/events/exhibitions-visits.html

Details of the Society’s London lectures will be sent to members in September. There will be evening lectures on Tuesday 6 November 2018 and Tuesday 5 March 2019 at Senate House, and next year’s AGM will be held on Saturday 1 June.

In the autumn, a workshop on Sensory Experience in Rome’s Northern Provinces will be held at Senate House on Saturday 6 October. Confirmed keynote speakers are Patty Baker (University of Kent) and Andrew Gardner (UCL); the full programme will be available in July. More information and a booking form is available here: http://www.romansociety.org/events/conferences.html.

Tickets cost £14 (for members/students/unwaged); £17 (full price) and include morning and afternoon refreshments and a hot buffet lunch. Please send a cheque or debit/credit card details to the Roman Society, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU (office@romansociety.org).

The annual conference at the British Museum with the Association for Roman Archaeology will be held on Saturday 17 November and is on the theme of The People of Roman Britain at Home and Abroad. Tickets cost £20: please send a cheque or debit/credit card details to the Roman Society, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU. More information and a booking form are available here: www.romansociety.org/events/conferences.html.

The Societies are most grateful to the Department of Classics at KCL, the cultural programming assistant, Rosanna McNamara, and above all Dr Squire for a thoroughly delightful and informative visit.

Professor Roland Mayer

The people of Roman Britain
The Programme Committee is now inviting proposals for Call for Panels and Posters – papers/panels will be available from the Congress website. Instructions for the submission of abstracts for the 15th International FIEC Congress / CA Conference 2019 will be emailed to members in due course. It is not necessary that she or he be the chair of the panel, but if not then the name of the chair should be indicated in the proposal. If the proposal is for a very different format to a speaker panel, the proposer is strongly encouraged to contact the Programme Committee as far in advance as possible. We seek to be as flexible and inclusive as possible in relation to gender identity. We invite any potential participant who wishes to contact the Programme Committee Chair (greg.woolf@sas.ac.uk) in confidence.

Our principle criterion of selection will be academic quality. But we are also keen to create a programme that reflects the full variety of our subject and the diversity of those who study and teach it. It is the tradition of both FIEC and the Classical Association to represent as wide a range of speakers as possible. Panels are more likely to be selected if they include speakers from more than one country, and if they include junior as well as senior speakers. Panels consisting only of men are unlikely to be selected unless a powerful case is made for an exception. Following feedback and discussion we accept that we were wrong to initially discourage all women panels. We also accept that not all participants are comfortable with binary categories. We seek to be as flexible and inclusive as possible in relation to gender identity. We invite any potential participant who wishes to contact the Programme Committee Chair (greg.woolf@sas.ac.uk) in confidence about this.

Each panel proposal should include a title for the session, the names and affiliations of all speakers, and a 150-word abstract for each paper and for the panel as a whole. The deadline for proposals is 1 September 2018. They should be sent to fiec2019@ucl.ac.uk. One named person should be the proposer and should provide a contact e-mail. It is not necessary that she or he be the chair of the panel, but if not then the name of the chair should be indicated in the proposal. If the proposal is for a very different format to a multi-speaker panel, the proposer is strongly encouraged to contact the Programme Committee as far in advance as possible.

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The Roman Society is also pleased to host the Joan Pye Lecture with the Roman Research Trust. The lecture will be given by Professor Simon Esmonde Cleary on 13 November at Senate House. No booking required.

Members are welcome to bring guests to all these events.

FIEC Congress

15th International FIEC Congress / CA Conference 4-8 July, 2019

London

The Classical Association, Hellenic Society, and Roman Society with the Institute of Classical Studies, London are delighted to host the 15th International Congress of the Fédération Internationale des Associations d’Études Classiques, in conjunction with the Classical Association Conference 2019.

The Congress will be held in London at the Institute of Education (University College London) in Bloomsbury, close to the British Museum, British Library, and the University of London’s Senate House.

The FIEC AGM and Bureau Meetings will take place on Thursday 4 July. The Congress will begin on Friday 5 July and end on Monday 8 July. There will be three different types of paper: plenary papers delivered by invited speakers; panels consisting of four papers; and posters. There will be a drinks reception, a flying buffet, excursions, workshops, and various cultural activities taking place throughout the Congress.

All practical information about registration, fees, and instructions for the submission of abstracts for the papers/panels will be available from the Congress website – the URL will be emailed to members in due course.

Call for Panels and Posters

The Programme Committee is now inviting proposals for panels and posters.

Each panel will be of 2 hours duration. We anticipate that many panels will consist of 4 short papers united by a common theme. We also invite proposals for panels and workshops in different formats, so long as they fit within a 2 hour block to facilitate timetabling.

The Programme Committee aims to select a range of panels that reflects the breadth of traditional and non-traditional classics, including but not limited to Greek and Latin literatures of all periods, linguistics, ancient history in its widest sense, philosophy and religion, art and archaeology, Neo-Latin and Byzantine studies, and the past and current reception of the classics in all media and in different cultures and traditions. We also welcome panels drawing on comparative and interdisciplinary studies. We anticipate there will be panels discussing national traditions in classical research and that some panels will deal with non-Greek peoples such as Etruscans, Persians, and Phoenicians. We especially encourage panels dealing with pedagogy and outreach.

Our principle criterion of selection will be academic quality. But we are also keen to create a programme that reflects the full variety of our subject and the diversity of those who study and teach it. It is the tradition of both FIEC and the Classical Association to represent as wide a range of speakers as possible. Panels are more likely to be selected if they include speakers from more than one country, and if they include junior as well as senior speakers. Panels consisting only of men are unlikely to be selected unless a powerful case is made for an exception. Following feedback and discussion we accept that we were wrong to initially discourage all women panels. We also accept that not all participants are comfortable with binary categories. We seek to be as flexible and inclusive as possible in relation to gender identity. We invite any potential participant who wishes to contact the Programme Committee Chair (greg.woolf@sas.ac.uk) in confidence about this.

