Welcome

A warm welcome to this 10th issue of Epistula, the twice-yearly newsletter from the Roman Society. An important feature of this issue is a message from Catharine Edwards, the new President of the Roman Society.

We are also pleased to inform you that preparations for the Society’s Roman Archaeology Conference are progressing well and booking for the event is now open. Please see page 4 of the newsletter for more details.

Elsewhere in the newsletter we have features by Peter Frankopan on the culture influence of Greece on Rome (page 4), the use of animation to teach Roman studies by Ray Laurence (page 5) and theomachy by Pramit Chaudhuri (page 6), alongside a full-round up of conference news, forthcoming events and book releases.

As ever, this newsletter relies on you for information which will be of interest to your fellow Romanists, so please do send in your news on recent research, forthcoming events or new publications for the next edition.

Ben Croxford and Louise Revell
Editors

Society News

A message from the President

Professor Dominic Rathbone, President from 2012-15, is a hard act to follow; as his successor, it is hard not to feel at least a little sympathy for the emperor Tiberius (the subject of the Society’s 2014 AGM conference). Over the three years of Professor Rathbone’s energetic presidency, the Roman Society’s structures and activities have been systematically reviewed and reinvigorated. As well as supporting scholarship, especially through its magnificent publications and library, the Society is doing more than ever before to bring the latest discoveries and ideas to all throughout the UK and beyond with an interest in Roman antiquity. A particularly exciting initiative has been the series of lectures in regional museums, sponsored by the Society, to accompany the British Museum’s travelling exhibition *The Roman empire: power and people* (2014-15).

By funding the cost of textbooks, the Society offers vital support to the study of Latin in numerous secondary schools. Over 3000 people now follow the Roman Society on twitter (@TheRomanSoc), enticed by fascinating Roman-related items of news, as well as engaging samples from the ever-growing IMAGO database of images. The Society’s presence on YouTube is also well established, offering a wonderful opportunity to catch up on compelling talks (such as, added most recently, Tom Holland’s *Whores and the House of Caesar*).

Professor Rathbone’s presidency culminated in a particularly splendid AGM in June 2015, at which he himself gave a characteristically rich and thought-provoking talk, *Gods, soldiers, mummies: making Egypt Roman*. Cincinnatus-like, he returned from the plough to chair the enormously successful and very well attended Greek and Roman armour day on 20th July 2015 (we are all immensely grateful to Christian Levett for sponsoring
Society news

this marvellous event so generously).

It is in no small measure due to Professor Rathbone’s efforts that we are now on the verge of achieving a long-term agreement, securing the future of the Joint Library, in such a way as to protect the Society from the unpredictable increases in the cost of space which have caused so much concern in recent years. Many individuals have played a key part in the protracted process of negotiation; as well as my predecessor, we must thank Professor R. L. Fowler (President of the Hellenic Society), Prof. Michael Crawford (the Honorary Librarian), our treasurer Dr Philip Kay, his counterparts in the Hellenic Society and of course our wonderful secretary Dr Fiona Haarer, whose intelligence, efficiency and tact inform all the Society’s activities. A particular debt is owed to Liz McKnight, the Society’s Honorary Secretary, and to Dr Margaret Mountford, her counterpart in the Hellenic Society, for their invaluable legal expertise. We are also grateful to Professor Greg Woolf, recently appointed Director of the Institute of Classical Studies, Professor Roger Kain, Dean of the School of Advanced Studies, and Elaine Walters, Deputy Chief Executive, for approaching these negotiations in such a positive spirit.

While we work towards a secure future for the library, preparations are also underway for an exciting programme of events in 2016, including the eagerly anticipated Roman Archaeology Conference, a collaboration with the University of Rome (La Sapienza), which will take place in Rome in March. The sterling efforts of Peter Guest and Fraser Hunter have been the driving force behind this. We are also hugely grateful to Professor Christopher Smith, Director of the British School at Rome, whose academic expertise and diplomatic skills have played a crucial part in the negotiations which have made this conference possible.

