WELCOME

Dear members, we would like to extend a warm welcome to you for issue V of Epistula. This issue is packed with the latest news from a range of inspiring projects such as Operation Nightingale, where injured soldiers can regain their confidence through a passion for Archaeology to new initiatives which aim to reveal the diversity of Roman Britain to a much wider and younger audience than has hitherto been possible (Romans revealed).

This issue provides information about conferences which may be of interest to members and a host of new books. Special thanks to Fiona Haarer for her hard work collating contributions for this issue and to all of those members who have offered news, reviews and information for Epistula, you are a constant inspiration.

Best wishes
Andrew Birley and Neil Holbrook
Editors

SOCIETY NEWS - A SUMMARY

In November, in collaboration with the Roman Research Trust, the Joan Pye Lecture was held. Dr Roger Bland (British Museum) gave a lecture entitled: How coin finds are changing the face of Roman Britain: the contribution of the Treasure Act and Portable Antiquities Scheme.

In another new partnership, the Society was pleased to support Cotswold Archaeology’s Annual Public Lecture. More than two hundred gathered at Bingham Hall in Cirencester to hear Professor Ray Laurence (University of Kent) speak on Childhood in Roman Pompeii.

The Society has hosted a number of events in the last six months. Two evening lectures have been held in London: in March, Professor Duncan Kennedy (University of Bristol) offered a paper entitled Does Augustine put his finger on time? and in January we were particularly pleased to welcome Professor Werner Eck (University of Cologne), one of our recently elected Honorary Members, who spoke on Augustus’ ‘Brave New World’: Roman Society’s reaction to the so-called social legislation.

The subject of Pompeii is certainly extremely topical, given the British Museum’s new exhibition, Life and Death in Pompeii and Herculaneum. In April, seventy-five members of the Roman Society visited the Museum to hear an excellent lecture by the exhibition’s curator, Dr Paul Roberts, followed by entry to the exhibition itself.
Society News

British Museum Membership Special Offer for Roman Society Members

The visit to the Pompeii and Herculaneum exhibition was heavily over-subscribed and so the Society is especially pleased that the British Museum has agreed to offer membership at a reduced rate to Roman Society subscribers. Members of the BM enjoy free entry (with no queuing) to exhibitions and the opportunity to attend two Roman-themed Members’ evenings in June and September. This is in addition to the usual benefits (regular mailings, free subscription to the British Museum Magazine, discounts in the shops, cafes and restaurant, and access to the private Members’ Room overlooking the Great Court). For more details, see:

http://www.britishmuseum.org/membership.aspx

To become a member from just £44, see: https://www.edirectdebit.com/bmpromo2011/form.asp x and enter the code ROMAN13.

The 23rd TRAC (Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference) was held at King’s College London in April.

One hundred and ninety delegates gathered from all over the world, especially continental Europe and the USA, to enjoy over sixty papers and posters organised into ten sessions. Professor Simon James (University of Leicester) opened the conference with a lecture: Imperial Rome and the Trousers of Time: Civilians, Soldiers, Barbarians and the Forging of New Romes, 100BC to AD 300. The main themes of the conference included migration, funerary commemoration, Roman religion, the economy, production and consumption of material culture including small finds and glass, historiography and the reception of Roman archaeology. A selection of papers will be published in April 2014.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

14 September: Roman Vindolanda Fort & Museum – A special celebration of the 1800 anniversary of the construction of the last fort at Vindolanda.

3.30pm Meet for excavation tour followed by your own tour of the Museum.

6.00pm Evening Lecture by Dr Andrew Birley: Gallic Soldiers in Roman Britain and at Vindolanda – a special relationship?

7.30pm Wine and canapés in the Vindolanda Museum with Dr Birley and the Museum curatorial staff.

Further information and a booking form are available on the Roman Society website: http://www.romansociety.org/events/exhibitions-visits.html

The Roman Society is pleased to offer complimentary tickets to the first TEN members to book. Members may bring guests but tickets for guests must be paid for.

2 November: Health and Medicine in the Roman World, British Museum. In collaboration with the Association for Roman Archaeology.

Ralph Jackson: Doctor and Patient in the Roman World

Nicholas Summerton: Roman Eye Medicine – manufacture and use.

Eberhard Sauer: Healing Springs and Spring Veneration

Bryn Walters: Spring-line Healing Centres in Roman Britain.
Further information and a booking form are available on the Roman Society website:

http://www.romansociety.org/events/conferences.html

9 November: 150 Years of Roman Yorkshire
The Roman Antiquities Section YAS and the Roman Society present a day-conference celebrating 150 years of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society with papers by leading experts that will review past understanding and present current research.

Further information and a booking form are available on the Roman Society website:

http://www.romansociety.org/events/conferences.html

The Roman Society is pleased to offer complimentary tickets to the first TEN members to book. Members may bring guests but tickets for guests must be paid for.

12 November: London Evening Lecture
5.30pm Senate Room, Senate House.
Charlotte Higgins will give a lecture to mark the publication of her new book Under Another Sky: Journeys in Roman Britain.

30 November: Assessing the Contribution of Commercial Archaeology to the Study of Romano-British Towns. University of Reading.
A day conference to discuss and debate the contribution of developer archaeology to the study of the major Romano-British towns. Organised by the Department of Archaeology, University of Reading in collaboration with English Heritage, Cotswold Archaeology and the Roman Society.

Further information and a booking form are available on the Roman Society website:

http://www.romansociety.org/events/conferences.html

Fiona Haarer (Secretary)

The unveiling of a blue plaque in Spalding on 15 December 2012 to honour Mr Peter Connolly FSA (1935-2012)

Peter Connolly, author, illustrator, historian and experimental archaeologist and a Roman Society member for over 35 years sadly died in May 2012 and was honoured with the placing of a blue plaque on his home at 22 Spring Street, Spalding in Lincolnshire. The Society was pleased to contribute towards the costs and is grateful to Mr Ed Fordham, who grew up in Spalding - they first met when Peter visited his primary school to give a talk - for proposing the idea and making the arrangements. Ed described how he was encouraged by Peter’s enthusiasm for the classical world and particularly for Ancient Rome which led him to study the subject at University. Sue Willetts from the Joint Library of the Hellenic and Roman Societies represented the Society and spoke briefly about Peter’s involvement with the library and his meticulous approach to his research. On a bright December day it was pleasing to see a group of about 50 people including family members, friends and local residents as well as several representatives from the Ermine Street Guard. Ed had devised a programme of speakers who knew Peter well to talk about aspects of his life and work, before asking Peter’s sister, Mrs Tricia Druce to unveil the plaque.

