EDITORIAL

Welcome to issue three of our electronic newsletter. The editorial team changes after every two issues and all our thanks are due to the colleagues who got us off to such a flying start. However Epistula is nothing without content and for it to work we need colleagues in all parts of the Sector to provide us with articles, updates and news – please see the ‘Contribute’ section for details.

Whilst we have a wide range of reports on fieldwork and discoveries there is a clear potential for Epistula to provide a service to members and non-members as a vehicle for publicising meetings, lectures and publications. As highlighted in the books section we would be particularly keen to hear from colleagues in the commercial sector with respect to publications of their work and would value links to online publications, as well as notices of recently published monographs.

2012 saw the first Roman Archaeology Conference to be held in Europe take place in Frankfurt. This proved an excellent venue for what was, with the accompanying Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference, an outstanding event. Both conferences are reported on in this issue of Epistula which not only covers such academic excellence, but also provides us with a notice of the bizarre – Roman archaeology meets Japanese manga films – Enjoy!

Brittunculi

SOCIETY NEWS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2012

This year, the Annual General Meeting was held at the British Museum on 16 June. The President, Andrew Burnett, gave his report on the year, in which he highlighted the Society’s flagship academic activities (the journals, library and lecture programme) and the Society’s increasing outreach work (the new annual conference with the Association for Roman Archaeology, the development of on-line resources, and the increased grants offered to schools and university students). Dr Kay then presented his financial report for 2011. The Resolutions followed including the election of new officers. The Society is pleased to welcome Dr Emma Buckley, Professor Kate Cooper, Dr Jean-Michel Hulls, Dr Christopher Kelly, Professor David Mattingly, Professor Stephen Mitchell, Sir Peter Stothard and Professor Maria Wyke as its new Council members and Trustees for 2012-2015. Professor Dominic Rathbone (King’s College London) was elected President (2012-2015) to succeed Dr Andrew Burnett who was elected a Vice-President, along with Professor Alan Bowman and Professor Mike Fulford. Professor John Richardson became an Hon. Vice-President. Mr Sam Moorhead and Dr Philip Kay were re-elected as Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer respectively.
Three lectures on the theme of the Olympics followed. Tony Wilmott spoke about the different types of amphitheatres found in Roman Britain and their different uses (Different people, different games? Amphitheatres and community in Roman Britain). Charlotte Roueché explored the various types of contests held in the Greek east using epigraphy and graffiti to find out exactly what went on in the magnificent theatres we visit today in Greece and Turkey (A globalised sporting culture: Roman contests in the Greek east). Mary Beard concluded the event with her talk on The Roman Olympic Games in which she explored what we know about the games from Roman writers such as Pausanias. She concluded with an insight into cheating at the games; a problem then as it is now.

The Society was delighted to welcome a number of non-members to the afternoon lectures: about 250 attended the event.

ROUND-UP

In March-April, the Römisch-Germanische Kommission hosted a very successful RAC and TRAC in Frankfurt – please see reports by the President and Rachel Greenberg below and enjoy photos of the conference at: http://www.ruinsociety.org/events/events-archive/rac-and-trac-2012.html

In April, the Roman Society collaborated with the Hellenic Society and Egypt Exploration Society to host an evening of talks and debate on Oxyrhynchus: the city and its texts. The speakers were Dominic Rathbone (KCL): Oxyrhynchus: site and city; Alan Bowman (Oxford): Oxyrhynchus: the history of an Egyptian provincial town; Peter Parsons (Oxford): Good books and lower tastes; and Colin Adams (Liverpool): Shaking down the town: corruption and government in Oxyrhynchus. Over a hundred members attended but for those who missed it, or would like to hear more, a vidcast is available at: http://youtu.be/nS_FSkFwpIM

