EDITORIAL

Welcome to *Epistula Secunda*, the Roman Society’s e-Newsletter for members and everyone interested in the latest developments in the history and archaeology of Rome and the Roman Empire.

We are grateful for the many messages of support and encouragement after the publication of the first newsletter in 2011, and to those of you who submitted such a broad range of contributions for this issue. *Epistula II* includes summaries of the results of several important excavations and research projects, new online resources, as well as news of forthcoming meetings, conferences and exhibitions.

We aim to build on the success of the first two issues and provide an even more extensive round-up in the future, but this depends on you so please continue to send us items that you would like to share with fellow enthusiasts and devotees of Roman studies (particularly events outside the UK).

IMAGO, the Society’s online image bank of over 1,500 photos of sites, objects and monuments, was launched last year. It will need further work to make it completely user friendly, but the feedback from students, lecturers and teachers around the world has been very encouraging. If you haven’t seen it yet, go to [www.romansociety.org/imago](http://www.romansociety.org/imago) and let us know what you think (we would like to add ‘galleries’ of related photos next - Pompeii and Hadrian’s Wall perhaps?).

2012 will be another very busy year and there is just space for a reminder that the 10th Roman Archaeology Conference will take place in Frankfurt am Main at the end of March. Details of the conference sessions and excursions are shown on page 2 - for the first time members of the Society will receive a discount on the conference fee!

It should be a most stimulating event and we look forward to seeing you there. *Brittunculi*
ROMAN ARCHAEOLOGY CONFERENCE 2012
RAC 2012 is taking place in Frankfurt am Main, Germany from 29 March to 1 April 2012.

Hosted by the Römisch-Germanische Kommission des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, the conference will be held in the new central lecture theatre building at the Campus Westend of the Goethe University, Frankfurt.

Conference sessions include:
- ‘E pluribus unum’: ethnicities and Roman military culture
- Adoption, adaption, imitation of material and ideas: Romano-Germanic connections during the Roman Iron Age
- North and South: clusters of Romano-Germanic interaction in the Early Empire
- Early urbanisation in the Roman Northwest
- The space between: current investigations into Roman suburbia
- Roman ports, harbours and waterfronts: current study and future directions
- Means of exchange? Postcolonial approaches to numismatic material in the West Mediterranean world (400-100 BC)
- Child health and death in Roman Italy and beyond
- Materialising diasporas in the Roman Empire: cultural resistance, the pioneering spirit and social exclusion
- Crafts in the secondary agglomerations of the Western Roman Empire: diversity, sites of enterprise, displacement of activities, local consumption and markets
- Geophysical prospection and remote sensing of Roman sites: state-of-the-art and the road ahead
- Computer applications and 3D modelling in Roman archaeology
- Recent work on Roman Britain
- Roman Crete: land and society
- Romanization, acculturation, identity and resistance in Asia Minor, the Levant and Cyprus

Excursions have been arranged to the Saalburg Archaeological Park, Keltenwelt am Glauberg and the Schifffahrtsmuseum and Roman Theatre in Mainz.

TRAC 2012, organised by the Goethe University and the Technische Universität Darmstadt, will run in parallel.

The conference fee is 90 € for waged delegates and 65 € for unwaged (members of the Roman Society receive a discount of 10 €). The fee does not include lunches or excursions.

Further information is available at www.rac2012.org.

SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS DAY AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM
Almost 300 members of the Roman Society and the Association for Roman Archaeology gathered for a series of lectures to mark the 1800th anniversary of the death of the Emperor Septimius Severus. The event was introduced by the President, Andrew Burnett, and Hafed Walda (Research Fellow, King’s College London) who was able to report on the latest news from Libya.

Three talks followed:
Dr Philip Kenrick (University of Oxford): Lucius Septimius Severus: Libya’s most distinguished son?
Dr Nick Hodgson (Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums): The archaeology of the British expedition of Septimius Severus, AD 208-11

Dr Fraser Hunter (National Museum of Scotland): “Barbarians in revolt”: Caledonia before and after Severus

The Society is very grateful to the Hon. Secretary, Sam Moorhead, for co-ordinating the event.
**Society News**

**OXYRHYNCHUS EVENING EVENT**
The Society is delighted to be collaborating with the Egypt Exploration Society and the Hellenic Society for an evening event on 3 April in the Woburn Suite, Senate House, University of London. The theme is *Oxyrhynchus: the city and its texts* and speakers will include Professor Alan Bowman (University of Oxford), Professor Peter Parsons (University of Oxford) and Professor Dominic Rathbone (King's College London).