Each panel proposal should include a title for the session, the names and affiliations of all speakers, and a 150-word abstract for each paper and for the panel as a whole. The deadline for proposals is 1 September 2018. They should be sent to fiec2019@ucl.ac.uk. One named person should be the proposer and should provide a contact e-mail. It is not necessary that she or he be the chair of the panel, but if not then the name of the chair should be indicated in the proposal. If the proposal is for a very different format to a multi-speaker panel, the proposer is strongly encouraged to contact the Programme Committee as far in advance as possible.

Society news

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Society news

The Programme Committee expects to make its selections in early autumn/Fall. It may contact proposers for clarification or to suggest changes to proposals during this period. Its decisions will be final.

The Programme Committee also invites proposals for posters. Posters may present individual or collaborative projects, and scholars of all career stages are encouraged to apply. Proposals for posters should also be sent to fiec2019@ucl.ac.uk by the 1 September and selection will take place on the same time scale as for panels. Proposals for posters should include a 150-word description of the subject and the name and contact details of the poster presenter. We consider posters an excellent way for individuals whose work does not fit into panels to participate, and we particularly welcome proposals from those not usually able to participate in international conferences.

Once proposals for panels or posters are accepted we will be glad to issue formal invitations for those who need them either to satisfy institutional regulations or visa requirements. We aim to have all this completed by 1 December 2018 and earlier if possible. Please note that we are not inviting proposals for individual papers.

Details of student bursaries will also be published in due course on the conference website, along with suggestions for accommodation and cultural attractions. Attendees, including those giving papers in panels, and/or presenting posters, will need to make pay their own travel and accommodation costs given the large number of delegates and speakers expected.

We are confident that FIEC/CA 2019 will be an exciting and memorable event and we look forward very much to welcoming you in London next year.

Professor Greg Woolf
Chair, National Committee

Society Monographs

Special pre-publication prices are available for two major monographs due to be published by the Society later in July:

Roman town: the insula IX town life project: volume 3.
Late Iron Age Calleva: the pre-conquest occupation at Silchester insula IX


£75.00 – pre-publication offer: £65

The late Iron Age oppidum of Calleva underlies the Roman town at Silchester. Excavation (1997–2014) of a large area (0.3 ha) of Insula IX revealed evidence of a rectilinear, NE/SW–NW/SE-oriented layout of the interior of the oppidum, dating from 20/10 BC, with the remains of the larger part of one compound separated from its neighbours by fenced trackways. Within the compound was a large, 47.5m long hall surrounded by smaller rectangular buildings associated with groups of rubbish pits. A concluding discussion characterises the oppidum, integrating and contextualising a series of major contributions reporting the pre-conquest finds and environmental evidence with the structural story.

£32.50 – pre-publication offer: £30

This volume focuses upon the people of rural Roman Britain – how they looked, lived, interacted with the material and spiritual worlds surrounding them, and also how they died, and what their physical remains can tell us. Analyses indicate a geographically and socially diverse society, influenced by pre-existing cultural traditions and varying degrees of social connectivity. Incorporation into the Roman Empire certainly brought with it a great deal of social change, though contrary to many previous accounts depicting bucolic scenes of villa-life, it would appear that this change was largely to the detriment of many of those living in the countryside.

Library News

The fundraising campaign for the Hellenic and Roman Library is continuing. Please do look at the dedicated website: www.hellenicandromansociety.org to which we
continue to add promotional material. We have recently added four new films featuring Mary Beard, Paul Cartledge, Natalie Haynes, and Tom Holland. Watch them here! [www.hellenicandromanlibrary.org](http://www.hellenicandromanlibrary.org).

**With thanks – reports received from our grant recipients**

As well as providing funding and resources for schools, the Roman Society supports work that relates to any of the society’s general scholarly purposes through its Hugh Last and General funds,* which can be particularly helpful to researchers early in their careers. There is huge diversity in the work we fund – and we enjoy hearing how things went via the reports we require grant recipients to send to us ([http://www.romansociety.org/grants-prizes/hugh-last-fund-general-fund/reports.html](http://www.romansociety.org/grants-prizes/hugh-last-fund-general-fund/reports.html)).

Last year we granted funding to take three speakers to the Paleopathology Association North American Meeting in Texas, the conference ‘Modulations and Transpositions’, at the University of Lisbon, and the Classical Association conference.

Travel expenses helped a prospective PhD student with a research trip to the UK to present at the International Ancient Warfare conference, attend a workshop, and meet possible PHD supervisors. Funding for research trips was also granted to David Walsh for a forthcoming monograph, *The Cult of Mithras in Late Antiquity: Development, Decline and Demise*, and a PhD candidate to stay at the Fondation Hardt.

We also part-funded the payment of stiff image and copyright fees required by museum and private collections to enable a PhD candidate to publish her PhD thesis. A public engagement project at the University of Leicester - *Artefact to Art* – benefitted from Naoíse Mac Sweeney’s successful funding bid. This schools-focused project included the creation of a collection of classroom resources for KS3, now freely available at [www.artefact-to-art.com](http://www.artefact-to-art.com).

The first of the 2018 reports has now been received. We look forward to receiving more – and will report these in the next *Epistula*!


**Top tweets**

With over 11,600 followers, our Twitter account has become a useful way for the Society to encourage and inspire people’s interest in the many and varied aspects of the ‘Roman world’. Our tweets range from information about our own events, pictures from the IMAGO image library, and our YouTube lecture videos, to book reviews and stories about Romans in the press.

We select material to try to represent the great diversity involved in Roman studies – people, places, sources, sub- and related disciplines – and receive feedback via replies, ‘likes’ and ‘retweets’ about what people find interesting. Twitter’s own analytics let us rank our tweets by how many people have seen and ‘engaged’ with them (broadly this means people who have clicked on the tweet, or ‘liked’, or ‘retweeted’ it).