Ed began by reading out a message from Dr Andrew Burnett, then Deputy Director of the British Museum and President of the Roman Society from 2008-12: ‘Tributes come in many forms and the British Museum is full of ancient memorials dedicated to the Gods and Shades. They are in honour of men and women from the ancient world and their voices reach out to us over the generations. A memorial to Peter Connolly is a splendid and appropriate continuation of this tradition. There can be few people who have worked on the collections of the British Museum who have altered and improved our perceptions of the ancient world as much as Peter. He was a constant fund of information, as well as a brilliant communicator of that information to a very broad audience, from the most academic to the more general. I personally benefited from his expertise which was always generously shared.’

This was followed by another generous tribute from Dr Carol van Driel (from the University of Amsterdam) who was unable to attend but sent the following message, ‘Peter richly deserves this honour, though he would have been astonished by all the attention. I don’t think he ever realised how influential his work has been - he enthused generations of young people with his vision of the ancient world and forced the professional archaeologist to think seriously about how things actually worked. Peter did not just imagine and illustrate, he wanted every detail correct and to this he had to know how things worked. This passion for
accuracy drove him to build his legendary site models and to reconstruct complex – and until then – mysterious equipment like the cavalry saddle, and to re-create ancient fighting techniques ... Such experiments made his illustrations a fascinating source of information and help to explain the archaeological record of military equipment.’

Peter’s background was as an illustrator but he had a long standing interest in the classical world and in particular the Roman army from his National Service days. Contact with H. Russell Robinson, Keeper of the Armouries at the Tower of London, led to Peter’s involvement with Brian Dobson’s Roman Army School at Durham and he illustrated Russell Robinson’s book ‘The armour of Imperial Rome’ with superb line drawings including the ‘exploded’ drawings of the Corbridge armour.

Sue Willetts explained how Peter began to use the Joint Library on the 5th floor in Gordon Square from the mid 1970s and benefited particularly from advice and help from library staff member, Mr Frederick Jenkins. In addition he made good use of the Institute of Archaeology Library where he met other Roman enthusiasts such as Mark Hassall and Margaret Roxan who became life-long friends. He was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1984 and awarded a Fellowship of the Institute of Archaeology in 1985.

Chris Haines, MBE, from the Ermine Street Guard was pleased to explain how Peter supported their events and how honoured they were when he agreed to become President in 2002. Peter’s enthusiasm for experimental archaeology led to discoveries about the construction and use of the Roman saddle and weapons such as the pilum.

Mr Robert West, Chairman of the Civic Society spoke about Spalding’s pride and delight in being able to honour such a well known local resident.

Mr Joe Millington, Classics teacher from Spalding Grammar School, recounted his delight in 1980 when he moved to Spalding to find that Peter, whose books he had long admired, was living practically opposite the school in a house he shared with drawing boards, forges, reconstructed armour, swords and shields, saddles, 3D maps, art work as well as thousands of books. He told us about Peter’s in-depth knowledge of the Latin texts relating to Julius Caesar’s campaigns and how he used the text alongside the archaeology in his research. By using all the available information, Peter was able to create his wonderful illustrations which incorporated so much of this research. Chris Nelson, a sixth former read out (in Latin) from Caesar’s Gallic Wars (Book 5, Chapter 44) which describes how a centurion drew his sword from the left-hand side, unlike the legionary soldier, who drew it from the right. Peter’s son, Matthew, could hardly believe his luck when he was given this exact passage to comment on in the unprepared section of his Latin ‘A’ level.

After the tributes, the plaque was unveiled by Peter’s sister Tricia and we moved on to the Grammar School for refreshments and then to Bookmark, Peter’s favourite bookshop for lunch where we were greeted by a very fitting display of Greece and Rome at War, only recently republished, as well as copies of all of Peter’s other books in the café area which we could browse over as we recounted our happy memories of such a delightful and talented man.

Sue Willetts, May 2013 with thanks to the speakers for copies of their tributes
A new look at diversity in Roman Britain

Recent research identified a significant number of migrants in the burial record of Roman Britain, particularly late Roman York and Winchester. The results of osteological and forensic ancestry assessment, combined with isotope analysis, indicated that up to a third of the individuals sampled could be classed as non-local, with a smaller number possibly from outside the UK. Contrary to popular perception, women and children were found to be amongst these migrants and immigrants came from both warmer and colder climates.

It became clear that these results have significance for the way in which the Roman period is taught in British Schools, with ‘The Romans’ generally portrayed as Italian men. The findings will now be made available to a nationwide audience of Key Stage 2/3 pupils, their families and teachers.

A new website, www.romansrevealed.com, designed by the Runnymede Trust in collaboration with the University of Reading and children’s author Caroline Lawrence, provides a teaching resource for children to learn about diversity in Roman Britain. The interactive website bridges the gap between academic research and school teaching, widening the impact of this

The prize will be awarded at the Roman Archaeology Conference in Reading in March 2014. Applicants should ensure a hard copy of their dissertation plus a letter of recommendation from the university reaches the Roman Society's Secretary by 1 November 2013. Dissertations submitted for degrees awarded in academic years 2011-12 and 2012-13 may be submitted. The dissertation will be returned after judging. The successful applicant will be notified in February 2014.

Dissertations should be sent to:

Dr Fiona Haarer
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Research

It allows users to explore life in Roman Britain through four individuals, two each from the sites of Winchester and York. It includes facial reconstructions and ‘life stories’ of the individuals by Caroline Lawrence. Children can ‘excavate’ selected skeletons. Through videos, they can also hear from the research team, enabling them to learn about the work archaeologists do.