Members of the Society also enjoyed a weekend trip to the Bath and the Cotswolds over the May bank holiday weekend. Masterminded by Stephen Clews, members enjoyed private receptions and tours of the Roman Baths in Bath and Corinium Museum in Cirencester, and visits to the Cotswold Archaeological Trust, Cirencester Roman wall and amphitheatre, Great Witcombe villa, North Leigh villa and Chedworth Roman villa. The Society is indebted to its own members who led the tours and site visits: Stephen Bird, Susan Fox, Neil Holbrook, Richard Reece, Paul Booth and Simon Esmonde Cleary. See photos of the trip at: http://www.ruinsociety.org/events/events-archive/bath-the-cotswolds-2012.html

Electronic Resources

Imago: we reported in Epistula II the intention to create galleries of images for Hadrian’s Wall and Pompeii. These are now available. We welcome suggestions for other themed collections, and members are welcome to donate images to help grow the collection: http://www.ruinsociety.org/imago/home.html

Journeys in the Roman Empire: our interactive website for schools, featuring The Mystery of Regina’s Tombstone, is now fully available. We are now working on an accompanying app. Explore the site at: http://www.ruinsociety.org/schools-resources/journeys-in-the-roman-empire.html

The Cultural Olympics

The Society is pleased to be hosting the website featuring cultural Olympic events. A complete calendar of events, and details of individual events and how to book is available at: http://www.ruinsociety.org/events/olympics-2012.html
Future Events

The Roman Society, with the Association for Roman Archaeology, is hosting a conference at the British Museum on 3 November, 2012, to mark the anniversary of Constantine’s Victory at the Battle of the Milvian Bridge. Speakers include Raymond Van Dam, Sophie Lunn-Rockliffe, Doug Lee, Jonathan Bardill, Peter Heather and Martin Henig. Book now to secure your place! More information and a booking form are available online at: http://www.romansociety.org/events/ad-312-constantines-victory-at-the-battle-of-the-milvian-bridge.html

The Society, with the Roman Research Trust, is very pleased to be hosting the 2012 Joan Pye Lecture. Roger Bland will deliver a lecture on How coin finds are changing the face of Roman Britain: the contribution of the Treasure Act and Portable Antiquities Scheme on Thursday 29 November at 5.30pm in the Chancellor’s Hall, Senate House.

Fiona Haarer (Secretary)
CHEDWORTH VILLA

The National Trust has reopened the Chedworth mosaics to the public after the completion of the Chedworth development project, partially funded by the HLF, the Roman Research Trust and other donors. The property is now open 7 days a week till 2 December. A new building by Feilden, Clegg Bradley, recent Stirling Prize Winners, has been erected to cover the west range. It has been constructed on the Roman footprint, not as a reproduction Roman building but to give an impression of the scale of the original and its interior arrangements, while making possible modern methods of display and environmental control. In the process significant new evidence has emerged for the phasing of the range. In 2011 approximately half of the 30m porticus mosaic – previously hidden under tarmac - was uncovered and conserved (see photograph). The remainder will be uncovered inside the new building 2 – 20 June (except weekends) by National Trust archaeologists with volunteers, and conservation carried out 23 July - 24 August by Chris Cleere.

The same architects have also been responsible for a separate building to act as an education centre, primarily for schools. In addition the 1860s site museum has been completely refitted and redisplayed as part of overall design work on the project by Furneaux Stewart. The rest of the finds have been transferred to a store on the nearby Sherborne Estate, where it is intended they will be accessible for study. The online catalogue of the collection (www.nationaltrust.org.uk/collections) will be appropriately updated.

A monograph bringing together all the work on site from 1864 to 2011 for which records survive will be published in 2013-4. A research agenda for future work on the villa and adjacent landscape is in draft, with a full 3D laser survey of the site already completed by the University of Birmingham.

Visitors to any of the work in progress very welcome!

Peter Salway

Chedworth porticus mosaic
For the last two summers ‘A Town Unearthed’, a Heritage Lottery funded community archaeology project, has been working to unearth a fascinating ancient landscape in Folkestone, Kent. At first glance Folkestone is a Victorian resort in retirement though the town has a much longer, if less familiar, history and attention has focused on an endangered Late Iron Age/Romano British site and villa complex situated quite literally on the edge of the town’s East Cliff.