**BATH & THE COTSWOLDS, 4-6 MAY**
Join the Society for this weekend tour of the West Country to a number of familiar sites which have recently been developed and other sites not usually open to the public.

The sites and museums include the Roman Baths at Bath, the Nesley Farm excavation near Tetbury, the Cotswold Archaeological Trust compound at Kemble, Cirencester amphitheatre, Great Witcomb Villa, Corinium Museum, North Leigh Villa and Chedworth Villa.

Talks and tours will be provided by curators, directors and specialists who have worked on the excavations, including Stephen Clews, Tony Roberts, Neil Holbrook, Amanda Hart, Peter Ellis and Simon Esmonde Cleary.

More details and a booking form are available at: [www.romansociety.org/events/bath-the-cotswolds.html](http://www.romansociety.org/events/bath-the-cotswolds.html)
(Please return your booking form by 29th February)

**ROMAN SOCIETY AGM, 16 JUNE**
The Society’s Annual General Meeting will be held in the Stevenson Lecture Theatre at the British Museum. The AGM is at 2pm and will be followed by a series of lectures to celebrate the London Olympics:

- **2.30** Tony Wilmott, *Different people, different games? Amphitheatre and community in Roman Britain*
- **3.00** Professor Charlotte Roueché: *A globalised sporting culture: Roman contests in the Greek east*
- **3.45** Tea
- **4.30** Professor Mary Beard: *The Roman Olympic Games*

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**
Members are reminded that subscriptions for 2012 are due on 1st January. It is now possible to renew your subscription and pay online with a debit or credit card. Please see the Online Payment page at: [www.romansociety.org/membership/online-payments.html](http://www.romansociety.org/membership/online-payments.html)

*The Roman Baths at Aquae Sulis © Bath & North East Somerset Heritage Services* and *Corinium Museum © Corinium Museum, Cotswolds District Council* - destinations on the weekend tour 4-6 May.
ROMAN BINCHESTER AFTER ROME: AN EVOLVING STORY OF CONTINUITY

The site of the Roman fort of Vinovia or Vinovium at Binchester lies just north of Bishop Auckland, overlooking the point where the Roman road later known as Dere Street crossed the River Wear. The third season of a new five-year programme of investigation has just finished.

Excavations in the 1970s and 1980s showed that the fort’s occupation continued into the fifth century, with evidence of iron-working, areas of paving, and middens associated with the slaughter of animals (principally cattle) and the processing of bones and hides for the manufacture of everyday objects. From the sixth to the eleventh century much of the fort interior was used as a cemetery, though the associated settlement is unlocated.

The new excavations, encompassing an area in the east corner of the fort interior and a site in the civil settlement beside Dere Street to the south-east, have produced evidence of similar activity in the fifth century (see Epistula I, 3). This takes the form of further areas of paving accompanied by a considerable number of large stone and clay-lined pits, the latter producing large amounts of cattle bone; analysis will test whether they were used for tanning.

A notable find is an inscription fragment, with four partial lines of text from the bottom right corner of a dedication slab. The following is a provisional interpretation by Roger Tomlin. Little sense can be made of the top line as so little survives. The second line contains the word SACELLUM (a shrine), and the next CUI PRAEEST (dedicated by); the final line is probably [PRAEFECTUS EQUITUM], the commander of the cavalry unit occupying the fort.

The work is a partnership between Durham County Council’s Archaeology Service, the Archaeology Departments of Durham and Stanford Universities, and the Archaeological & Architectural Society of Durham & Northumberland. As well as training for undergraduates, the project also enables local people to get involved directly thanks to grant-aid from English Heritage.

Information about Binchester Roman Fort, including directions and opening times, can be found at: www.durham.gov.uk/archaeology. A daily blog is maintained throughout each season: www.durham.ac.uk/archaeology

The final report on the 1970s/80s excavations (Iain Ferris, The Beautiful Rooms are Empty, 605pp, ISBN 9781907445019) is available from Durham County Council’s Archaeology Section, The Rivergreen Centre, Aykley Heads, Durham DH1 5TS. Price £35.00 + £8.00 p&p.