For more information visit: www.romansrevealed.com

Hella Eckardt and Helen McGauran
Department of Archaeology, University of Reading

Ancient and Modern Medicine

Graeco-Roman medicine is still relevant to today’s doctors. Seeking to understand a patient’s health concerns and expectations is as important in the 21st century as it was two thousand years ago. However, over the years, many ancient medicines and treatment approaches were been discarded and their benefits forgotten. For example, since the mid-1990s I have been able to prescribe pain relief as self-adhesive skin patches for my patients in the form of Fentanyl transdermal patches. At the time many of us thought this was a major innovation in the management of pain, avoiding some of the side-effects associated with the oral treatments. However Adrian Harrison and his colleagues at Copenhagen have recently reconstructed the so-called ‘Olympic Victor’s Dark Ointment’ described by Galen and found it to be a remarkably effective transdermal analgesic (1). Interestingly another group in Spain has patented Inulin sulphate as a treatment for osteoarthritis, something that was originally described by Celsus in the first century (2).

Collyrium eye stamps are found throughout the Western Roman Empire and over two dozen have been discovered in Britain. They were probably used for impressing the name of the maker and the purpose of an eye treatment onto a small ovoid-shaped block of medication (collyrium) (3).

There is a wealth of information that can be obtained about the likely constituents of collyria from the inscriptions on the collyrium stamps, chemical analyses of excavated collyria (e.g. from graves) together with the recipes described by authors such as Galen and Celsus. Armed with this data and with some very generous financial support from Dame Mary Perkins at Specsavers, I am now working with Sally Pointer, Ralph Jackson and Adrian Harrison in order to manufacture half a dozen collyria. We will then assess their physical properties and microbiological efficacy (in vitro!) in comparison with a couple of commonly prescribed ophthalmological antibiotics that I use as a general practitioner—fusidic acid and chloramphenicol.

At the ARA/Roman Society Symposium on Health and Medicine in the Roman World (to be held at the British Museum on 2 November; see Society News above) we will present the results of our work in addition to demonstrating the actual process of collyria manufacturing, stamping and usage.


Dr Nick Summerton, General Practitioner
Research

The Lateran Project

Extending beneath 5,097 m² of the Papal basilica of S. Giovanni and its adjoining baptistery, the Lateran scavi contain exceptionally well preserved elements of a wide range of important structures dating from the early Imperial period to the middle ages. The earliest phases preserve substantial parts of palatial housing, but the site also includes the barracks and principia of the Castra Nova, home to the Emperor’s horse guards and the foundations of the Constantinian basilica.

Work in the principia in progress. While some parts of the scavi are very compact others are remarkably spacious. Here the team is working from a scaffolding set up on the floor of one of the consolidated basement rooms in the principia to access the building’s original ground floor. (Antonio Lopez Garcia/Lateran Project/Vatican Museums)

The Lateran Project directed by Ian Haynes (Newcastle University); Paolo Liverani (Università degli Studi di Firenze) and Giandomenico Spinola (Musei Vaticani), supported by the British School at Rome, and in collaboration with Salvatore Piro (ITABC, CNR) and Iwan Peverett (SBNE, Northumbria) continues to survey and analyse these buildings. Work in 2012 and 2013 focussed on detailed structural analysis, reappraisal of the phasing of the early domus housing on the site, documenting the principia and completing a comprehensive laser scanned survey of the earliest phases of the famous baptistery site. Salvatore Piro led an extensive ground penetrating radar survey outside the excavated area and data from this are being used alongside the results of the building survey to illuminate the evolving topography of the Lateran area.

Ian Haynes, University of Newcastle

Fresco from ‘Domus 1’. The team have now documented graffiti on the bottom of the decorated panel, apparently made when military builders took over the site to construct the Castra Nova (Antonio Lopez Garcia/Lateran Project/Vatican Museums)
Soldiers and students dig Roman Wales

In freezing conditions, from 23 March-6 April a team of soldiers, veterans and civilians excavated buildings at Whitewall Brake in South Wales, inside the Army’s Caerwent Training Area, overlooking the walls of Venta Silurum. We are investigating this scheduled ancient monument to help Cadw and the MOD better understand and manage it. What we found was intriguing; but how we found it was equally important.

The site is scattered with imported white building stones giving it its modern name. Our work has revealed massive masonry walls over a span of 50m, and a hypocaust room once boasting a polychrome mosaic. Pottery and coins suggest third-fourth century usage. Despite geophysics as well as excavation, the site remains stubbornly enigmatic. Residence? Shrine complex like nearby Lydney? But why so few portable finds? These questions require more fieldwork—in itself also an objective of the project.

This dig is part of the award-winning ‘Operation Nightingale’, conceived by Army medical sergeant and archaeology graduate Diarmaid Walshe. Run by the Defence Archaeology Group, ‘Op Nightingale’ aims to help injured soldiers—mostly veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan—recover through engaging them in archaeological field research. It works: I have seen how this can help soldiers who have lost their fitness, vocation, and self-confidence to continue rebuilding their physical and psychological health, and to find a renewed sense of purpose through a novel activity involving field skills in which soldiers already have a head start. Op Nightingale also involves them working closely with civilians, here with site director Philip Abramson (archaeologist with MOD’s Defence Infrastructure Organisation), and a team of undergraduates from the University of Leicester. Military : civilian collaboration is key to the process, helping soldiers reflect on future career options, including university; several are now taking degrees at Leicester. The soldiers also have a lot to teach students too, e.g. looking after themselves in sub-arctic field conditions!