Excavations there have uncovered a story of extensive trade with the Roman world dating back to the first century BC and may radically revise our understanding of such links in that period, potentially challenging the primacy of Hengistbury Head in Dorset as the main point of contact between Britain and the Continent. The site was a place of industry and the manufacturing and export of greensand quern-stones (and later Roman mill stones), on a previously unknown scale and seems likely to have extended into the fourth century AD; finds of stamped tile also suggest links to the Classis Brittanica.

As if this were not enough the project has also had the opportunity to revisit ‘Folkestone Roman villa’ first excavated by S. E. Winbolt who came to Folkestone in the summer of 1923 to take a break from ‘digging’. His hopes for relaxation were confounded though by a visit to the museum where he was shown recently found tile; following the trail he discovered Roman walls at the East Cliff which were soon chased to reveal a building of over sixty rooms. The rest as they say is history but can be followed in ‘Roman Folkestone’, Winbolt’s extraordinary account of the 1924 excavation.

The discovery was avidly followed in the national press becoming perhaps one of the first archaeological attractions of its kind. Winbolt an eminent classicist, enthusiastic field archaeologist and founder member of the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies deserves a greater place in the history of twentieth-century archaeology as a writer and populariser of the subject and as someone who successfully linked Roman archaeology to broader questions of language, culture and history.
AERIAL ARCHAEOLOGY IN JORDAN

The Aerial Archaeology in Jordan (AAJ) project recently completed its 15th year of flying in Jordan in September/October 2011. This year we were able to fly a total of 33 hours, photographing c. 1289 sites, focusing on the regions of Arabia Petraea and the basalt desert east of Azraq. We were also able to photograph specific sites for current researchers working on the ground in Jordan. The objectives of the project are discovery, recording and monitoring of archaeological sites from the air; and the analysis and interpretation of the data. Of special interest are the Roman sites. Although many are known – cities, forts and roads, two groups are of particular note. First are the Roman sites on the Madaba Plain southwest of Amman which are rapidly being destroyed by wholesale development. A rare example of a Roman village that has survived largely unaffected by 20th century development is Masuh, first photographed by the German airforce in 1918. AAJ identified the site in 2010 and annual monitoring has revealed the inexorable spread of a small modern settlement across the site, the discovery and looting of two ancient cemeteries, and the recent construction of a paved road through one of these cemeteries.

The second area is in the south of Jordan, where the undeveloped region between the Wadi al-Hasa and the Shara Scarp preserves the extensive remains of hundreds of small sites of all kinds, many of which have been shown from surface inspection to be broadly Roman in date. This is the hinterland of Petra and the data offers a rich opportunity for analysis of a wide landscape.

Our catalogue of some 60,000 aerial photographs of Jordan of all periods is available online through our Flickr site: http://www.flickr.com/apaame/collections, or contact us at apaame-classics@uwa.edu.au.

David Kennedy

AERIAL VIEW OF THE ROMAN VILLAGE AT MASUH

LATE ROMAN ‘TREASURE’ FROM VINKOVCI, CROATIA

‘New treasure!’ was the intriguing title of an email I received from a colleague. It referred to a new hoard, or ‘treasure’, of late Roman silver plate, recently discovered in Croatia at Vinkovci. In Roman times the town was known as Colonia Aurelia Cibalae (Cibalae for short) in the Roman province of Pannonia. Cibalae was the birthplace of the Roman emperors Valentin I and his younger brother Valens (both AD 364-375). The Cibalae treasure dates to around a similar time, i.e. the fourth century AD. The treasure was discovered during rescue excavations in advance of construction right in the centre of Vinkovci, then transported under armed guard to the Mimara Museum in Zagreb where it is now on display to the public. It consists of about 50 items of silver tableware weighing a total of around 30 kilos. For comparison, the Mildenhall treasure has about half that number of objects, but weighs almost as much (around 26kg). It is clear from the images that many of the objects are rather damaged and heavily tarnished, but cleaning and restoration over the coming months will no doubt do much to rectify this.