So we can see that since the last *Epistula* went out, the top tweet of all was this portrait from the Fayum of what the IMAGO record (no. 3262) suggests are two brothers – although there was some discussion on Twitter as to whether they might in fact have been lovers, and also questions about who the two figures visible behind them were. This discussion shows we may need to look at more recent research and update our IMAGO record for this picture.

*Brothers or lovers? IMAGO no. 3262 from Fayum. The most tweeted image on the Roman Society’s Twitter account.*

Also making the top ten were: Republican-era coins found by a metal detectorist in Gloucestershire; three further IMAGO pictures; the discovery of the ‘House of the Commander’ at Rome; how the natural phenomenon of the Hierapolis ‘gate to hell’ killed its sacrificial victims; 7 things you (probably) didn’t know about Roman women; what the 54 Brancaster rings can say about life in Roman Britain; and the library’s funding appeal! If you’d like to see for yourself what we tweet you can view our Twitter feed at [www.twitter.com/TheRomanSoc](http://www.twitter.com/TheRomanSoc) – no twitter account needed.

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Claire Millington
Interview

Maureen Carroll is Professor of Roman Archaeology at the University of Sheffield and director of excavations at the agricultural and industrial vicus site of Vagnari in southern Italy. Epistula (EP) caught up with Maureen (MC) at the recent RAC / TRAC conference to find out more about life at a remarkable rural estate.

EP: ‘Vagnari was discovered in 2000, and you’ve been directing excavations there since 2012. What makes it such a special site?’

MC: ‘What makes it a special site, apart from its beautiful location, is the fact that it’s in a part of southern Italy, which is quite poorly known, particularly in the centuries leading up to the imperial period. In the 4th century BC we have the Romans first penetrating the area, conquering some major settlements in Apulia, and building the via Appia. In the 3rd century BC, which is a terribly turbulent time, we know from historical sources that the Carthaginians were ravaging the countryside. Various cities sided with Hannibal instead of Rome, and there were repercussions for them. So those centuries were a difficult time for Italian communities of the south, but we only know about them from the written sources. Those written sources don’t tell us anything about life on the ground, though, and what happened to the people in the settlements.

The other reason why it’s an exciting site – as we now know – is because following this turbulent 3rd century we have a brand-new settlement established in the 2nd century BC at Vagnari – a century about which we know very little – and that settlement seems to pass into imperial hands in the early 1st century AD. So, we may be able to capture the moment when what had been private property enters the imperial fiscus, something that is otherwise very difficult to pinpoint archaeologically. In fact, we know very few imperial properties of this kind anywhere in Italy.’

EP: ‘So, you’re seeing two different transitions: the transition to Roman control, and then the transition to becoming the emperor’s property.’

MC. ‘Yes, I think so. We would not be able to study Vagnari based on any textual sources and we do not even know the site’s name in antiquity. The only reason we know it became an imperial property is the presence of tile stamps naming the slaves of Caesar. The pottery and other objects that we’ve been finding over the last couple of years suggest that the transition probably occurs under Augustus or Tiberius. That’s quite an exciting moment in time to capture.’

EP: ‘What can be said about how the settlement developed in the centuries leading up to its acquisition by the emperor?’

MC. ‘We knew from field survey – which was how Alastair and Carola Small discovered the site – that there

A view of the plateau of the Vagnari vicus over the valley.

Students revealing a stone wall of the Augustan period.
was a great abundance of roof tile and building material. They did geophysics and opened some trenches, and it was clear that there had been a settlement in the Iron Age, but the finds from that period simply stop in the 3rd century BC, which ties in with that terrible century. So, discovering something from the 2nd century BC is very exciting. We have storage pits from that period, which are chock full of material and allow us to date that settlement very exactly. We don’t have any architectural remains to go with it yet, so it’s difficult to say what it looked like. Having storage pits, though, suggests that the occupants were creating an agricultural surplus, so it may have been a working farm or something like that.’

EP: ‘You mentioned the slaves of Caesar, when Vagnari becomes an imperial possession should we be imagining a predominantly enslaved community?’

MC: ‘That’s what I thought when I started working at Vagnari. In fact, I opened up my first trenches in a part of the site where geophysics suggested a range of rooms of the same size, which could have been slave quarters. But it turned out, though, that the excavated rooms did not look quite as they appeared on the geophysics. It was also challenging to see if we could see the presence of slaves in the material culture. What is the material culture of slavery? What do their accommodations look like? We don’t know the answers to those questions. Next door lies the cemetery for the settlement, so we thought it would be interesting to see if you can identify the graves of slaves. You can’t.’


MC: ‘Yes. Everyone seems to be buried with similar artefacts and in roughly the same manner. Almost all the burials are inhumations. It almost looks like an egalitarian society. That’s probably a false image, but we don’t see great amounts of wealth in some graves and nothing in others. So, it’s difficult to identify the slaves there. I think we’re probably not looking at a big slave-run latifundium, though. Instead it’s a settlement that has slaves working there, but possibly also freedmen, and also the freeborn, perhaps tenants and labourers who come ad hoc for the harvest. I think that socially it was quite mixed.

EP: ‘A recent discovery has led to you doing some research into dolia, can you tell us about that?’

MC: ‘We found part of an imperial-period winery in 2015, and we continued working on it last year. This year, we’re going to target the winery again. It is a big rectangular space, probably open to the air, with a mortar floor and basins. Large dolia for holding wine were inserted into those mortar basins. The dolia are pitch lined and they probably had a capacity of up to 500 litres of wine each. That means the pressing room must be next door, but we haven’t found it yet. The fabric of the dolia is interesting. The sherds had lots of black volcanic particles in them, so I had some fabric analysis done by Giuseppe Montana at the University of Palermo. Very interestingly, the results show that these dolia were made in the Tiber Valley, northwest and southeast of Rome. It is a part of Italy where, in the 1st centuries BC and AD, wine production as a marketable commodity was at its height, and where they were also clearly making vessels to transport them. These are enormous vessels that were deposited in the
From the field

Ebbsfleet: Julius Caesar’s British landing site in 54 BC

A large defended enclosure at Ebbsfleet on the Isle of Thanet, Kent, has been identified as the base that defended Caesar’s fleet in 54 BC.