At Whitewall Brake, despite the cold, a brilliant atmosphere of hard work, profound discussions of very difficult experiences but also sheer fun was generated between the soldiers and civvies on the project, offering everyone an intensely memorable experience. Many Op Nightingale soldiers want to come back for more—and so do the students!
For further information on Operation Nightingale go to Defence Archaeology Group: http://www.daguk.org/

Simon James, University of Leicester

Ashtead Common (Surrey) Roman villa and tileworks

Since 2006 a project has been in progress to study the above site with the aim of gaining a better understanding of the unusual villa and separate bath house excavated in 1924-9 by A W G Lowther and A R Cotton. The project has involved further fieldwork and the gathering of all surviving contemporary photographs and documentation. Three reports were published with commendable speed but it is clear that useful information was omitted, some of which can be supplied from press reports probably written by Lowther himself. A measured survey and limited excavation by J N Hampton in the 1960s has been of considerable value to the current project as it places the villa and separate bath-house relative to nearby clay pits and a triangular earthwork, to east and west respectively.

Ashtead Common villa room 6: excavations in progress in 1926, showing part of the hypocaust with the box flue-tile jacketing that started from sub-floor level and continued round the entire room.

Annual excavations from 2006 have established that the earthwork is prehistoric in origin but probably had Roman period use; that between it and the Lowther villa is an earlier building, perhaps a proto villa probably starting in the AD 70s or 80s; that the later villa has at least three main periods, the first of which is a chalk-floored building on a different footprint, the second a stone-founded building, and the third probably a lifting of the floor level and extension of the second.

Excavations in 2012 showing the same corner, with the horizontal sub-floor channels in room 4 visible beyond.
From the Field

More has been learnt about the tileyard including the discovery of two large superimposed tile kilns (for photograph see previous *Epistula*), with archaeomagnetic dating for the last firing in the early 3rd century. A radiocarbon date for the main quarry has confirmed a Roman date and research is in progress to study the distribution of the well-known relief-patterned tiles from the site. Further information appears in the annual round-ups in *Britannia* and on the Surrey Archaeological Society website: [http://www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/](http://www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/)

David Bird, Surrey Archaeological Society

Recent research on Bigbury Camp and its Environs, Canterbury, Kent

As reported in *Britannia* 40, 2009, 276 and 43, 2012, 350-1, recent survey of the woodland covering Bigbury Camp and the South Blean has added detail to our knowledge of the defences of the hill fort and considerably altered our understanding of its wider context. This work was prompted by the need to clear areas of the existing coniferous woodland in the reserve held by the Kent Wildlife Trust (KWT), who kindly funded the work of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust in the preliminary walk-over survey. This has been followed up by a further survey of the South Blean carried out for KWT by Nicola Bannister and local volunteers.

The 15 ha Bigbury Camp hill fort occupies high ground west of the Stour valley, overlooking the site of the Roman city of Canterbury on the flood plain, 3km distant. Clearing of the trees within the northern annex of the hill fort suggests that a later hollow way had obscured out-works of the north-eastern defences. A re-entrant in the inner northern defences, the site of an existing track, must be the site of a gateway, previously unidentified, linking an annex to the plateau fort. Excavation of a fence-hole in these inner defences produced pottery and a copper alloy harness-ring of Iron Age date, confirmed by a radiocarbon date in the third-fourth centuries BC.

A LiDAR survey by the Forest Research Unit for Landscape Modelling and the Blean Partnership has revealed further details of both hill fort and its environs. Discontinuous linear earthworks extending up to 6 km along the ridge southwest of the hill fort are as yet undated but on a scale to suggest a territorial *oppidum* associated with the camp and extending along the ridge overlooking the Stour. Earthworks close to the A2, the Roman Watling Street, may define the northern side of this territory which covers at least 700 ha.

This survey has also identified a polygonal enclosure of 35 ha on high ground at Homestall Wood, north of Bigbury, this strong point defined for most of its circuit by a single bank and ditch 13m in total width. Although presently undated and of uncertain origin it is more comparable to Roman Republican camps than the native strongholds in south-east Britain.

Christopher Sparey-Green
A New Figurine of a Cockerel from Cirencester

In November 2011 Cotswold Archaeology excavated part of the western cemetery of Roman Cirencester in advance of development. Some 70 burials were found, including one quite extraordinary one. This was the grave of a 2 to 3 year-old child of unknown sex. The child was buried wearing hobnailed shoes and was accompanied by a pottery feeding vessel and an enamelled bronze figurine of a cockerel. The cockerel stands 125mm high and the breast, wings, eyes and ‘comb’ are inlaid with enamel, which now appears blue and green. There is a separately moulded tail plate, also enamelled, with ‘openwork’ decoration. The beak is shown open, in the act of crowing.

The cockerel is one of eight of its type known, which include four from Britain, and all could have originated from the same workshop. It is the only British example to have come from a grave and the only one from any location to have survived with a tail. The two which are closest in form are from Cologne in Germany and Buchten in the Netherlands. In these examples the enamelling survives in the original colours of yellow, blue and red and it is probable that the Cirencester example was originally just as brightly coloured. Britain produced some of the finest enamelled objects and the four enamelled cockerels from the continent all come from Germany and the Low Countries suggesting that they were traded via the Rhine. The main period for the British enamelled metalwork was the 2nd and earlier 3rd centuries AD. The most likely date for the Cirencester cockerel, based on other finds from the cemetery, is the middle decades of the 2nd century AD.

E.R. McSloy, Cotswold Archaeology
Ed.mcsloy@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
Teston Roman Villa, Kent

In 1872 Arthur Fremling found in his hop gardens the remains of a Roman bath house and the find was described as being ‘about four English miles from Maidstone, on the left side of the river, are to be seen the remains of a villa’.

In October 1991 Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) were called to a site in Teston, just west of Maidstone to investigate Roman remains uncovered by Southern Water whilst constructing a new sewer. It became apparent that a Roman building had been impacted on and CAT’s work uncovered walls that for the most part had been robbed out. Last year a geophysical survey took place down slope from the CAT discoveries and possible masonry walls were identified.

Hand digging of test pits identified a substantial deposit of Roman building material, and on opening up the trench the south wall of the villa stretching for 39 m was exposed, with substantial towers or pavilions at each end. Rooms with hypocausts were exposed to the north which stretched into the adjoining field and towards CAT’s investigations in 1991.