AERIAL VIEW OF THE ROMAN VILLAGE AT MASUH

A first glimpse of the new hoard from Vinkovci
Because the ‘Treasure’ was excavated by professionals, we know a great deal more about it than for other comparable finds: we know exactly where it was buried and how deep it lay in the ground; and we can investigate how it might have been buried, for example there might still be traces of the container in which it had been placed prior to burial. By contrast, such information relating to the burial circumstances of the Mildenhall treasure is sadly lacking.

The exact contents of the treasure will become clear in the next few weeks, months and years as the painstaking process of conservation and research is carried out. At the moment, I have to content myself with scrutinising the few images which have emerged from TV and newspaper reports. I can see, for example, that the Cibalae treasure has three large platters and at least two wide and deep bowls – in comparison the Mildenhall treasure has only two platters. It has at least another dozen smaller bowls and dishes – Mildenhall has six. It has many other vessels which are not represented in the Mildenhall treasure, but are paralleled in other treasures: these include silver beakers, also known from the Kaiseraugst treasure, discovered in Switzerland in the early 1960s; at least two silver jugs, also known in other treasures; and a number of spoons and ladles, again similar in appearance to ones known in other treasures.

Most intriguingly, there are some pieces which are nicely decorated: one shows what appears to be Bellerophon slaying the chimera. This scene is in the centre of a platter with a very unusual flat rim decorated with recesses in the shape of scallop shells.

Even more exciting perhaps is a pastoral scene in the centre of another platter, which shows a shepherd leaning on a crook and surrounded by sheep: as my colleague Chris Entwistle, the curator of our Byzantine collections suggested, it would be tempting to think of the Parable of the Good Shepherd. If this is the case, it would be a very rare example of a Biblical scene on late Roman silver plate.

Richard Hobbs, Curator, British Museum

SOLVED MAP ERROR REVEALS 3 PARALLEL FEATURES

A Roman estate to the east of Winchester has been researched for a number of years. A map error has recently been solved for the eastern end of the excavation site by making a map from an air photograph on which streaks could be seen indicating three parallel features.

The northern feature comes off a well preserved Zig Zag in Chawton Park Wood, and is being excavated at present on the western edge of the Wood. The dark air photo lines are large ditches. Excavation on the southern surveyed Limites last year showed it was lightly metalled with crushed flint. The middle feature which has been excavated is a large ditch exactly half a Roman actus wide, with running lanes on either side made of packed flint on the north side and crushed flint on the southern. It is visible in the field to the west of the Wood for 70m as two swellings over the running lanes and a depression between. It runs from the top of the downs, down the side of valley, possibly to the bottom.

The southern feature has the air photographic signature of a Roman road: a light line bounded by dark lines. A terrace can be detected to the east through the Wood. It was originally thought to be the Limites - but later did not seem to line up on OS maps with the main body of evidence to the west. We cannot be sure of this until we complete a further air photograph plot including this evidence.

See publications on the following website for some suggestions re. the purpose of the central half-actus ditch. If anyone knows of any other occurrence or of such parallel arrangement of features we would be interested in hearing of it. Excavations on these estate roads will take place over the August Bank Holiday.

www.nehhas.org.uk/dig.htm

Richard Whaley nehas@whaley.me.uk
(North East Hampshire Historical and Archaeological Society - Field Archaeology Branch)
CORPUS SIGNORUM IMPERII ROMANI

Lindsay Allason-Jones (Newcastle University) and Jon Coulston (St Andrews University) are pulling together the Roman sculpture from the counties of Tyne and Wear, Durham, Cumbria, Lancashire and Derbyshire for publication in the final volume of Corpus Signorum Imperii Romani. They would appreciate anyone who knows of any pieces in private hands which may escape their attention sending them details. Please contact Lindsay Allason-Jones at lindsay.allason-jones@ncl.ac.uk.