The site lies on the Ebbsfleet peninsula which projects south from Thanet. Due to coastal change and reclamation, the peninsula is now c. 1km inland but in the 1st century BC it would have been flanked to the east by Pegwell Bay and the sea, and to the west by the former Wantsum Channel.

The enclosure is firmly dated to the 1st century BC by pottery and radiocarbon dating and although its full extent has not yet been established, it is likely to have been at least 20 hectares. The size and shape of the defensive ditch is very similar to the siege works of 52 BC at Alesia, suggesting that it is an outer defence used to enclose a large area. This would have been necessary as in 54 the whole fleet, some 800 ships, was hauled ashore for repairs after it was damaged in a storm. A pilum tip found in the lower fills of the ditch is also similar to examples from Alesia and other late Republican sites.

Excavations at Ebbsfleet.

The topographic setting of the Ebbsfleet enclosure is consistent with the few clues that Caesar gave about the landing site of 54. He reported how, sailing overnight, the fleet could not maintain its course and was carried too far by the current. At sunrise he saw Britain afar on the left-hand side. Separate remarks described the landing site as being on an even and open shore, and that there was high ground nearby. These three clues - the visibility from sea, the existence of a large open bay, and the presence of higher ground nearby - are all consistent with Pegwell Bay, which the Ebbsfleet enclosure overlooks.

The University of Leicester excavations in 2016-17 were funded by the Leverhulme Trust and carried out by a team of volunteers organised by the Community Archaeologists of Kent County Council with the support of University of Leicester Archaeological Services.

Andrew Fitzpatrick
School of Archaeology & Ancient History
University of Leicester
af215@leicester.ac.uk

Total-coverage ground-penetrating radar survey of Roman towns

Geophysical prospection has fundamentally changed our approach to the still-buried archaeological sites, realising potential that is only limited by the scale of work carried...
From the Field

It is with this in mind that the Faculty of Classics of the University of Cambridge (Alessandro Launaro and Martin Millett), in collaboration with the Italian Soprintendenza (Giovanna Rita Bellini / SABAP-Lazio), the University of Ghent (Lieven Verdonck and Frank Vermeulen), the British School at Rome and the Comune of Pignataro Interamna launched an ambitious AHRC-funded project (2015-17) aiming at the total-coverage ground-penetrating radar (GPR) survey of two Roman towns, Falerii Novi (est. 241 BC / 27 ha) and Interamna Lirenas (est. 312 BC / 23 ha), both in Central Italy. These two sites lie in open fields largely unencumbered by later buildings, and therefore provided ideal conditions for this type of survey. Building on earlier geophysical work (full-coverage magnetometry), this new survey has managed to produce very detailed plans of the two settlements, hugely increasing our knowledge of their buried archaeology.

Although the general layout of Falerii Novi had been known since the magnetometry survey of 1997-98, the GPR revealed a series of large buildings that had gone undetected: a temple, a baths complex with an octagonal central hall, a probable macellum, and a substantial three-sided portico set just inside the North Gate, featuring a pair of internal structures (perhaps nymphaea). At Interamna Lirenas the results have been even more surprising: what had for long been considered a secondary, backwater town of relatively little significance revealed clear evidence of its monumental character (e.g. basilica, roofed theatre, two baths, a warehouse, a sanctuary, three porticoed enclosures) and a dense occupation pattern (dominated by a good number of large town houses), something which was only made possible by the adoption of a full-coverage geophysical approach.

GPR survey has revealed a previously unknown temple at Falerii Novi, as seen at a depth of 110-115 cm.

Winchester

Professor Martin Biddle and I have been re-evaluating the work of antiquaries who observed the excavation of the deep railway cutting immediately beyond the western wall of Winchester in 1837-8, among them W. B. Bradfield and the great Charles Roach Smith. Their contributions are to be found in Charles Roach Smith’s contribution to The Gentleman’s Magazine in 1838, and in W. B. Bradfield’s report in the British Archaeological Association’s Winchester Transactions in 1846. It is apparent from their accounts that there was a major temple, votive pits, and also rich burials on the site where some impressive finds were made, including a beautiful bronze head of Jupiter, the now headless statuette of a nude woman that might have been taken for Venus except she was holding a club and wearing Hercules’ lion skin, and a very fine jug handle, with a panther head and shoulders at the top and the mask of a maenad at the bottom. The finds were taken into the collection of John Newington Hughes of Winchester. He died late in 1847 and his collection was sold by Sotheby & Co. in February 1848.

There the matter could have rested had not Ralph Jackson of the British Museum revealed to us in response to an appeal in SALON—the Society of Antiquaries on-line newsletter—that the Jupiter head, lacquered and mounted as a bust, had been purchased by the Museum following a sale by Christie’s in 1890. Subsequent enquiry established that the jug handle, another handle, and best of all a complete jug of unusual form had actually been purchased in a Sotheby sale in 1848 by the antiquities dealer H. O. Cureton and sold on to the Museum that year. All these items will form part of our paper in the Journal of the British Archaeological Association later this year.
Apart from a couple of more or less commonplace brooches, only the nude female figure remains unaccounted for. If the scaling of the attached figure is correct it stands some 12cm high. It could be the figure described in the 1848 Sotheby’s sale catalogue (Lot 54) as Venus, 10 inches high, which is about 25 cm, if it had been provided with a head and placed on a stand.