A more popular synthesis is also available: Iain Ferris, Vinovia: The Buried Roman City of Binchester in Northern England (Amberley Publishing), price £16.99; www.amberleybooks.com

David Mason (Durham County Council)

NEW PORT AND SUBURB AT CAERLEON

Evaluation excavations outside the fortress at Caerleon have revealed the remarkably well preserved remains of a complex of large public-style buildings, including what is thought to be part of the fortress’ port on the River Usk.

Nine trenches were opened over an area of about 5 hectares and significant discoveries include well preserved walls and floor, some with painted plaster, a hypocaust system, an in-situ lead water pipe, a fragment of an imperial inscription and an intaglio decorated with a capricorn - the emblem of the Second Augustan Legion stationed at Caerleon.

The suburb appears to have been deliberately abandoned in the later Roman period when much of the building stone was robbed and taken elsewhere. This part of Caerleon was never built over again, which explains why the Roman archaeology survives so well and so close to the modern ground surface.

The port - if it proves to be such - will be only the second major port from Roman Britain to have been excavated after London. The dating of the port and associated complex of buildings remains to be confirmed, but it seems likely that the suburb was constructed to supply the army during the final campaigns against the Silures in the 70s.

Further details of this research and engagement project, including information on the results of previous geophysical surveys and large-scale excavations within and outside the fortress, can be found on the Cardiff University website.

Peter Guest (Cardiff University)
RECENT DISCOVERIES AT THE MARITIME PORT OF IMPERIAL ROME

Excavations at Portus in the summer of 2011 uncovered the remains of a large building interpreted as a navalia, or military shipyard. It was uncovered during excavations undertaken by the Portus Project, which since 2006 has addressed some key questions about the character and development of Portus through targeted excavation supported by intensive geophysical surveys.

The navalia was built during the reign of the emperor Trajan. It is rectangular in form and lies immediately to the east of the “Palazzo Imperiale”. The building extends from west to east for at least 145m along the northern side of the famous Trajanic hexagonal basin at the heart of the port. A series of massive brick-faced concrete piers defined up to ten parallel arched bays c. 58m long and 12m wide opening onto both the Trajanic and Claudian basins. The building’s main entranceways took the form of massive arched openings, comparable in scale to that of the main vaulted hall in Trajan’s market at Rome. The building is without ready comparanda at Portus or Ostia, though its closest parallel in terms of layout and scale seems to be the building traditionally identified as the Porticus Aemilia (190 BC) in Rome.

The scale, position and layout of the building suggest that it played a key role in the construction and/or repair of ships at Portus. Much of the repair and construction work must have taken place in the bays, although the existence of a flat area c. 30m across between the southern façade and the Trajanic basin could also have been used for further work prior to dragging the ships to the water’s edge. As yet there is no evidence for ship ramps, which probably lie beneath the early 20th century embankment that currently runs around the outside of the hexagonal basin.

We do not yet know which kinds of ship might have been repaired, sheltered or built in this building. The existence of shipbuilding activities at Portus can be inferred from stone inscriptions that refer to the corpus of the fabri navales portensium, which was composed of wealthy freed slaves. This might be taken to suggest that it was used for commercial ships, but it is more likely that it played some kind of as-yet undefined military role as a navalia. Inscriptions mentioning sailors from the Misenum fleet have been found at Portus and Rome, and the presence of a detachment of the fleet makes sense if the emperor used the port from time to time. A navalia has also been recently claimed for nearby Ostia, although this is much smaller.

The preliminary results of the project have been published in: Portus and its Hinterland, (ed S Keay / L Paroli), Archaeological Monographs of the British School at Rome, 18.

www.portusproject.org
www.bsr.ac.uk
www.heritageportal.eu

Simon Keay (University of Southampton / British School at Rome)
GLADIATOR SCHOOL DISCOVERED AT CARNUNTUM

Researchers have found an extensive building complex outside the city of Carnuntum in Austria that they believe was a *ludus*, or school for gladiators.

The team of archaeologists, geophysicists and computer specialists made the discovery while surveying using high resolution ground penetrating radar close to the amphitheatre near Petronell in Lower Austria.