Marble tessarae from a mosaic pavement were found in the hypocausts along with copious amounts of painted plaster and window glass. Decorated samian ware sherds date the construction of the towers or pavilions to the 2nd century AD whilst North Thameside ware dated the main range to late 1st century AD. Coins recovered from the site range from Nerva to Honorius. Anglo Saxon pottery found adjacent to the main range shows occupation in the 7th century AD.

Dr. Paul Wilkinson
SWAT Archaeology
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Subsequently the Kent Archaeological Field School were invited by the owner to investigate the site and a field walking weekend in March identified an area of disturbed Roman masonry below that of the CAT discovery and above that of the geophysical survey. Excavation at Teston Roman Villa

Excavation at Teston Roman Villa
A 1st century BC helmet burial found near Canterbury

In October 2012, Andrew Richardson at Canterbury Archaeological Trust received a telephone call from a metal detectorist. The man (who wishes to remain anonymous) explained that he had found what he believed to be a ‘Celtic bronze helmet’. A meeting was arranged and Andrew saw not just the helmet, but also a brooch and clear evidence of burning. The metal objects were declared Treasure under the Treasure Act (1996) and the British Museum is currently working on the Treasure Report. Canterbury Archaeological Trust and Dover Archaeological Group returned to the site of the find later in October to excavate its context opening a 2m x 2m trench that revealed an oval pit cut into the chalk into which the inverted helmet was placed. The only British parallel in terms of the type of helmet is an example (albeit in much poorer condition) from a rich inhumation grave, dated circa 50 BC, excavated in 2008 near Bognor Regis by Thames Valley Archaeological Services.

The helmet and brooch. The small detached spike may have been originally attached to the top of the helmet.

The Canterbury helmet itself does seem best paralleled by helmets of the ‘Coolus-Mannheim’ type. Such helmets have been found in Gaul, in Germany, and in Italy. The brooch found with the helmet dates to circa 90-50 BC and could have been made either in Britain or on the continent. The University of Kent 3D scanned the helmet and printed a 3D facsimile of the helmet that is on display at the Canterbury Roman Museum (Butchery Lane, Canterbury).

Andrew Richardson would be grateful for further information on other cremation burials in a helmet; he is currently following up on leads given to him on two examples, one from Belgium and one from Poland.

Please contact him at andrew.richardson@canterburytrust.co.uk.

Roman Ruins of Tróia (Portugal)

In 2011 a visiting circuit opened to the public in the Roman Ruins of Tróia (Grândola, Portugal), one of the largest fish-salting production centres of the Roman Empire. The site is located on a sand spit between the Atlantic Ocean and the estuary of the Sado River, today known as the peninsula of Tróia. In Roman times it was located in the civitas of Urbs Imperatoria Salacia (Alcácer do Sal), in the province of Lusitania.

The Roman vestiges spread for a mile along the shoreline and its most characteristic elements are the fish-salting vats. These are grouped in fish-salting workshops and were certainly used to prepare salted fish and fish sauces such as garum, liquamen and hallec.
The production centre, with 25 fish-salting workshops identified, developed into an urban agglomerate with houses, baths, cemeteries and an early Christian basilica and was occupied from the early 1st century until the 6th century.

The archaeological works necessary for the installation of the visiting circuit included excavation in two large fish-salting workshops that revealed significant information. A construction level of the Tiberian period was the first foundation level registered in this site which was traditionally considered to date from the Claudian period.

Refuse levels on the bottom of remodeled fish-salting vats showed a period of abandonment in the second half of the 2nd century AD. The filling of other vats contained remains of the last fish-salting production, mostly sardine, in the bottom. Debris layers from the first half of the 5th century overlaid these production levels, confirming the abandonment of production in that period.

The ruins of Tróia

Ines Vaz Pinto

CONFERENCE REPORTS

The tenth Shifting Frontiers in Late Antiquity conference

The tenth Shifting Frontiers in Late Antiquity conference took place at the University of Ottawa, Canada, from 21 to 24 March 2013. The meeting was held under the aegis of both the Society for Late Antiquity and the Canadian section of the Association pour l'Antiquité Tardive, based in France, and took as its focus ‘Shifting genres in Late Antiquity’. There were about 70 participants who had come from Europe, Africa, North America and Australasia; there were 44 papers and three plenary lectures. The panels organised over the four days covered such topics as martyr acts, literary sources (e.g. Procopius, church historians and chronicles), legal evidence, technical genres, epigraphy, monuments, and Christian literature more generally. A consistent theme that emerged was the need to reconsider the nature of literary genres in particular and how works should be read in the light of this. Papers were given in French and English; the programme offered versions of all the abstracts in both languages.

The first plenary lecture was delivered by Eric Rebillard of Cornell University, who spoke on North African martyr acts and how they should be read. The second was given by Wendy Mayer of the Australian Catholic University, who lectured at Carleton University (which, alongside Trent University, supported the conference) on links between medicine and the church fathers in the fourth century. John Matthews of Yale University was the final plenary speaker; his wide-ranging lecture dealt with the issue of autobiography and self-awareness in Late Antiquity. The conference also held an exhibition of coins from the extensive collection of Richard Burgess; a catalogue was included in the conference book, which itself may be found on-line at http://www.ruor.uottawa.ca/en/handle/10393/23938

The first Shifting Frontiers conference to be held outside the U.S. provided a forum for useful exchanges particularly between scholars from Europe and North America, as well as allowing for greater Canadian participation than usual. The next Shifting Frontiers in Late Antiquity conference is due to take place in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in March 2015.

Geoffrey Greatrex
Conferences

Roman Archaeology Conference
Friday 28 to Sunday 30 March 2014 at the University of Reading

This is coming together with a lot of session proposals already in and being sifted through. It is clear we already have a good coverage of Britain, Italy and many provinces besides, including thematic sessions on Zooarchaeology and Ceramics and Small Finds. This year, as well as the Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference (TRAC) joining us, we will also be hosting the meeting of the Study Group for Roman Pottery as we try and bring together all those with an interest in Roman archaeology under one roof.