THE FRONTIERS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE: NORTH AFRICA

Thanks to a significant grant by the Roman Society, it will now be possible to prepare a booklet on North Africa in the multi-language series on the Frontiers of the Roman Empire edited by Sonja Jilek, Andreas Thiel and David Breeze. The text is being written by David Mattingly and Alan Rushworth, and will be reproduced in Arabic, English, French and German. The booklet will be initially published on-line and as a consequence of generous support from the Roman Society and the Society for Libyan Studies resources are in place to support hard-copy publication. Plans are in progress for a booklet on Egypt by Val Maxfield and on the Middle East by Markus Gschwind - when the necessary funds can be raised!

David Breeze

THE UNIT OF LENGTH USED IN LYCAONIA (ANATOLIA) c AD 370

The use of units of measurement (e. g. scales or units of length) varies in space and time. A chronology can be obtained if one is able to find a suitable number of 'nails', fixed points in time and space when we know that certain units of measurement were used. Historical Metrology can then be used for further dating. Dating is more exact the more densely these 'nails' can be established. Thus it is important to trace as many 'nails' as possible. Recently, Thonemann published a stele with a greek inscription. At a first glance it appeared to be candidate for such a 'nail', as it seemed likely that its unit of length is the late Byzantinic foot of 312,4 mm, code G2. But calculation soon revealed that it does not fit. Neither does any of the other well known Greek units of length.

The measurements of the stele are height 1.33 m, width 0.37 m, of the panel 0.32 m and 0.20 m, respectively. The height of the letters are 0.025 m to 0.04 m. The best fit to the height of the stele are 4.5 feet of 295.56 mm length. This deviates 0.216% from the statistically best value of the Roman foot of 296.2 mm, as derived from the evaluation of more than 550 scales. With the remaining measurements one finds:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measurement</th>
<th>Conversion</th>
<th>Rounded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1330 mm</td>
<td>296.2</td>
<td>4.5 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>370 mm</td>
<td>296.2</td>
<td>1.25 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 mm</td>
<td>296.2</td>
<td>1.25 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1200 mm</td>
<td>296.2</td>
<td>4.05 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>320 mm</td>
<td>296.2</td>
<td>1.08 feet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The thickness in digits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measurement</th>
<th>Conversion</th>
<th>Rounded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>200 mm</td>
<td>18.51</td>
<td>11 dig</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The measurements of the panel in digits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measurement</th>
<th>Conversion</th>
<th>Rounded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>320 mm</td>
<td>18.51</td>
<td>17.5 dig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1200 mm</td>
<td>18.51</td>
<td>65 dig</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The height of the letters is between

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measurement</th>
<th>Conversion</th>
<th>Rounded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25 mm</td>
<td>18.51</td>
<td>1.35 dig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 mm</td>
<td>18.51</td>
<td>2.16 dig</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is a surprising result, as the pes romanus was exclusively known for being used for official and imperial purposes. A better fit to the size of the panel is given by the Byzantinic foot of 320,6 mm, code J3. Here one finds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measurement</th>
<th>Conversion</th>
<th>Rounded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>370 mm</td>
<td>320.6</td>
<td>11 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1200 mm</td>
<td>320.6</td>
<td>3.75 feet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This latter would indicate that the maker of the stone and the stone mason of the panel were different persons, the former possibly being related to the Roman army.

Footnotes:


Rolf C A Rottländer (University of Tübingen, Germany)
ROMAN ARCHAEOLOGY CONFERENCE 2012

The 10th Roman Archaeology Conference was held at Frankfurt from 29th March to 1st April 2012. The idea of the Archaeology Committee was to make the conference more international, and in this aim it admirably succeeded, since it was a well attended event, the great proportion being from either Britain or Germany but with a good smattering of people from other countries such as Italy, Spain or the USA. The organisers, led by David Wigg-Wolf, had organised a good mix of conference sessions, outings and après ski.

The heart of any conference is of course its programme. This kicked off in exemplary style on the first evening with the only plenary lecture, by Nico Roymans from Amsterdam. He spoke on the way recent work was leading to a reassessment of rural society in the Roman Rhineland. We were treated to a masterly display of his grasp of archaeological method – the discovery of new sites previously hidden under mounds of soil placed over them in modern times for cultivation – and the way the evidence of other finds, such as surviving monuments or his own earlier study of writing materials could be woven into a new pattern of rural life, challenging the primitivist orthodoxy of the Finley school and arguing that Hopkins was right to hold that taxes were relatively low. Rural life was emphatically not just about production supporting urban centres, but had a voluntary trajectory of its own.