The Carnuntum *ludus* was set within a massive compound enclosing an area of 2800 m². The school buildings were arranged around a central inner court containing a circular training arena, 19 m in diameter, enclosed by a wooden stand for spectators. The complex also included a 100 m² heated training hall, an extended bath complex, as well as small cells that were the gladiators’ living quarters. The GPR results are so clear that water pipes, sewers and the remains of the floor heating system can be seen clearly. The archaeologists believe that they have also located the gladiators’ cemetery, immediately behind a building associated with large grave monuments, stone sarcophagi and other, simpler, graves.

Only one other excavated example of a purpose-built gladiator school is known from the Roman world – the *ludus magnus* behind the Colosseum in Rome, which is shown on the Severan marble plan of the city.

The Carnuntum *ludus* was located by geophysicists from the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Archaeological Prospection and Virtual Archaeology working with archaeologists from Carnuntum Archaeological Park and computer designers from 7reasons.

Click here to watch a short video describing the discovery of the Carnuntum *ludus* and its reconstruction.
CLOTHING AND IDENTITIES. NEW PERSPECTIVES ON TEXTILES IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE

A Roman family: funerary relief in the Vatican Museums. Drawing by J. Willmott. (© Maureen Carroll)

This EU-funded project, supporting research and exchanges of ideas and knowledge on the social significance of clothing in the Roman world, is entering its final year. Since 2007 the Reiss-Engelhorn-Museums in Mannheim, the University of Sheffield, the University of Valencia, the University of Crete at Rethymnon, the Naturhistorisches Museum in Vienna, the University of Copenhagen (Centre for Textile Research), and the Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage in Brussels have explored various avenues of enquiry on Roman clothing, including aspects of production, trade, identity, social rank, ethnicity, gender and religion.

With its richness in diverse sources — archaeological finds, images and texts — the Roman empire provides a perfect opportunity for investigations of cultural uniformity and diversity in ancient dress and in the definition and presentation of ‘self’. A number of academic publications, articles and monographs have been produced, and an international exhibition reflecting the diverse foci of research will be shown in Mannheim and Vienna in 2012. For general information, see the project website www.dressid.eu/

Maureen Carroll (University of Sheffield)

RESEARCH ON ROMAN AND MEDIEVAL LANDSCAPES IN SOUTH-EASTERN SICILY: THE TERRITORY OF PRIOLO GARGALLO IN THE HINTERLAND OF ANCIENT SYRACUSE

Syracuse and its vast hinterland played a crucial role in the economy of ancient Sicily, largely because of the management, exploitation and trade of agricultural supply. Yet despite the historical and economic importance of the area in the Roman and Medieval periods, our knowledge of the organization of its agricultural production and of the economic connections between rural settlements and the city remains limited.

Recent research by the Istituto per i Beni Archeologici e Monumentali - CNR di Catania attempts to remedy this omission by outlining a preliminary picture of the rich historical and archaeological heritage of Priolo Gargallo and its surrounding territory using a multidisciplinary approach. Surveys were conducted to solve specific archaeological problems and document the development of the territory.

The research has revised the dating of Roman and Medieval settlements. The evidence from the Priolo Gargallo area demonstrates an essential continuity of settlement from the fifth / fourth century B.C. to the Republican period, and a diversity of rural sites during the Republican and the early Imperial periods. From the middle Roman period and into Late Antiquity the number and size of settlements in the territory increased dramatically, often testified by the presence of burials and monumental subterranean tombs. By the early fifth century, the numerous medium-sized settlements across the region seem to have contracted significantly in size, and some were abandoned for good. A slight contraction in ceramic imports, often connected to the Vandal invasions, is still to be addressed, but after Genseric’s invasion of Sicily the archaeological evidence indicates settlement growth in the territory of Priolo where previously uninhabited areas began to flourish once more. The church of Santa Foca was built during the same period and, apart from being instrumental in spreading the Christian faith, was also a focal point for trade and commerce. The arrival of the Arabs in Sicily marked a profound transformation of the countryside of Priolo and many settlements were abandoned simultaneously. Following the Islamic conquest, the network of settlements became sparser and less organised.

The first volume of this research has recently been published: D Malfitana & G Cacciaguerra, Priolo romana, tardo romana e medieval: documenti, paesaggi, cultura material (Catania).