The call for TRAC sessions and papers will be issued soon, so please watch out for this on their great new website at http://trac.org.uk These papers should, of course, have a strong theoretical element to them.

The conference website will be live shortly, a link to which will be placed on the Roman Society website.

In the meantime if you have any queries, please feel free to contact: j.d.creighton@reading.ac.uk

Between Words and Walls: Material and Textual Approaches to Housing in the Graeco-Roman World

August 29 and 30, 2013. Birkbeck College, University of London

What was the relationship between housing as it was expressed in words and how it materialised in walls? The past decade has seen a transformation in the study of housing, both by archaeologists and Classicists. This conference seeks to build on recent developments in this field, and specifically to examine the interface between archaeological and textual types of evidence. The study of ancient houses, households, and families has long been vexed by epistemological problems of how to combine an understanding derived from texts (literary and documentary) with that derived from archaeological material (e.g. house plans and related assemblages).

This conference aims to develop methodologies that privilege neither historical nor archaeological approaches. Rather, we want to focus on the ancient housing as a social and cultural phenomenon that we can approach through the lens of diverse types of materials and approaches.

We welcome contributions which seek not to prove or disprove either textual or archaeological accounts, but which engage in a meaningful way with the relationship between these types of materials.


The Art of Making in Antiquity: Stoneworking in the Roman World

For the last two years the Art of Making in Antiquity project (located at King’s College London and funded by the Leverhulme Trust) has been researching the production of stone monuments from around the Roman Empire. Focusing on tools, materials and processes we have created a website that will give new insights into the working practices of Classical stone workers and carvers.

To celebrate the completion of the project and mark the launch of the website, there will be a conference, entitled, ‘Art in the Making: Stone Carving in the Classical World’, on Friday 28th June 2013 in the Anatomy Theatre & Museum on the Strand Campus. Papers will concentrate on the technical aspects of Classical sculptural and architectural production, and their interpretation in terms of the craftsmen responsible. For more information visit our blog at www.artofmaking.ac.uk and follow the link to the Events page. The conference costs £10 (including lunch) and we would welcome your participation. If you would like any further information please contact Will Wootton at will.wootton@kcl.ac.uk
RAI Conference 2013: The Impact of Rome on the British Countryside

University of Chester, 11-13 October 2013

The 2013 conference is being held in partnership with the University of Chester at the Riverside Campus. Leading British archaeologists will present the results of their work over the last decade. One focus will be on the recent geophysical surveys which have taken place in both southern and northern England allied to selective excavations, while the contribution of finds in rural contexts will also be examined.

Venue: University of Chester, Riverside Campus

Friday, 11 October
Keynote speaker: Professor Nico Roymans (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam). Re-assessing the transformation of rural society in the Roman Rhineland

Saturday, 12 October
Dr Roger White
Professor Dominic Powlesland
Professor Martin Millett
Dr Nick Hodgson
Dr Tom Moore
Sally Worrell

Sunday, 13 October
Neil Holbrook
Dr Ioana Oltean
Professor Brian Roberts
Visit to the Grosvenor Museum and tour of Chester

Monday, 14 October
Additional guided visit to North Wales. Led by Fiona Gale, Denbighshire County Archaeologist

For more information go to: http://www.royalarchinst.org/conferences

Portable and Personal: Small Finds from Iron Age to Medieval Europe

Call for Papers for the Interdisciplinary Workshop

During the last decade, the potential of portable and personal small finds in answering questions of identity has been realized by more and more archaeologists and the theoretical potential of objects of everyday use also started to be recognised amongst scholars. However, these changing attitudes seem to be confined to small research groups, which are focussed in their study on finds related to a particular region or chronological period. The current fragmentation of the research on small finds can develop into a problem, if we take into account that scholars of one group studying a particular find sometimes face challenges, which have been solved by another group for a different sort of find. Such lack of scholarly communication prevents the exchange of ideas and hinders creativity and new developments in the overall understanding of the role of portable and personal objects. With this workshop, we aim to promote cross-disciplinary research and harness its positive creativity to understand a myriad of ‘socialscapes’ of objects in use and the variety of roles that portable finds (might) have had in the Prehistoric, Ancient and Medieval worlds. The aim is therefore to encourage the holistic study of small finds, facilitate the exchange of ideas between scholars and construct a basis for comparative analysis.

Three themes dominate the workshop and will be reflected in its structure:

1. Theory The papers of this section should highlight the combination of theory with method by not only focusing on the theoretical potential of the finds but also letting theory come alive. We propose to explore the following theories to reveal variations and potentials in the cultural vocabulary of personal and portable objects, and case-studies are, therefore, invited to test them: a) The fashion theory. b) Conspicuous consumption theory. c) Cultural and social biographies of artefacts.
2. Iconography The papers of this section are expected to focus on the symbolic meanings of small finds and discuss the subtlest details in artefacts as a key to explore the imagery significance and aesthetic worth of objects.

3. Context This section approaches the portable and personal artefacts in their contextual use. Here, we would like to challenge the labelling and uncritical adoption of functional categories to interpret the use and role of objects appearing in uncommon contexts, and to analyze fata morgana/mirages objects, i.e. those that have left no archaeological traces outside of texts and pictures.

If you are interested in participating, please send us a title and 350-words abstract of your paper by 1st of June 2013. The workshop will take place in the second week of November – first week of December 2013 in the Netherlands. Please indicate whether this period is convenient to you if you have teaching responsibilities. We are currently applying for a grant to cover the accommodation and travel costs for all speakers. When we receive funding, we will pick a suitable date. We aim to publish the proceedings of the workshop.

Contact details: portablepersonal@outlook.com

Dr Tatiana Ivleva (Leiden University) and Dr Stefanie Hoss (University of Cologne)

Please feel free to contact us with any questions relating to the workshop.

International Congress Lusitanian Amphorae – Production and Diffusion – Call for Papers

10-13 October 2013, Tróia, Portugal

An international conference focused on Lusitanian amphorae and all themes related, even though priority has been given to production and long term diffusion.