The stance of the figure and her attributes are not those of Venus but of Omphale, queen of Lydia. Hercules had killed Iphitus, son of Eurytus of Oechalia, by treachery, and Zeus (Jupiter) decreed he should be punished by being sold to Omphale as a slave. In this role reversal, Hercules had to dress as a woman while Omphale is depicted in heroic guise. Although the subject is common on gems, it is very rare indeed in figures in the round and this statuette is certainly unique in Britain.

We are therefore appealing to members of the Roman Society to help us identify this lost antiquity, not least so that it can be included in the very important volume on Prehistoric and Roman Winchester currently being compiled by Professor Biddle and Francis Morris as Winchester Studies 3.i.

Our working hypothesis is that both the head of Jupiter and the lost Omphale were most probably from a temple of Jupiter, the former possibly serving as a cult image. The episode of Hercules and Omphale, relates her to Jupiter as the agent of the hero’s humiliating punishment, and that renders this supposition even more plausible.

Martin Henig

Epistula Artefact Award

This issue we are launching a competition to write a piece for publication in Epistula describing any Roman-period artefact. Anyone is eligible, though we would particularly welcome entries from students and early career finds specialists.

The winner and runner up will each receive a £50 prize and have their pieces published in consecutive editions of Epistula. To enter, please send your contact details and c. 350 words of text discussing what the artefact is, where it was found, and its wider significance, as well as two images of the object suitable for use in Epistula, to office@romansociety.org

The closing date is 31 October. Please write ‘Epistula Artefact Award’ in the subject heading. The winner and runner up will be chosen by the editor of Epistula, whose decision is final.

Conferences and meetings

The Pilgrimage of Hadrian’s Wall 2019
Running from 20 to 28 July 2019

The Pilgrimage will be based at the Royal Station Hotel in Newcastle for the first four nights and the County Hotel in Carlisle for the second four. Travel will be by coaches, but there will be opportunities for walking. The programme has been designed to illustrate recent work on Hadrian’s Wall, as well as visits to the traditional sites and to museums. There will be two main themes to the Pilgrimage: sites that illustrate the building of the Wall, and those which illuminate its history in the 3rd and 4th centuries. A special handbook detailing work on the Wall over the last ten years edited by Drs R Collins and M Symonds will be issued to Pilgrims. The principal guides will be Dr Mike Bishop, Dr Rob Collins, Erik Graafstal, Dr Nick Hodgson, Professor Valerie Maxfield, Graeme Stobbs, Dr Matt Symonds and Tony Wilmott.

See the booking form attached to the same email sending out this edition of Epistula for more details.

David J Breeze
Conferences & Meetings

Finds for the dead in Roman London and beyond
Held at the Museum of the London Docklands, No.1 Warehouse, West India Quay, London E14 4A, on Monday 15 October, from 10.30 – 17.00
A one-day conference jointly organised by the Museum of London, Museum of London Archaeology, and the Roman Finds Group will be held on Monday 15 October 2018. The event will run from 10.30 – 17.00, with registration from 10.00.

Twelve specialist speakers will be talking about finds from the city and cemeteries of Roman London, as well as important objects from funerary contexts elsewhere in Britain. It has been organised to allow delegates plenty of time to visit The Roman Dead Exhibition.

Cost: £18 RFG Members, £22 non-members, £15 students, including morning and afternoon tea/coffee. For booking and further information see the Roman Finds Group web site (www.romanfindsgroup.org.uk/meetings) or contact Dr Stephen Greep (sjgreep@romanfinds.org.uk).

The Hadrian’s Wall Archaeology Forum
Held at The Queen’s Hall, Hexham, on Saturday 20 October, from 9.45am until 4.15pm
This annual day-conference features talks for the general public about new discoveries in the Hadrian’s Wall frontier zone including the Cumbrian coast.

It was established as one of the outcomes of the Hadrian’s Wall Research Framework and this year’s will be the tenth event in the series, thus marking the first decennalia.

This year’s programme will include talks on the following: a survey project at Corbridge (Ian Haynes); an update on work at Vindolanda (Andrew Birley); the beginning of the WallCAP community archaeology project (speaker tbd); and new developments at Binchester fort (David Mason).

The 2018 issue of the Hadrian’s Wall Archaeology magazine will be available for the conference.

Price = £12.00 (includes tea/coffee mid-morning and mid-afternoon); Roman Society members £10.00.

Enquiries and bookings: The Queen’s Hall, Beaumont Street, Hexham, NE46 3LS, Tel: 01434 652477. Email: boxoffice@queenshall.co.uk

For further information contact: Dr David Mason, Archaeology Section, Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham City DH1 5UQ, Tel: 03000 267012. Email: david.mason@durham.gov.uk

Studies in the Later Roman Empire in Memory of Alan Cameron
Held at the Center for the Ancient Mediterranean, Columbia University, New York, on 26 and 27 October 2018
An international conference to commemorate the life and work of Alan Cameron (1938-2017). Further information can be found at www.centancmed.org/

British Epigraphy Society Autumn Colloquium 2018
Held on Saturday 10 November 2018
The British Epigraphy Society will be holding its 2018 Autumn Colloquium on 10 November 2018. All are welcome. Participation at the meeting is at a modest charge. Further information on the programme and how to register will be available from the Society’s website: http://www.britishepigraphysociety.org/

Council for British Archaeology South-East 2018 AGM and Annual Conference: Structured Deposits: definitions, developments, and debates
Held at Chertsey Hall, Surrey on Saturday 10 November 2018 from 10am-5pm
Since its origins some 30 odd years ago, our understanding of the concept of ‘structured deposition’ has developed substantially – debates surround not only terminology and definitions, but applications in its use, resulting in a perceived tendency for over-utilization and ‘ritual’ interpretations in analysis. With recognition of such deposits ever-growing through the work of commercial units and the Portable Antiquities Scheme, the contributions of critical and systematic academic attention are increasingly apparent.