Also in March 2016 our Dura Europos event with talks by Pierre Leriche and Jen Baird, will focus on just one of the hugely important archaeological sites which have suffered untold damage in the current Syrian conflict (though heroic conservation experts within Syria have done much, often at great personal cost, to preserve what they can). Under these circumstances, archives, such as Yale’s magnificent collection of early photographs of Dura, become all the more precious. As well as documenting remains now lost, these images yield valuable insights into early twentieth-century western perceptions of Syria. And all the more poignant now is Robert Wood’s The ruins of Palmyra of 1753, whose engravings played a crucial role in forming the romantic taste for ruins in a desert landscape. Amongst the Joint Library’s holdings are Wood’s fascinating diaries (a project to digitise these should be underway soon, making them much more accessible).

Catharine Edwards

Remains at Dura Europos.

Events Round-up

A number of events have been held since the publication of the last Epistula. In July, the Roman and Hellenic Societies hosted the Greek and Roman Armour Day, in collaboration with the ICS and with the generous sponsorship of Mr Christian Levet. An audience of 350 gathered in the Beveridge Hall, Senate House, to listen to papers from the world’s experts on ancient armour. An exhibition of Peter Connolly’s paintings was on display in the Library. All the talks were recorded and are available for you to watch on You Tube: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLO_zKwlJ8jYvixIF5Na1_TaXL2ONOKzO

Peter Connolly’s painting of The Claudine Forks.
In September, the Society joined with the British Institute at Ankara to host a lecture at the British Academy. Tim Mitford delivered a lecture entitled *East of Roman Asia. Rome’s hidden frontier* which can be heard here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hUpa9TpTh-g&feature=youtu.be

At the beginning of October, 50 members of the Society and Association for Roman Archaeology enjoyed a tour of Roman London, including Billingsgate bath house and the Amphitheatre and a visit to Mortimer Wheeler house, the premises of the Museum of London Archaeological Archive, on Eagle Wharf Road. Members enjoyed a presentation on the Bloomberg London site and finds followed by a hands-on session with specialists from MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology).

At the end of October, the Society collaborated with the Roman Antiquities Section (Yorkshire Archaeology Society) for a third conference, this time on the theme of Rural Settlement in Roman Yorkshire. See page 12 for a report from Pete Wilson.

A further three events took place in November. Almost two hundred gathered at the British Museum for the annual conference with the Association for Roman Archaeology. This year the theme was *Recent Archaeology in Roman Britain*: members were brought up to date with developments in Wiltshire (David Roberts, Steve Roskams, Richard Henry), Silchester (Mike Fulford), Ipplepen (Sam Moorhead) and Vindolanda (Andrew Birley).

On 10 November, Tom Holland delivered a lecture to the Society on the subject: *Whores and the House of Caesar*. Watch Tom here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nN2USWmDLC4

Lastly, the second conference in the Society’s new series, Biennial Roman Britain Day Conferences, was held at Southampton on the theme: *Talking to the Gods: New research from Roman Britain*.

**Dates for your Diary**

The Society’s most recently appointed Honorary Member, Professor Jean-Louis Ferrary, will deliver the M. V. Taylor lecture on Wednesday 3rd February, 5.30pm, Senate House. His title will be: *Scaevola, politics and ideology on the eve of the Social War: Sixty years after Badian*.

On Tuesday 8th March, join us for an evening of lectures and discussion on the important site of Dura Europos. The event will be chaired by Professor Simon James and the lectures will be delivered by Professor Pierre Leriche (*The new image of Europos-Dura on the Euphrates in the light of 25 seasons of archaeological research*) and Dr Jen Baird (*Yale’s Dura Archive: New excavation histories*).

This year’s AGM will be held on Saturday 4th June. It will be followed by a colloquium on *Families and the Law in Rome*. The speakers will be Professor Alison Cooley, Dr Valentina Arena, Dr Ulrike Roth and Dr Margaret Mountford.

**Publications**

The *Journal of Roman Studies* 105 and *Britannia* 46 have been published and despatched to members. If you haven’t yet received your copy, contact: office@romansociety.org.