The subsequent two and half days were divided into traditional parallel sessions; the three of the RAC ran alongside the two of TRAC (see below). Though separately organised, it would be difficult to see too profound a difference between them. RAC might look at Roman Crete, but also postcolonial approaches to numismatics; TRAC might look at conceptualising markets, but also Philhellenism or religion in Roman Italy.

Between them a total of 25 sessions, each of 5 or 6 papers: not for the faint-hearted! It would be invidious to pick out any particular papers and probably wrong: although the sessions were held in adjacent rooms, the frustration of all such conferences is that you never know what you are missing, despite the excellent volume of abstracts we were given. Old friends were happily present, such as new work in Roman Britain, while the location of the venue attracted a lot of work on Roman Germany, allowing interesting parallels to be drawn, occasionally explicitly so. There were also some more particular themes, such as ports or child health; and some disciplines such as prospection or numismatics were strongly in evidence.

Excursions provided book ends to the sessions. The first excursion went to the Saalburg, the world’s only reconstructed Roman fort and its archaeological museum, situated just next to the Limes World Heritage site, where a Roman lunch could be sampled; and then on to the Celtic oppidum at Glauberg, with its strikingly modern museum. At the end of the conference we were able to travel down the road to Mainz and see its new Roman ship museum, and also visit its theatre, situated more or less in the middle of an S-bahn station.

The social side. First, a generous reception at the Archaeological Museum, imaginatively located in an old Carmelite monastery, now dominated by many Jupiter columns and other finds from the Roman site of Nida, and providing a splendid backdrop to the beer and wine provided by our hosts from Hesse. Then a traditional conference dinner with large amounts of pig and the local apple wine, generally advertised as being lethal, but which seemed to slip down in a most acceptable fashion, preparing the participants for the traditional TRAC party which, as ever, seemed to continue through most of the night.

Eine gute Reise und eine gute Zeit. Reading next, in 2014.

Andrew Burnett, President
THEORETICAL ROMAN ARCHAEOLOGY CONFERENCE (TRAC) 2012

Once again joining forces with RAC (see above), the 22nd Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference had a worthwhile roster and some compelling papers to offer. To offer some controversy at the start of the program, Session 2: “The Romanisation of the Roman World, New Theoretical, Practical and Methodological Approaches to an Old Paradigm” not only dared to bring up the dreaded ‘R’ word, but announced the upcoming publication on the very topic. Of particular interest in this panel were Blanka Misic’s paper on the psychology of acculturation in the Roman world and Marleen Termeer’s paper on the development of ‘Roman’ culture in Italy.

One of the most interesting papers on unorthodox application of archaeological evidence came in Session 5 with Jeremy Harnett’s paper entitled “Overhearing? Soundscapes and society in the Roman neighbourhood.” Inspired by primary sources diverse as Cicero and the Acts of the Apostles on the overflow of sound from one domestic space to another, Harnett sought to reconstruct how sound would carry within Roman houses and how much would be transferred and audible without, using digital models taken from examples from Herculaneum and Pompeii. His results proved that the Roman world was most likely a noisy one in which little, if nothing, was truly spoken in secret.

Appropriate for a Roman archaeology conference held in Germany, Session 8 was on the frontier economy of the Empire and proved to offer a diverse set of discussions on the topic. Perhaps most interesting was Anthi Kaldeli’s paper on economic exchange in Cyprus, where she utilised contemporary models such as Wallerstein’s World Systems Theory in her examination of the effects of trade on the island.

Session 9 offered several papers of note. Renato Pinto’s discussion of the ‘transvestite’ burial from Catterick was a well thought out treatment of an intriguing, if often sensationalized, topic. Rounding out the roster was a paper offered by William Southwell-Wright on the place and perception of disability in Roman Britain. By examining grave treatments of individuals with recognisable disabilities, he argued that the response to what we would call disability had a varied response in Roman Britain based on the nature and level of impairment of the disability in question.