This day conference brings together research from the prehistoric to the medieval period, revealing new discoveries being made in southern England – and the South-East in particular – and the fascinating insights emerging from projects focussed on the processes of deposition. Speakers will include: Jon Cotton, Dr Catriona Gibson, Rachel Wilkinson, Dr Alex Davis, Prof Mike Fulford, Dr Sam Moorhead, Dr Clifford Sofield, and Dr Eleanor Standley.

Tickets: £20 for CBA SE and SyAS members (and students); £25 for non-members. For further details (including student bursaries) and booking information, please visit our website at http://www.cbasouth-east.org/events/cbase-annual-http://www.cbasouth-east.org/events/cbase-annual: conference/ or email the organiser, Dr Anne Sassin, assassinallen@gmail.com

Epistula XV, 12
Ruling an Empire in a Changing World: Studies on Origin, Impact, and Reception of the Notitia Dignitatum: Call for Papers

An International Conference held at ‘Haus zur Lieben Hand’, Löwenstraße 16, Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany, from 20-23 November 2019

In the late 4th and the first half of the 5th century, administrative lists were compiled, which have become known as the Notitia Dignitatum. This collection of lists offers a unique insight into the administrative and military structure of the Roman Empire, in both its Western and its Eastern parts. The number and quality of the illustrations, as well as the general composition and character of the document, support the assumption that the original version was no traditional administrative manual. In research, the analysis of the transmission history has been of the same fundamental importance as the use of the Notitia Dignitatum as a historical source. The extant manuscripts can all be tracked back to a Carolingian parchment codex from the library of the diocesan chapter of Speyer; a codex that was last mentioned in 1566 and is assumed to be lost.

For over a century, the mysteries of the lacunary transmission history and the variations in the manuscripts from the Late Medieval / Early Modern times have been fundamental to scientific approaches to this document. Due to these factors, the Notitia Dignitatum has become firmly entrenched as a simultaneously important and very controversial element of numerous historical and archaeological studies.

Confirmed Keynote speakers:
Dr. Peter Brennan (University of Sydney)
Professor Bernhard Palme (University of Vienna)
Dr. Jeroen W. P. Wijnendaele (Ghent University)

Conference report: The Lived Experience of Women in Roman Cumbria

Senhouse Roman Museum Maryport, April 28th 2018

This event provided an opportunity to return to the lovely Senhouse Museum in Maryport. Happily, we arrived just in time for a cup of tea, giving us an opportunity to ponder the adjacent fort site. It was probably known to its garrison as Alauna and today it certainly offers a unique ‘end of the world’ feeling. If the grass now covering the fort keeps its structural secrets intact, the remarkable artefactual discoveries made here since the 16th century and now on display in the museum provide a rewarding reason to visit this special place near the (probable) end of the coastal extension to Hadrian’s Wall.

The conference treated us to six speakers, who focused on female roles in and around Roman military bases. We heard from Dr Elizabeth Greene about how indispensable the presence of men was and the range of services they provided. It is telling how many women’s shoes have been found along the Wall and in particular at Vindolanda.

Professor Maureen Carroll showed us representations of mothers and babies on altars and votive offerings. Many funerary monuments found on the Wall have their only known counterparts in Rome itself.

Dr Tatiana Ivleva’s story about the use of glass bangles aroused considerable interest. We were treated to an opportunity to see the real thing, carefully held by the curator. But were these bangles only worn by women?

Alex Croom from Arbeia Roman Fort explained how Roman women spent their time. No household chores or cooking; that was for slaves. Instead, tasks for women included spinning, fetching water, grinding flour, and taking care of lighting.
Dr Ursula Rothe demonstrated how gravestones display different styles of ‘fashion’, and how a new Gallic ensemble changed the look ladies cultivated.

The last lecture, given by Professor David Breeze, addressed the question of whether the women followed their men to the Northern frontier. Soldiers often married when promoted. So, did the woman go with them or stay at home? Certainly it depended on the circumstances. The questions remain: can it be proven that men already had families when sent on outpost duty? Did families live in the vici?

All told, it was a memorable day that served up wide-ranging insights into Roman women's lives!

Claudia Vandepoel
Archaeological Culinary Historian
The Netherlands
www.dehistorischekeuken.nl

Fieldwork

Plumpton Roman Villa, Sussex: Training & Volunteering Running from 2 July to 17 August 2018

Research and training excavations will resume at Plumpton Roman villa between 2 July and 17 August 2018. The villa, of winged-corridor type, dates mainly to the 3rd and early 4th centuries. The site director is Dr David Rudling. Training will include five 5-day Excavation Techniques courses. Each course will provide both ‘hands-on’ and theory introductions to archaeological excavation, including: basic surveying and geophysics, excavation methods, written records, planning and section drawing, photography, environmental archaeology, finds processing, and Health and Safety.

These courses are suitable for beginners, those with limited experience, A Level Classics students, people thinking about studying archaeology at university, and undergraduates. Tuition fees: £200 per 5-day course. The project will also include several 1-day Saturday ‘Taster’ excavation days: fees: £40 per day. Volunteering opportunities (i.e. for those with some prior experience, such as participation on one of the Training Courses) are available for £25 for a 5-day week.

Details of local accommodation and camping are available, and include staying indoors or camping at Plumpton College for £45 or £25 per day (with 3 meals) respectively. Contact: The Sussex School of Archaeology: www.sussexarchaeology.org; info@sussexarchaeology.co.uk; Tel. 01323 811785.

Archaeological Field School for 2018

Courses will include:

July 30th to August 9th 2018. The final investigation of a substantial Roman Building at Faversham in Kent
Two weeks investigating a substantial Roman building to find out its form and function. This is an important Roman building and part of a larger Roman villa complex which may have its own harbour. One of the research questions we will be tackling is the association of the building with the nearby tidal waterway. Cost for the day £10 (Members free).