**News from Vindolanda**

Last year, we reported two schemes for taking part in fieldwork at Vindolanda. The first was a draw for 10 free places for members to excavate, and we are pleased to publish reports from some of the lucky winners, see page 7. The second was the Society’s scheme, generously funded by the Roman Research Trust, to allow sixth form pupils to gain fieldwork experience. See page 8 for their feedback.
Society news/Research

The Society is very grateful to the Vindolanda Trust, especially Dr Andrew Birley, for his support for both these schemes.

RAC XII & TRAC 26

Preparations for the Society’s Roman Archaeology Conference are progressing well. All information can be found on the dedicated website: www.romansocietyrac.ac.uk, including the programme, details of how to register and book, and bursaries.

Bursaries

The Roman Society is very pleased to announce that, thanks to the generous support of the Roman Research Trust and the Barbican Research Associates, a total of £7,700 will be available for bursaries.

There are two main bursary schemes:

1. The Roman Research Trust and the Roman Society have each contributed £3000 to make a total fund of £6000. This will be available for bursaries up to £200. The RRT funds are for those whose attendance will benefit their research / understanding of Roman Britain. Preference will be given to public sector employees. For both Funds delegates need not be presenting a paper, and bursaries are not restricted to applicants from the UK. Bursaries will be paid to successful applicants in the UK by cheque, and to overseas applicants by bank transfer (details on the form). The deadline is Friday 15th January. Applicants will be notified by 31st January.

Application forms can be downloaded from: www.romansocietyrac.ac.uk.

2. The Roman Society will provide £1,200 and the Barbican Research Associates £500 to support attendance at TRAC. Please apply directly to TRAC – see the instructions on their website: www.trac.ac.uk.

Research

Look East!

As everyone knows, the classical world of ancient Greece and Rome shaped the modern world; that, of course, is one reason why the study of classics is still alive and kicking (against all odds, some might say). Whether it is discussions of the origins of democracy, the philosophy of Plato and Aristotle, the influences of classical architecture on the built environment, or the Roman Empire as progenitor of the European Union, the imprint and influence of the ancient world is all around us.

No one would be more surprised by this than the ancient Greeks (take your pick between Athenians, Delians, Spartans, Macedonians and the like) or the Romans (republicans to the left, imperialists to the right). The reason? Our lazy certainty that we are anything other the heirs of profound coincidence – and ones with a dodgy claim to boot. For all Greeks, whether those of Homer or Thucydides, all the action was in the east: interest in the western part of Europe and (whisper it carefully) the western Mediterranean was limited to the point of disinterest. Whether the focus was on Troy, the Persians or the conquests of Alexander, everything happened in Asia Minor or Major. This was where threats came from, as did opportunities for prestige. The ancient Greeks knew where to look to make sense of the world.

The Romans too shared this focus – although some writers deplored the life of easy luxury that enveloped those in the east, in contrast to a view (not, it has to be said, always based in fact) of Romans as brave, physically determined and cut from sterner stuff than their neighbours in Asia. Some like Seneca complained about Romans adopting eastern fashions; others, like Juvenal, lamented that the gilded youth of Rome at the end of the 1st century were effeminate time-wasters; or there was Sallust, for whom ‘the pleasures’ of Asia ‘softened the warlike spirits of Roman soldiers’ who were stationed there.

But for Rome too, the threats from the east were what mattered. For all the obvious temptation to look at Boudicca and the Romans in Britain, or how Gaul was divided into three parts, the frontier in Asia was crucial. It was crucial because trade routes via the Red Sea to Alexandria, through the Persian Gulf or overland to great markets such as that at Batnae, enabled Rome to be a part of a globalised exchange system – that was so extensive that kingdoms in the upper Indus valley overhauled their coinage systems to model their designs and weights on those of Rome. It was important because Rome’s intellectual challenger, the rival cosmological system, was centred on Parthia and on Persia. It was also where threats from the steppes could suddenly spike and cause problems that not only could – but actually did – bring about Rome’s demise. It was no coincidence when the frontiers finally burst in the late 4th century, heralding the sack of Rome and its long, slow decline over the decades and centuries that followed.