Overall, the papers offered by TRAC 2012 in Frankfurt were thought provoking and offer high expectations for the publication of its proceedings next year.

TRAC 23 will be hosted by King’s College London, 5-6 April 2013.

Rachel Greenberg

XXII INTERNATIONAL LIMES (ROMAN FRONTIERS) CONGRESS

Ruse Bulgaria – 6th-11th September 2012

The major international conference dealing with Roman frontiers and military and military-related studies. Current Sessions and sub-sessions are:

Fortifications, Units and Arms
- The Design and Functioning of Roman Frontiers from the Perspective of Military Historians
- Recent Work at frontier Legionary Fortresses
- You Call That a Principia? Interpreting Building Function and Garrisons in Post-Tetrarchic Forts
- Dura and Rome’s Steppe Frontier Zone

Civil Settlements, Roads and Trade
- Families and Dependents of Soldiers
- Roman Roads in Palaestina and Arabia: In Memory of Prof. Israel Roll
- Burial Rites and Religion

Barbarians
- Exploring the 'limes feeling' - looking at the Limes as a force for the creation of a distinct culture on both side of the frontier rather than a divider
- Rome and Barbaricum - Aspects of Interaction

Interdisciplinary Researches, Presenting Roman Frontiers
- Remote Sensing on Roman Frontiers
- Frontiers of the Roman Empire - Running and Expanding the World Heritage Site

Varia
- In Search of Veterans of the Roman Army on the Frontiers

Excursions during the Congress and pre- and post-congress excursions will visit key sites in n Bulgaria and se Rumania. Further details: http://www.limes2012.naim.bp/

ROMAN FINDS GROUP: AUTUMN MEETING. FINDS FROM VINDOLANDA AND THE NORTH

The RFG Autumn Meeting is taking place on 5th and 6th October 2012, at the Hedley Centre, Vindolanda. There are four sessions, with fifteen speakers (Andrew, Anthony, Barbara and Patricia Birley, Justin Blake, David Breeze, Richard Brickstock, Rob Collins, Alex Croom, Fraser Hunter, Frances McIntosh, Jenny Price, Evan Scherer and Philippa Walton). The cost is £40 for RFG members, £30 for students and £50 for non-members and includes two light lunches, teas/coffees, a wine/soft drinks reception, private view of the Vindolanda Museum, guided site tour, free admission to the Roman Army Museum at Carvoran and more. Local transport to and from Newcastle and to the conference hotel available. Numbers are restricted, so early booking is advised. Full details and an application form are available at the RFG website (www.romanfinds.org.uk) or contact the meeting organiser, Stephen Greep (sjgreep@gmail.com).
A fifth season of research and training excavations will take place at the site of a large Roman bath house located in Church Field, Barcombe, near Lewes, East Sussex. The excavations will again be a joint project directed by David Rudling of the University of Sussex and Chris Butler of the Mid Sussex Field Archaeological Team.

Courses will include: ‘An Introduction to Field Archaeology’ (4 alternate Saturdays starting 30 June); An Introduction to Archaeological Surveying (5 consecutive days starting Monday 2 July); Total Station Surveying for Archaeology (5 consecutive days starting Monday 16 July); six 5-day Excavation Training Courses (starting each Monday from 25 June); On-site Conservation (21 July); Planning and Section Drawing (28-29 July); Site Photography (4-5 August); Geoarchaeology in Action (7-8 July) and Geoarchaeology in Detail (5 consecutive days starting 9 July).

Tuition fees (full) range from £50 to £250 (concessions £35 to £183). All courses are suitable either for beginners or for those with some experience, ie those considering archaeology at university (minimum age 16), amateur archaeologists, undergraduates, and those taking university extra-mural courses in archaeology. Volunteer opportunities are also available for those with some prior experience (£50 for 5 days). Details of local accommodation (B&B, camping, etc) are available via the website.