Daniele Malfitana (Istituto per i Beni Archeologici e Monumentali, Italian National Research Council, Catania) and Giuseppe Cacciaguerra (University of Catania)
ROMAN ARMOUR FROM CAERLEON

In 2008 and 2010 a joint UCL-Cardiff University team excavated part of a warehouse building within the walls of the legionary fortress at Caerleon. Isca, home of Legio II Augusta, is still yielding major discoveries despite over a century of archaeological exploration, and in recent years a campaign of geophysical work has revealed a wealth of new information and helped to target excavations both inside and outside the fortress. The warehouse excavations produced many interesting finds relating to military life, including a large deposit of armour in one of the storerooms. This deposit was lifted in 40 blocks by conservators from the National Museum of Wales, and micro-excavated by Julia Tubman in the NMW lab over recent months.

This painstaking work has revealed a large and complex assemblage of military artefacts. Mineralized iron plates, efficiently stripped of most copper fittings, show that the storeroom contained partially-articulated lorica segmentata, apparently of Newstead type. This was in use long before the known abandonment of the fortress, but a coin of Carausius minted in AD 292 was recovered from between two plates, bringing the find into interpretations of the last years of the fortress' occupation.

Copper-alloy artefacts recovered include a scatter of lorica squamata, apron studs and washers, as well as decorative items such as a sheet with an incised and punched motif of a capricorn (the emblem of the legion), and a solid-cast anthropomorphic head wearing a Phrygian cap attached to a fragment of bronze sheet.

Unparalleled artefacts demonstrate how important this collection will become to Roman armour studies. One soil block contains a collection of overlapping rows of drawing-pin-sized copper-alloy studs. This would presumably have been attached to an organic backing, and would have appeared like shining fish scales. Work on interpreting and publishing this assemblage is ongoing.

Further details can be found at:
www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/blog/?cat=406
www.britarch.ac.uk/caf/wikka.php?wakka=CaerleonLegionaryFortress
www.cf.ac.uk/share/research/projectreports/caerleon/index.html

Julia Tubman (National Museum Wales)
Andrew Gardner (UCL)

One of the armour blocks from Caerleon being excavated under laboratory conditions in the National Museum Wales, and the cast bronze head wearing a Phrygian cap (inset).
ANCIENT HISTORY IN THE FUTURE
New York and Cambridge 2012

A pair of conferences is being organised in 2012 to talk in an open-ended way about the future of our subject (focusing on the history of the Mediterranean world and related territories from the Mycenaeans to the Muslim invasions).

The first conference will take place at Columbia University on April 20th-21st 2012, and the second in Cambridge on December 12th-13th 2012.

Ancient historians quite rightly spend a lot of time working at old controversies. Our two conferences will face in the other direction. Their purpose is to consider what historical problems and (even more) what historical methods especially deserve to be pursued in the coming decades. There is no intention here to dictate or preach - the spirit is exploration and debate. Future scholars will obviously go their own myriad ways regardless; perhaps they will even react against us (for we intend to publish our proceedings, in both electronic and book form).

It is clear, however, that fresh approaches have been opening up in recent years, many of which are intellectually challenging. An ancient historian alert to new developments is likely these days to be confronted with highly technical discussions in fields as disparate as osteology, nutrition, art history, psychology and earth sciences. How to use all the information and techniques in question productively, without losing sight of our still-rigorous standards for dealing with the textual sources in their original languages?

Interdisciplinary Researches, Presenting the Roman Frontiers, Varia

Delegates are asked to send summaries of no more 250 words to limes2012@naim.bg, indicating for which session it is intended. Summaries should be submitted in one of the official languages of the Congress, which are English, German and French. Deadline for the receipt of abstracts is 28th February 2012.

Further details available at: www.limes2012.naim.bg/

William Harris, Wilfried Nippel, Robin Osborne, Walter Scheidel, Susan Alcock
**INVENTIVE INSCRIPTIONS: EPIGRAPHY AND THE ORGANISATION OF KNOWLEDGE**

Spring meeting of the British Epigraphy Society
Tues 29th-Wed 30th May 2012, University of Warwick.

Panels on the following themes: Displaying and Collecting Inscriptions; Recording and Publishing Inscriptions.

Speakers include: Mary Beard; John Bodel; Alison Cooley; Glenys Davies; Phil Freeman; Lawrence Keppie; Peter Liddel; Fabienne Marchand; Thorsten Oppermann; Irene Polinskaya; Charlotte Roueche; Ginette Vagenheim.

Sponsored by BES, Humanities Research Committee (Warwick), IAS (Warwick), Dept of Classics & Ancient History (Warwick). Registration forms and further information available online: www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/classics/research/seminars/#BES.