As with many working in the humanities, we live in an age where academic research is becoming ever more detailed, ever more sophisticated and ever more brilliant. The price to pay for this can often be that the intellectual ‘silos’ we work in, both in classics and subjects like history, become
ever narrower, our parameters increasingly sealed off. As we become ever more aware of the opportunities and challenges of an increasingly inter-linked globalised world, it is essential even for those working on Ancient Greece and Rome to force open their perspectives to look at these worlds – whether independently or otherwise – in conjunction with other regions, other peoples, and other political, theological and economic systems.

As those who read my new book on the Silk Roads, I believe not only that there is a great deal to be learned from trying to look at the past (including classical antiquity) from new perspectives, but also that this is an essential exercise at a time when we are acutely aware that the world around us is changing. I, for one, believe that we are returning to global normality, a time when the world’s centre of gravity was nowhere near what we in the west rather triumphantly refer to as the ‘Mediterranean’ - the centre of the world.

My fellow citizens! Keep up the good work; but remember there is another world out there that is closer, and more relevant, than some of you think....

[Peter Frankopan’s The Silk Roads: a new history of the world was published earlier this year by Bloomsbury).

Peter Frankopan
University of Oxford

Animated Films on YouTube

Three years ago, TED-Ed released the six minute film A Glimpse of Teenage Life in Ancient Rome – to date there have been over 1.4 million views. A second film was released in 2013, Four Royal Sisters in Ancient Rome, that has been viewed more than 600,000 times on You Tube. These films have been used for everything from teaching GCSE Classical Civilisation through to introducing undergraduates to Roman law in North America.

The scripts were written by Ray Laurence (University of Kent) and were made into animated films by an animation studio, Cognitive, whose work is leading edge with a range of films made based on RSA (Royal Society of the Arts) lectures as well as work for the BBC. The collaboration ensured that Cognitive were provided with a range of images.

The themes covered in these films focus on childhood, in particular the betrothal of children, whilst also creating a visual awareness of the topography of ancient Rome and an understanding of the geographical extent of the Roman Empire. The films are structured around a day in the life of a male and female child – what they did and what they saw. There is also a walk-on part of a torturer, some boxers and the visualisation street scenes.

Animation was chosen as the medium for these films, because it allowed things to be reconstructed in the manner of 3D visualisations (familiar to us from TV documentaries), but with the important difference that the viewers would know these are not real. This feature causes the viewer to be more imaginative and to prevent the simple acceptance that ‘Rome looked like that’, which is a feature of the ‘realistic’ reconstruction drawings and 3D visualisation.

Viewers have responded with thousands of comments on YouTube. From these, we can be certain the films are challenging a number of preconceptions ‘out there’. The most startling is that many viewers thought that ‘Islam had invented arranged marriages’. Other comments revealed the sophistication of knowledge of some viewers – the riddle of the Subura and the fact unlike today’s ‘suburb’, it was located in the centre of Rome. The comments are worth reading in themselves.

Following on from these films, a more ‘art-house’ film was made based on the 3D laser-scanned image of a pipe-clay figurine of the Dea Nutrix from Canterbury Roman Museum, and the University of Kent is currently collaborating with the University of Reading to produce a
very brief history of migration to be released in February. A blog Lucius’ Romans is also being launched as Epistula goes to press that will feature links to resources, the creation of Lucius, as well as pieces on the use of these films in teaching - an animation script writing competition for school age students in the UK is also pencilled in for 2016.

Weblinks
Glimpse of Teenage Life in Ancient Rome: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=juWYhMoDTN0
Four Sisters in Ancient Rome: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQMgLxVxsrw
The Roman Nursing Goddess: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fC0WL-tNZjs
Blog Lucius’ Romans: http://blogs.kent.ac.uk/lucius-romans/

Stone Idols
Picking a cover image for one's book ought to be an author’s treat. And surely a theme as dynamic as The War with God would yield something suitably provocative, action-packed, saturated with fire and brimstone? After all, running from Homer to Statius, through both epics and tragedy, we find in the figure of the ‘theomach’ – the human who fights against the gods – awesomely powerful individuals who can scale mountains and city walls, hold back rivers in flood, and even, in the case of the terrifying Capaneus of Statius’ Thebaid, perhaps the most famous contemptor deorum (‘despiser of the gods’) of all, challenge Jupiter himself to battle, standing amidst the blasts of divine lightning.