A review on the production sites known to this day and a workshop with samples from these sites will allow a better knowledge and a direct contact with Lusitanian amphorae. Diffusion of these amphorae at Rome, Ostia, Southern France, Tarragona, Seville, Cadiz and Galicia will be presented by invited scholars, but all who have data on Lusitanian amphorae are welcome to participate and present them.

This conference will also be an opportunity for a visit to the site of Tróia, one of the largest fish-salting production centres of the Roman Empire (see above).

The conference is organized by the Center for Archaeological Studies of the Universities of Coimbra and Oporto (CEAUCP) and troiaresort, the touristic company responsible for the site.

For more information go to: http://events.history.ac.uk/event/show/10195

Association for Environmental Archaeology in Italy – second seminar to be held in Rome in June on classical archaeology and zooarchaeology

Associate Professor Michael McKinnon will speak at the second ‘AEA in Italy’ seminar this year, on 27 June, at 6-7.30pm, in the Lecture Room at the American Academy in Rome, to be followed by drinks at the AAR bar. Professor McKinnon will speak on ‘Zooarchaeology and Classical Archaeology: How to Balance the Line between the Sciences and the Humanities.’ This seminar follows the well-attended inaugural presentation of what we hope will become a regular series. Our first seminar was held at the British School at Rome, on 7 March 2013, where Professor Elda Russo Ermolli, of the University of Naples (Federico II) spoke on pollen analysis.

Michael MacKinnon has degrees in Biology, Anthropology, and Archaeology. Currently, he is Associate Professor of Classics in Winnipeg, Canada, but he has held posts as a Rome Scholar at the British School at Rome and the Malcolm Wiener Research Professor at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. He has worked at over 50 projects in Italy, Sicily, Tunisia, Greece, Albania, Portugal, Spain, Egypt, Turkey, and Romania, particularly as a zooarchaeologist, but seeking to do this through integration of archaeological, textual, and iconographic evidence.

The address is: Via Angelo Masina 5, 00153, Roma ITALIA, T) + 39 06 58461.
A third ‘AEA in Italy’ seminar is planned for October 2013, while it is hoped a further series will be possible in 2014. The series is aimed at highlighting and promoting the role of environmental archaeology in Italian archaeology. For any information about the upcoming or any future seminars, please write to Robyn Veal, rjv33@cam.ac.uk. We would be interested to hear from potential speakers who may be present in Italy in late October. Seminars are given in English, but some knowledge of Italian would be desirable, as questions are taken in Italian and English, however, translation assistance is of course available.

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Forthcoming Events – Roman Study Days

Roman Villas – exploring the remains of two contrasting Roman villas in the Sussex countryside: the great palace of Fishbourne and the more modest (but equally historically revealing) establishment at Bignor. Roman specialist Oliver Gilkes will lead the day – introducing the debates which surround these villas: were they farms or great houses? British owned or run from Rome by absentee landlords? Includes tours of Fishbourne and Bignor, an artefact handling session and a light lunch. £100, Friday 27 September 2013.

Roman London
Based at the Museum of London, this is a rare chance to see some of the hidden remains of Roman Londinium, introduced of two of the museum’s former Curators – Jenny Hall and John Shepherd. The day is split between the Roman galleries at the museum, and a walking tour of the remains of Roman London itself, including visits to Cripplegate Fort (for which we gain special access), London’s Amphitheatre and Billingsgate house and bath. £100, Thursday 25 July and Tuesday 3 September 2013.

BOOKS

As has been stated in previous issues of Epistula, this section 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 can be poorly advertised and, as a result, often only sporadically available.

An Atlas of Ancient Geography Biblical and Classical (John Murray, 1872-1874)

The past twenty years have seen a revival of scholarly interest in the study of ancient and medieval administrative history. Important work has already been done on the methods of control exercised over administrators, the nature of the mandate and on the connection between ‘order’ and ‘jurisdiction’ in the Church. At the same time, scholars have offered rival interpretations both of general questions, such as the chronology of the evolution of administrative organization, and of specific issues, such as the hierarchy of administrative powers, the delegation of power and the responsibility of administrators.
The Antiquarian Rediscovery of the Antonine Wall

by Lawrence Keppie

RRP £30.00. Publication Date: 30 November 2012

The Antiquarian Rediscovery of the Antonine Wall (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) has been visible across the central belt of Scotland between Forth and Clyde since its construction by the Roman legions over 1,850 years ago.

This book takes up the story from the time of its abandonment in the reign of Marcus Aurelius and charts developments in our knowledge about it through the Middle Ages and after, up to the early years of the twentieth century, by which time the earliest scientific excavations had taken place. The author considers the place of the Wall in Scottish myth and legend, and the accounts of numerous travellers along its line. Extensive use is made here of little known or hitherto unpublished archival sources. The book is profusely illustrated.

Corpus Inscriptionum Iudaeae/Palaestinae Volume 1

€ 149,95

The first volumes of the Corpus Inscriptionum Iudaeae/Palaestinae cover the inscriptions of Jerusalem from the time of Alexander to the Arab conquest in all the languages used for inscriptions during those times: Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, Latin, Syrian, and Armenian. The 1,120 texts have been arranged in categories based on three epochs: up to the destruction of Jerusalem in the year 70, to the beginning of the 4th century, and to the end of Byzantine rule in the 7th century.

Corpus Inscriptionum Iudaeae/Palaestinae Volume 2

€ 179,95

The second volume of the Corpus Inscriptionum Iudaeae/Palaestinae covers the inscriptions of Caesarea Maritima and the coastal region of the Middle Coast from Tel Aviv in the south to Haifa in the north from the time of Alexander to the Muslim conquest.

The approximately 1,050 texts comprise all the languages used for inscriptions during this period (Greek, Latin, Hebrew, Aramaic, Samaritan, Syrian, and Persian) and are arranged according to the principal settlements and their territory. The great majority of the texts belongs to Caesarea, the capital of the province of Judaea/Syria Palaestina. No other place in Judaea has produced more Latin inscriptions than this area, reflecting the strong Roman influence on the city.
Clay saccarii from Roman Ostia: a study on trade, social identity and cult

By Elena Martelli

BAR S2467 2013: *Sulle spalle dei saccarii - Le rappresentazioni di facchini e il trasporto di derrate nel porto di Ostia in epoca imperiale.* £30.00.