Further details available from Alison Cooley: a.cooley@warwick.ac.uk

**NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY ROMANCE ARCHAEOLOGY SEMINARS 2012**

Newcastle University runs a regular series of Roman archaeology seminars. For further details, please contact Frances Macintosh at: frances.mcintosh@newcastle.ac.uk.

31st January: 6pm. Diverse Communities in Early Roman London, Lacey Wallace (Cambridge)
21st February: 5.30pm. Caerleon and the Roman garrison of Wales: excavations in Priory Field 2007-10, Andrew Gardner (UCL)
6th March: 5.30pm. Soldiers on the streets: the city of Dura-Europos versus its Roman garrison? Simon James (Leicester)
24th April: 5.30pm. Hadrian’s Villa. Water, sculpture and architecture, Thea Ravasi (Newcastle)
1st May: 5.30pm. Legionary fortresses, neogeography, and the perplexed exercitologist, Mike Bishop (Armatura Press)

**BRITISH SCHOOL AT ROME POSTGRADUATE COURSE IN EPIGRAPHY, JULY 16-24 2012**

The great success and popularity of the epigraphy training course at the British School at Athens has prompted efforts to establish a similar course in Roman epigraphy at the British School in Rome (which will run in alternate years to its sister course at the BSA). The first Roman epigraphy summer programme will run this July 16th-24th.

The 9-day intensive course, intended for postgraduate scholars of ancient history, archaeology, and the classics, is designed to provide training and practical experience in the use of epigraphy as a source. The course will examine the numerous contexts in which epigraphy is presented, exploring the process of editing and publishing epigraphic materials. The course, divided into themes of a technical and cultural nature, will consist of daily epigraphic ambulatio throughout the city of Rome, museum visits, a trip to Ostia, as well as research sessions at the British School’s library and guest lectures on various topics.

We are now inviting applications for the course (the deadline is January 30th 2012). Further particulars can be found on our website: www.bsr.ac.uk/staying/taught-courses/epigraphy.

Queries and applications may be addressed to Abigail.graham@warwick.ac.uk

**BATH ROYAL LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION**

Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution is an educational charity based in Queen Square, Bath. The ‘Antiquity’ meeting group provides a programme of lectures with high-quality content from respected speakers on topics which will appeal to an interested but non-specialist audience. We would like to draw readers' attention to our forthcoming lectures in 2012.

9th February: Egyptology-on-Avon: Ancient Egypt in Bath and Bristol, Dr Aidan Dodson (University of Bristol)
8th March: Crossing culture, crossing time: the redevelopment of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, Dr Susan Walker (Ashmolean Museum, Oxford)
12th April: Dr Amelia Dowler (Curator of Greek Coins, British Museum)
10th May: The Reception of the Greek and Roman Classics in Islamic Science and Philosophy, Dr Nader El-Bizri (University of Lincoln / University of Cambridge)
14th June: Seamanship in Vergil’s Aeneid, Dr Magdalena Ohman (University of Wales, Lampeter)
13th September: Minimus: the mouse that made Latin cool, Barbara Bell (author of Minimus books)
8th November: Fighting for Rome - the first auxiliaries, Dr Jonathan Prag (Merton College, Oxford)

Evening meetings start at 7.30 pm unless otherwise stated. Visitors welcome, £4; Members £2
www.brlsi.org/admin/group.cfm?group=an
Meetings & Exhibitions

KCL-BRAZIL LINKS
A week of events will take place at King’s College London from 14th-17th February 2012.

Tues 14 February: The Language of Love.
Workshop at Somerset House: a half-day event with talks, poetry readings, music (Bossa Nova) and presentations

Wed 15 - Fri 17: Aspects of Rhetoric (seminar series)
Wed 15: New worlds - old languages. Series of short talks followed by a reception. The theme of the afternoon is the role of the ancient languages in mediating the discovery of new worlds. We start in Byzantium, with the (re)discovery of the Latin world; then we will look at the use of Latin expressing the trans-Atlantic new worlds.
Thurs 16: papers on rhetorical practice, Cicero, Late Antiquity
Fri 17: Greek rhetoric, epic rhetoric, the rhetoric of philosophy

For more information please see: www.kcl.ac.uk/artshums/depts/classics/events/intweek/index.aspx

FIRSTSITE COLCHESTER: A NEW HOME FOR THE BERRYFIELD MOSAIC
Firstsite in Colchester is a newly-opened home for the long-established visual arts organisation of the same name. The new building, bounded by the original Roman wall, is constructed around the Berryfield Roman Mosaic (c. AD 200), unearthed in 1923 on the site where firstsite now stands. After years in Colchester Castle, the Mosaic has been restored and returned to its original home, as firstsite’s only permanent exhibit.