August 6th to August 10th 2018. Training Week for Students on a Roman Building at Faversham in Kent
It is essential that anyone thinking of digging on an archaeological site is trained in the procedures used in professional archaeology. Dr Paul Wilkinson, author of the best-selling book Archaeology and Director of the dig, will spend five days explaining to participants the methods used in modern archaeology.

A typical training day will be classroom theory in the morning (at the Field School) followed by excavation at a Roman villa near Faversham. Topics taught will be Monday: Why dig? Tuesday: Excavation Techniques. Wednesday: Site Survey. Thursday: Archaeological Recording. Friday: Small Finds. Saturday and Sunday will be spent digging with the team. A free PDF copy of Archaeology 3rd Edition will be given to participants plus a Certificate of Attendance. Cost for the course is £100 if membership is taken out at the time of booking. The day starts at 10am and finishes at 4.30pm. For directions to the Field School see 'Where ' on this website. For camping nearby see 'accommodation' in www.kafs.co.uk.

September 10th to 21st 2018. Investigation of Prehistoric features at Hollingbourne in Kent
An opportunity to participate in excavating and recording prehistoric features in the landscape. The two weeks are to be spent excavating Bronze and Iron Age features inside a small prehistoric homestead on the North Downs that was located with aerial photography and field survey. Cost is £10 a day for non-members, members free.

The Kent Archaeological Field School, The Office, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8UP Tel: 01795 532548 Email: info@kafs.co.uk. Director Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.
The Theoretical Roman Archaeology Journal (TRAJ)

This journal, hosted by the Open Library of Humanities, provides a venue for innovative and interdisciplinary research in the field of Roman Archaeology. It promotes the use of theoretical approaches to the Roman past and facilitates fresh interpretations of datasets, rather than solely the presentation of archaeological data.

Furthermore, it is designed to include and interact with the disciplines of Archaeology, Classics and Ancient History, as well as the Biological Sciences, Humanities, and Social Sciences in an interdisciplinary fashion. As a publication outlet the annual TRAC Proceedings have long been at the forefront of Roman Archaeology regarding engagement in current theory and practice, and TRAJ will continue to lead the field in this capacity.

The journal’s geographic focus is the whole of the Roman world, including areas beyond the frontiers where Roman influence was evident. The journal’s temporal scope is from the Bronze Age to the Late Antique period; however, the subject of most contributions will usually range from the 3rd century BC to the 5th century AD.

The benefits of submitting your paper to TRAJ include:

• Full open access from day one of publication – open access means anyone with access to the internet can read your article. Studies have shown that open access leads to increased citation, as well as enabling Roman archaeologists without institutional library access to read and cite your work.

• Retain copyright of your work and choose from a range of Creative Commons licensing (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/)

• Rigorous peer review

• High quality presentation in .xml format

• Robust digital preservation through the CLOCKSS scholarly archive service and DOIs

• Strong discoverability through a range of indexing channels

• Scholarly annotations of articles, enabling readers to highlight, annotate, and comment on articles

• Easy-to-share social media buttons and article level metrics

• Zero author-facing charges, as the OLH platform covers its costs by payments from an international library consortium

Papers are selected for the journal on the basis of a double-blind peer review process. Reviewers are primarily drawn from the TRAC Advisory Panel; however, other subject specialists will also be called upon to review submitted papers.

Articles are published individually online once the peer-review and copy-editing processes are completed. Throughout the review process priority will be given to papers presenting original archaeological research (focussed on the Roman period) that incorporates a significant theoretical element.

TRAJ is open for general submission, and also publishes papers derived from the annual conference and/or other TRAC events.

David J Breeze 2018

Maryport: A Roman Fort and its Community

Oxford: Archaeopress
(bundle offer with Bearsden: The Story of a Roman Fort, £25).

The collection of Roman inscribed stones and sculpture, together with other Roman objects found at Maryport in Cumbria, is the oldest archaeological collection in Britain still in private hands. Today, it is housed in the Senhouse Museum on Sea Brows to the north of the modern town of Maryport. Beside the museum the earthworks of the Roman fort may still be seen, and beyond it though not visible, lies a large civil settlement revealed through geophysical survey and the scene of two recent excavations.

Maryport: A Roman Fort and its Community places the collection in context and describes the history of research at the site. Maryport, although at the north-western edge of the Roman Empire, provides material of international importance for our understanding of the Roman state. The author has
Maureen Carroll 2018 Infancy and Earliest Childhood in the Roman World: 'A Fragment of Time'

Despite the developing emphasis in current scholarship on children in Roman culture, there has been relatively little research to date on the role and significance of the youngest children within the family and in society. This volume singles out this youngest age group, the under one-year-olds, in the first comprehensive study of infancy and earliest childhood to encompass the Roman Empire as a whole: integrating social and cultural history with archaeological evidence, funerary remains, material culture, and the iconography of infancy, it explores how the very particular historical circumstances into which Roman children were born affected their lives as well as prevailing attitudes towards them.

Examination of these varied strands of evidence, drawn from throughout the Roman world from the 4th century BC to the 3rd century AD, allows the rhetoric about earliest childhood in Roman texts to be more broadly contextualized and reveals the socio-cultural developments that took place in parent-child relationships over this period. Presenting a fresh perspective on archaeological and historical debates, the volume refutes the notion that high infant mortality conditioned Roman parents not to engage in the early life of their children or to view them, or their deaths, with indifference, and concludes that even within the first weeks and months of life Roman children were invested with social and gendered identities and were perceived as having both personhood and value within society.

Eric E. Poehler 2017
The Traffic Systems of Pompeii
New York: Oxford University Press
ISBN 9780190614676, £55

This book is the first sustained examination of the development of road infrastructure in Pompeii—from the archaic age to the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in AD 79—and its implications for urbanism in the Roman empire.