And yet there was much less to choose from than I’d expected. Fewer still if one was after – as I was – a more serious contemplation of the fight itself: the meaning and the stakes of humanity’s testing of the divine rather than the inevitable death and damnation of the outcome. Whereas classical myth and its poets were content to depict the struggle between human and god in all its uncomfortable directness, Christian images of impious figures - even classical figures, like Blake’s famous depiction of Dante’s Capaneus reclining passively in hell - convey precisely the opposite idea to the one I was arguing for in the book: an idea full of tension and dynamism.

The story is a little different for ancient material culture, which offers various moments of confrontation between human and divine: take, for instance, a reconstructed Etruscan temple pediment from Pyrgi, which features two scenes from the myth of the Seven against Thebes. In one, Zeus is about to strike Capaneus with his thunderbolt, while immediately below Tydeus devours the brain of his fallen opponent Melanippus. The act of cannibalism necessarily takes centre stage, however, and overshadows the action above, already compromised by the fragmented state of the pediment. Dubious eating habits nevertheless remained in the image I eventually chose, which comes from a rare instance of post-Classical engagement with theomachy, and combines a delicate aesthetic with violent content: a plaque depicting the Arcadian king Lycaon, turned into a wolf for his misconceived attempt to test the identity of Jupiter by feeding the god human flesh, and rendered in Wedgwood-style blue Jasperware from the royal porcelain factory of Madrid, the Fábrica de porcelanas del Buen Retiro (c.1790-5).

The stakes of the episode are high: Jupiter deems Lycaon’s impiety typical of the degenerate human race, which he proceeds to destroy through the Flood. Even more crucially, however, the scene, as narrated by Jupiter in Ovid’s Metamorphoses, raises all sorts of probing
questions about the nature of both deity and impiety: in particular, in Ovid’s treatment, because of the vocabulary of empiricism consistently associated with Lycaon’s attempts to test Jove’s divinity (experiar, ‘I shall test’; experientia, ‘test’). While Lycaon’s behaviour is impious, his confrontation with Jupiter exemplifies the nature of theomachy more generally in Latin epic, where the conflict between human and god centres on the intellectual basis for deeming someone divine. Indeed, the question of how to know a god and what pious or impious behaviour is might be especially pertinent at the time of the publication of the Metamorphoses, amidst contemporary religious and political innovations in which the divine firmament is being remodelled to include Julius Caesar and (as Ovid himself anticipates later in the Metamorphoses) Augustus himself.

The importance of this language of empiricism isn’t lost on later authors, both classical and Christian. In the epic Thebaid composed around a century after Ovid, Statius’ violent hero Capaneus expresses his scepticism of prophecy by using the same verb experiar. And in the 15th century Orlando Innamorato the Italian Renaissance epicist Matteo Maria Boiardo has the pagan knight Rodamonte use similar language of testing and proof (esperto, provarò) in casting doubt on the existence of god, no matter whether Christian or Muslim.

Lycaon and Capaneus are only two examples of the thrilling and manifold intellectual tradition encompassed in the notion of theomachy, and the book’s cover image encapsulates both the excitement and the richness of the theme. Jupiter sits formidably on a cloud in the centre of the middle register, brandishing his thunderbolt while mortals cower below. On the right, a hybrid wolf-man Lycaon lies on the ground, raising a newly formed paw in defence while his erstwhile companions run terrified from the scene; on the left, a kneeling man shields his head from the vengeful god. It’s this latter figure, really, that one ought to pity, since his position recalls the classical sculpture of a Niobid (now in the Palazzo Massimo), one of the children of Niobe killed by Apollo and Diana as punishment for another theomachic act, their mother’s boast of being more fertile than the goddess Latona. Their death-in-statuary is particularly appropriate, given that it is Niobe’s stony-hearted pride that brings down the wrath of the heavens, and her own fate is to be turned into stone (as Ovid also records in Metamorphoses 6).