The new building will include gallery spaces for various exhibitions, learning spaces, and an auditorium. The opening exhibition, Camulodunum, takes the town’s Roman history as its starting point and features commissions by international artists, as well as loans from collections including the Tate, V&A, the Arts Council, Fitzwilliam Museum Cambridge, Art Institute Chicago and Kunsthaus Zurich.

The new firstsite building (artist's impression)
**FRONTIERS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE**

Hadrian’s Wall was inscribed as a World Heritage Site in 1987. When the German frontier followed in 2005, the *Frontiers of the Roman Empire WHS* was created, to which the Antonine Wall was added in 2008. As part of this project, a booklet in Arabic, English, French and German on the frontiers of the Roman Empire was produced in 2005. This was well received and so we conceived of the idea of creating a series which would encompass all the frontiers of the empire. To date, booklets have been published on the Danube frontier, Bulgaria, Hungary, Slovakia, the Antonine Wall and, earlier this year, Hadrian’s Wall. These are all available on line, together with Bavaria and other publications:

- English: [www.museen-mainlimes.de/content/6-media/pdfs.en.php](http://www.museen-mainlimes.de/content/6-media/pdfs.en.php)
  [www.museen-mainlimes.de/content/6-media/pdfs.php](http://www.museen-mainlimes.de/content/6-media/pdfs.php)

Discussions are taking place with colleagues in other European countries and in the Middle East. We are also seeking the finance to publish a booklet on the frontier in North Africa and another on Egypt. We have also uploaded many maps onto these websites which colleagues in the frontiers project have prepared and these are now freely available. The next step is to make other images more widely available. In the meantime, Hungary and Slovakia are moving forward in their proposals to nominate their sections of the frontiers of the Roman empire as extensions to the FRE WHS.

*David Breeze*

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**ROMAN REMAINS IN FRANCE**

The published version of *Gallia Informations* has been superseded by a web version, covering discoveries from later prehistory to the early Medieval period, and including a searchable database. See [www.adlfi.fr](http://www.adlfi.fr)

**ROMANO-BRITISH POTTERY KILNS ON-LINE**

The Study Group for Roman Pottery announces a new website in honour of the late Vivien Swan. The site is based on Vivien’s long out-of-print *The Pottery Kilns of Roman Britain* (HMSO, 1984) and comprises a mapped resource of the original gazetteer, which was published only in microfiche.

[mapdata.thehumanjourney.net/vgswandb_index.html](http://mapdata.thehumanjourney.net/vgswandb_index.html)

The site is viewed as the first stage in a long-term Study Group project. It is hoped that it will gradually be enhanced with the addition of kilns reported since 1984 and has the potential for adding photographs and drawings of the kilns and kiln products.
BOOK CORNER
This is not intended to compete with the review sections in Britannia and JRS, but is for notes and news of recent and forthcoming books by, or of interest to, members. We would be particularly interested to hear of reports published by excavation units, as these are often poorly advertised and, as a result, sporadically available.


Mark Patterson draws members’ attention to his book on Roman Nottinghamshire (Five Leaves Publications, ), and his essay, A Short Walk Up Dere Street, published in a new anthology called Maps (Five Leaves Publications, ). See http://www.fiveleaves.co.uk/ for further information

British Archaeological Reports have published the following titles of relevance to Roman studies in 2011. See www.archaeopress.com for further information

BAR 547: Personal Ornamentation as an Indicator of Cultural Diversity in the Roman North by Timothy Webb. ISBN 9781407308562.

BAR 540: Tribal Territories’ from the Humber to the Tyne. An analysis of artefactual and settlement patterning in the Late Iron Age and Early Roman Periods by Catherine Rosemary Ross. ISBN 9781407308272.


BAR S2236: The Roman Empire and Beyond: Archaeological and Historical Research on the Romans and Native Cultures in Central Europe edited by Eric C. De Sena and Halina Dobrzanska. ISBN 978 1 4073 0798 5.


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