Eric E. Poehler, an authority on Pompeii's uniquely preserved urban structure, distils over 500 instances of street-level "wear and tear" to reveal for the first time the rules of the ancient road. From his analysis of curbstones, cobbled surfaces, and ruts emerge the intricacies of the Pompeian traffic system and the changes to its operation over time. Though archaeological expertise forms the backbone of this book, its findings have equally important historical and architectural implications.

Later chapters probe the impact of design and infrastructure on social roles and hierarchies among property owners in Pompeii, illuminating the economic forces that push and pull upon the shape of urban space. The final chapters set the road system into its broader context as one major infrastructural and administrative artefact of the Roman empire's deeply urban culture. Where does Pompeii's system fit within the history of Roman traffic control? Is it unique for its innovation, or only for the preservation that permitted its discovery? Poehler marshals evidence from across the Roman world to examine these questions. His measured and thoroughly researched answers make this study a critical step forward in our understanding of infrastructure in the ancient world.

Michael C. Alexander 2018
Roman Amoralism Reconsidered: The Political Culture of the Roman Republic and Historians in an Era of Disillusionment
ISBN 9780692066423 $15.00

This book maintains that no ancient evidence supports the proposition that the political culture of the Roman Republic was amoral. Yet this proposition, it argues, was an assumption inherent in the works of some of the most important Roman historians of the 20th century. The book explains this assumption as characteristic of history-writing during much of the 20th century, a way of writing history shaped by major developments of that era, and describes a methodological shift toward the end of the century that allowed historians to jettison amoralism without refuting it.

This book is made available under a Creative Commons
However, animals also played a far more significant role in Roman culture and religion – and in the Roman imagination.

In this book, Dr Iain Ferris discusses the extraordinary slaughter of huge numbers of animals for entertainment in the Roman arena, their association with the gods, their place in mythology and symbolism, and their use in Roman religious practice. Many of their actions towards animals are seen today as cruel, but what did animals mean for the Romans and how did they view their own actions?

Lavishly illustrated, this book examines both written and archaeological sources, particularly visual evidence in the form of sculptures, coins, mosaics, wall paintings, and decorated everyday items in order to shed light on animals in Roman culture.

Duncan B. Campbell
Fortifying a Roman camp: the Liber de munitionibus castrorum of Hyginus
Kindle edition, £6.99

The Liber de munitionibus castrorum (“Book about fortifying a camp”, as it is usually known) describes how to lay out a temporary camp for a Roman army on campaign, comprising three legions and associated troops of various types. It is our main source for many aspects of Roman military studies, as it includes descriptions of not only the major military unit types, but also the different methods of fortification. Only a single copy of the work survives, preserved in a 6th-century manuscript, and the Latin text is in poor condition requiring major emendation. Although German, French, and Italian editions have appeared at various times, this is the first English-language edition, in which a new Latin text is presented alongside an English translation. For comparison, interested readers will also find the original Latin text and all previously suggested emendations.

Ashmolean Latin Inscriptions catalogue

The Ashmolean Latin Inscriptions Project has launched its new web catalogue:
http://latininscriptions.ashmus.ox.ac.uk

This is a free scholarly edition of 460 Latin inscriptions in the Ashmolean Museum, including images, RTI, and
sound files. It is accompanied by a resources section for school teachers that uses real Latin inscriptions to teach Latin language, Classical Civilisation, and primary school history topics: http://latininscriptions.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/resources/

The Ashmolean Latin Inscriptions Project is a research project funded by the AHRC, a collaboration between the University of Warwick and the Centre for the Study of Ancient Documents and the Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford. Full details can be found on the website.

A teenager’s tombstone in the shape of an altar, featuring a depiction of Hercules.

Awards and funding

Launch of Breeze & Dobson Award

The Hadrian’s Wall Partnership Board would like to acknowledge the excellent research that is conducted in reference to Hadrian’s Wall and the Roman frontier in Britain by an individual researcher or group of researchers that has/have completed research in the period between 1 Jan 2016 and 31 Dec 2017.

The competition will initially consider projects completed over the course of 2016 and 2017. Thereafter, the competition will be run annually.

The competition will be administered by the Archaeology and Research Delivery Group on behalf of the Hadrian’s Wall Partnership Board.

For further details: http://hadrianswallcountry.co.uk/hadrians-wall-management-plan/management-system/whmp-delivery-groups/archaeological-research

Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society (LAHS) Research Fund

Until recently the fund gave grants of between £500 and £1,000, but additional resources mean that larger sums are now possible. Grants are available to anyone wishing to research the history or archaeology of Leicestershire or Rutland (see https://www.le.ac.uk/lahs/research/index.html for guidelines and criteria). As a region with a formerly strong Roman presence, there is a broad scope of potential research which could be funded.

Image of the issue

This new feature is designed to take advantage of the wonderful collection of over 4,000 images that can be freely downloaded for educational and research use via IMAGO (www.romansociety.org/imago/home.html).

Mosaic from Brading Roman Villa

The photograph shows an enigmatic panel featuring a cock-headed man, a possible temple, and two griffins from Brading villa on the Isle of Wight. It is just one of the intriguing tessellated wonders discovered at the site in the 1880s.

Other highlights include a snapshot of gladiatorial combat, a probable Greek astronomer, and Attis waxing lyrical to Sagaritis, a water nymph. The vignette of the cock-headed man is less easily explained, though, as there is no obvious parallel for him in Roman art. It is possible that the composition alludes to some form of amphitheatrical spectacle, and the figure has even been explained as an in-joke, riffing on the word for a cock - gallus - also being a personal name.
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(to cancel use the header "<<EPISTULA unsubscribe>>")

This edition of EPISTULA will also be available via the Society’s website:
[http://www.romansociety.org/archaeology/e-newsletter-epistula.html](http://www.romansociety.org/archaeology/e-newsletter-epistula.html)