Public Open Afternoon: Sunday 15 July, 1-5pm (parking in Church Field car park).

Contact details: Centre for Community Engagement, Mantell Building, University of Sussex, Brighton, BN1 9RF; T: 01273 678300; E: cce@sussex.ac.uk; Web: www.sussex.ac.uk/cce/shortcourses; www.sussex.ac.uk/cce/barcombe

David Rudling
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.


This little book is designed for use by children of primary school age. It contains information on the Roman occupation of Britain from a Scottish perspective and thus makes it unusual among such books. Thus chapters are structured at first around the topics of the Antonine and Hadrian’s Wall, the fortress at Trimontium and the battle of Mons Graupius, before moving on to standard fare such as daily life, health and medicine, travel and transport and the language, numbers and legacy of the Romans. The end of the book contains a poem, a timeline and some simple activities for the young owner to annotate and complete. One could see a number of learning activities based around some of these. In addition, a series of short questions scattered around the individual chapters, answered at the end of the book, add a certain amount of interactivity. The book is pleasantly produced in mostly sepia / heathery tones, with a good balance between visual and written information. The language used is quite simple and is clearly aimed at KeyStage 2 pupils. The book is a reprint of an earlier edition of 1994 and has been reformatting – this has resulted in the occasional failure to update some of the pictures: a photograph of an abacus and an LED-display, brick-shaped calculator under the title of “First portable calculator” is, for example, an unfortunate if mildly amusing juxtaposition. In all, this is a useful addition to the Primary classroom or as a gift book.

Rebecca H Jones, *Roman Camps in Scotland*, published by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (ISBN: 9780903903509), completes the set for Britain that started with *Roman Camps in England* (1995 - Humphrey Welfare and the late Vivian Swan), then *Roman Camps in Wales and the Marches* (2006 - Jeffrey Davies and Rebecca Jones). This book shows that, for a country that successfully resisted Roman conquest, there is nevertheless a rich archaeological legacy of temporary camps, constructed to house the army for short periods of time during the Roman army’s repeated campaigns, patrols and manoeuvres. In this book, the field evidence, in the form of earthwork remains and cropmarks, is discussed against the background of Roman army campaigns with each of the camps described and illustrated in a detailed gazetteer, fully illustrated with plans, maps and photographs. Hardback - 367 pages. Price £30 (or £25 to Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland).

Rebecca H Jones, *Roman Camps in Britain*, published by Amberley (ISBN: 9781848686885). Britain has the largest number of recorded camps in the Roman Empire, with some 500 examples now known. This book provides an overview of the Roman conquest of Britain and an explanation of what the Roman camps were used for. It looks at the distribution of camps, their chronology, context, re-use and survival, with insights gained from recent fieldwork, including the extensive excavations at Kintore in Aberdeenshire.

*Steven Hunt*
CONTRIBUTE

The Society’s Archaeology Committee has agreed to produce two issues of EPISTULA each year, for a trial period of two years. The success of the e-Newsletter depends on contributions from members and if you have an item of interest related to the study of Rome and the Roman Empire, please send a summary to: office@romansociety.org.

SUBSCRIBE / UNSUBSCRIBE

EPISTULA is sent to all members of the Roman Society who have provided email addresses. Non-members may subscribe too, and to receive the e-Newsletter, send an email to office@romansociety.org with the header «EPISTULA subscribe» (to cancel use the header «EPISTULA unsubscribe»).

EPISTULA also will be available via the Society’s website: http://www.romansociety.org/index.html

The Editors are grateful to Ian Dennis of Cardiff University for his help designing this newsletter.

IN CONCLUSION

Rome on Film(!)
The My Movies Audience Award at the 14th Far East Film Festival held in April in Undine, Italy went to the live-action film adaption of Mari Yamazaki’s Thermae Romae manga. The comedy manga and film adaptation center on Lucius — an architect of public bath houses (thermae) in ancient Rome — who time-travels to various modern-day baths in Japan. Through manga and essay passages, Yamazaki explores the two cultures in the world ‘that have loved baths the most: the Japanese and the Romans!’