Jasperware is famous for its chinoiserie and nymph-and-shepherd scenes, an unlikely medium for a grand struggle between human and god. Comparing the plaque to Ovid’s Metamorphoses would make for a trite analogy, though it is no less apt for being superficial. For despite the placid tones of blue, the plaque hosts an iconographic mixture of not one but two theomachic and metamorphic narratives, and does so without compromising its own aesthetic language - in which quality it is rather more like ancient literature than initial glances may admit.

Pramit Chaudhuri is Associate Professor of Classics at Dartmouth College and author of The War with God: Theomachy in Roman Imperial Poetry (Oxford University Press, 2014).

Pramit Chaudhuri
Dartmouth College

The Simulacrum

A new milecastle has appeared on Hadrian’s Wall, not built of stones but of books. The milecastle, known as The Simulacrum, is an art installation conceived by Dawn Felicia Knox in collaboration with the Hadrian Arts Trust and funded by Northumberland National Park Authority and the Arts Council.

The sculpture has been created from donated books and will start to decay immediately – rain will permeate the paper, the sun will crack their spines and plants will begin to take root. This will mirror the act of ruination of the stones of the Wall itself, albeit at an accelerated pace.

The milecastle, which is intended to celebrate the introduction of literacy to Britain by the Romans, will be on site at Walltown Quarry for 28 days, during which time Dawn will film its decay. At the end of the month there will be a concert by the Noize Choir of a new composition inspired by the work. The books will then be recycled, either for new paper for more books or by burning to produce electricity.

Lindsay Allason-Jones
University of Newcastle
Reviving the Roman Funeral at the Ashmolean Museum

On 30th October 2015, Faculty and students from the Universities of Oxford and Warwick teamed up to stage a Roman funeral procession, as part of the Ashmolean Museum’s DEADFriday event.

A cast of twenty, in full costume, including lictors, musicians, mourners, an Archimimus, funeral director and members of the Roman household, laid to rest the body of Tiberius Claudius Abascantianus, a Roman commemorated in the Ashmolean’s collection. Preparations for the event started in July, making costumes, a funerary couch, and wax imagines cast from the team’s own faces.

The procession was repeated twice during the evening, with each performance including an introduction to the Twelve Tables, a eulogy for the deceased, an off-stage cremation and, finally, installation of Abascantianus’ remains in the family tomb, all accompanied by the sounds of a cornu, aulos, and team of enthusiastic mourners. The grand setting of the Ashmolean, packed with over 4,000 visitors, ensured it was a noisy and crowded affair that would have made any Roman proud.

The funeral was masterminded by the Ashmolean Latin Inscriptions Project (AshLI), a three-way research collaboration between the Ashmolean and the Universities of Warwick and Oxford, to celebrate the recent installation of new Roman displays in several galleries, including a hand-painted columbarium in the Reading and Writing Gallery which houses the original ash urn of the real Abascantianus.

The decoration of the niched tomb, with its display of funerary plaques, inscribed as chests and pierced libation ‘table’ was inspired by the columbarium at the Villa Doria Pamfili in Rome. Visitors to the Ashmolean will be able to see new inscriptions on display in the Mediterranean Gallery, the Reading and Writing Gallery, and Rome Gallery.

To read more about these new additions go to the AshLI Project’s blog, ‘Reading, Writing, Romans’ (bit.ly/AshLI-blog).

From the Field

Vindolanda Prize Draw

Below are some of the field reports from the winners of the prize draw to dig at Vindolanda between 7th-11th September 2015.

Vindolanda Roman Society Week:

I arrived with a little apprehension at Vindolanda on the Sunday afternoon – it had been more than 50 years since my last dig (with Mike Jarrett at Clyro in 1964), and I felt sure that my rustiness might show.

The Director of Excavations, Dr. Andrew Birley, took us on a short tour to the site on the first day, before we assembled in the trenches. He explained that we would working in challenging conditions in deep, wet trenches, but the rewards were usually finds in excellent condition.