This work examines a group of clay figurines representing porters carrying sacks (saccarii) recovered mainly in Ostia and other harbours, and dated to the Roman Imperial period. The saccarii were responsible for the loading and unloading of goods from ships to river boats and warehouses. A detailed analysis of these porters suggests that the saccarii played a more important role in the Ostian multi-layered society than what was originally thought, and were probably united in a guild.

A contextual analysis of the clay saccarii was undertaken combining Italian iconographic tradition and British archaeological approaches to finds distribution and social identity, describing both the items and their place of recovery in detail.

In a new interpretation, the clay saccarii are believed to represent the religious symbol of the porters’ guild (*collegium saccariorum*).

The probable location of these clay figurines in shrines and niches placed in busy streets, taverns and workshops, frequented by the saccarii and the other members of the Ostian heterogeneous community, gives an insight into the exhibition of social identity and religious beliefs through material culture by a group of overlooked workers in Roman Imperial Ostia.


The aim of the volume is to highlight the immense wealth of data available from Hadrian's Wall, and how it can be used to investigate a number of issues in Roman archaeology beyond the specialism of Roman frontier studies.

Contributions include:
- R Collins and MFA Symonds, Challenging preconceptions about Hadrian’s Wall
- EM Greene, Before Hadrian’s Wall: Early communities at Vindolanda and on the northern frontier
- J Huntley, 'The world is a bundle of hay': Investigating land management for animal fodder around Vindolanda, based on plant remains

Available from [www.archaeopress.com](http://www.archaeopress.com)

All three books are available from: [http://www.degruyter.com/view/product/42384](http://www.degruyter.com/view/product/42384)
Books

- M.F. Symonds, *Gateways or garrisons? Designing, building, and manning the milecastles*
- L. Allason-Jones, *The vicus at Housesteads: A case study in material culture and Roman life*
- A. Birley, *The fort wall: A great divide?*
- L. Roach, *From the Severans to Constantius: the lost century*
- R. Collins, *Pleading the fifth (century): Patterns of coin use at the end of empire*

A link to the contents is:

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**The colloquia of the Hermeneumata Pseudodositheana**

The colloquia of the Hermeneumata Pseudodositheana are a set of little stories and dialogues about daily life in the Roman Empire, written for ancient Greek speakers learning Latin. Like modern language textbooks, they contain scenes illustrating shopping, dining, and banking; unlike their modern counterparts they also include bathing, litigation, and fighting.

Their potential to tell us about the experiences of ordinary Romans has so far been greatly underutilized because of the poor state of the text and lack of any translation. A modern edition with full translation, commentary, and explanation of these texts' fascinating history by Eleanor Dickey has recently been published by CUP and is available from:

[http://www.cambridge.org/gb/knowledge/isbn/item7281227/?site_locale=en_GB](http://www.cambridge.org/gb/knowledge/isbn/item7281227/?site_locale=en_GB)

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**Late Antiquity on the Eve of Islam**

Edited by Averil Cameron,
The Formation of the Classical Islamic World

This volume reflects the huge upsurge of interest in the Near East and early Islam currently taking place among historians of late antiquity. At the same time, Islamicists and Qur’anic scholars are also increasingly seeking to place the life of Muhammad and the Qur’an in a late antique background. Averil Cameron, herself one of the leading scholars of late antiquity and Byzantium, has chosen eleven key articles that together give a rounded picture of the most important trends in late antique scholarship over the last decades, and provide a coherent context for the emergence of the new religion.

A substantial introduction, with a detailed bibliography, surveys the present state of the field, as well as discussing some recent themes in Qur’anic and early Islamic scholarship from the point of view of a late antique historian. The volume also provides an invaluable introduction to recent scholarship, making clear the ferment of religious change that was taking place across the Near East before, during and after the lifetime of Muhammad. It will be essential reading for Islamicists and late antique students and scholars alike.


**A Roman frontier post and its people: Newstead 1911-2011**

Edited by Fraser Hunter and Lawrence Keppie

This new book, with contributions by a range of experts, is a celebration of the landmark excavation of the fort at Newstead (Trimontium) in the Scottish Borders, looking back to James Curle and his work, and forward to how our understanding of the site is changing.

Roman Society members may purchase the book for £21.50 plus £5.00 post and packing (UK delivery only) by placing an order on the website www.nms.ac.uk/books and using the coupon code FHNEW when completing the order form. Alternatively you may telephone the publisher on 0131 247 4026. This offer is valid until 30 August 2013.

ISBN 9781905267750 (hardback, 288pp, 163 illus).

**Late Roman Silver: the Traprain Treasure in context**

Edited by Fraser Hunter and Kenneth Painter

Edinburgh: Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. £50

www.socantscot.org

The Traprain Law treasure from east Lothian in south-east Scotland is the most dramatic hoard of late Roman Hacksilber yet found.

The interpretation of these bent, broken and crushed silver fragments has long been debated. Were they loot broken up by uncultured barbarians, or some form of diplomatic gift? This volume publishes the proceedings of a conference held in Edinburgh on the 90th anniversary of the hoard’s discovery. It places the phenomenon in the wider context of late Roman silver use, and considers Britain either side of the frontier in the late fourth and fifth century. A synthesis of Roman Hacksilber provides fresh insights into its roles, while important yet relatively unknown hoards and groups of material from Britain and the continent are presented.

**CONTRIBUTE**

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

Issues will be sent out to all subscribers in June and December. The deadlines for contributions are 30 April and 31 October. Contributions submitted after the deadlines have passed may not be considered for the next issue.
Contributions should include a title and normally no more than 300 words of text (as a WORD (.doc or .docx) or rich text (.rft) file), plus an image and references / web links where further details are provided (please note that contributions are likely to be edited). Please send images in .jpeg .tiff or .pdf format – please do not send images embedded in WORD files.

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