The dig did not disappoint: we were blessed with a superb selection of finds, from the usual coins through to leather slippers and pieces of tent canvas. Andrew’s hands-on approach, thorough knowledge of the site and thoughtful interpretation of the finds made the whole week a thoroughly enjoyable experience, and my early apprehensions proved groundless. I was impressed with the wonderful spirit prevailing not only in the excavation team, but within the staff in general at the site.
From the field

My first visit to Vindolanda was in 1961, when just the headquarters building and gateways of the late fort were exposed to view. How things have changed — but nonetheless, the magic of the site and its beautiful setting has not diminished in the intervening years.

My thanks to both the Roman Society and to the Vindolanda Trust for making this opportunity available. I hope to be able to return for more of the same in the future.

Derek Patience

Working with and for the Vindolanda Trust is always such a pleasure and a great opportunity to meet people from all over the world, from different walks of life but who share the common bond of love for the Roman world. My week spent in the company of my colleagues from the Roman Society proved no exception.

The weather gods certainly smiled upon us, enabling us to make good progress in the ‘vicus’ area. We were working within the confines of the stone foundations of three strip houses in the later civilian settlement, and deep enough to uncover levels within an earlier military installation. At this period the fort was timber-built, much larger and ranged east/west, rather than its later incarnation that visitors see, built of stone and ranged north/south.

This afforded the team the opportunity to work within those anaerobic levels for which Vindolanda is famous and to recover a great range of artefacts which included wood and leather and features that would have been lost in most other conditions.

It was a most delightful and fun week for the Society’s members and I hope that the Society’s team were able to further the work of the Vindolanda Trust in some small way.

Lisa Venables

My arrival was on a sunny Sunday September afternoon and by 6pm the week’s team had all arrived. In keeping with Vindolanda’s past inhabitants, it was international: four Brits, two Italians, one Croatian and one Dutchman. Experience ranged from that of a first-time excavator to a professional archaeologist.

On the first day we made slow but steady progress, carefully working down to reveal part of a stone floor. Day 3 ended with our revealing another stone floor with a quern stone embedded in the south end of the trench together with, probably, a collapsed oven on the west side.

Over the next two days we were able to dig carefully down into the waterlogged levels of the early timber forts. Here we were not only working among the ghosts of the early garrisons, we could actually smell them — a pungent but not entirely unpleasant odour. Towards the end, we came across several timber posts for wattle and daub walls, and an extremely well-fitted wooden floor several feet below our starting level of Day 1.

We may not have made any earth-shattering discoveries but we may have added a little to the ongoing story of Vindolanda. I should like to thank the Roman Society for making this interesting and rewarding experience possible. I hope to return.

Michael Clegg

Archaeology Fieldwork Bursaries at Vindolanda 2015

In 2015, the Roman Society and Roman Research Trust generously funded 6 places for young students (16-18 year olds) to take part on a fully funded two week placement on the Vindolanda excavations. Over 100 applications were made to the scheme and six winners chosen to take part. Two places were scheduled over the Easter Holidays and the remaining four took place over the School summer holidays. Each winner received full board accommodation in the Vindolanda archaeological study centre (Hedley Building) for their two weeks. They worked in a variety of archaeological environments, from immediate post-Roman foundations to pre-Hadrianic anaerobically preserved remains.

The scheme was a great success for the students and for the Vindolanda Trust, which was delighted by their work ethic and application. What follows are extracts from the feedback from the young students about their experience.

Andrew Birley
CEO and Director of Excavations
The Vindolanda Trust
From the field

‘I’d like to thank you and everyone involved in allowing me the place at Vindolanda, it was the best experience of my life and I am very grateful for that opportunity. Vindolanda taught me a lot of skills. I learnt properly how field archaeology works and many of the skills and methods I had learned in sixth form (I gained a better understanding of through the practical work as opposed to the theory). I learnt how to properly work in a team, and how to communicate in order to get the work done effectively (which I really enjoyed). Before Vindolanda I hadn’t really considered field archaeology as a possible career path, but now I really want to do field archaeology. We came across Vindolanda doing Roman Britain in Classics and my teacher and many others are so jealous of my time at Vindolanda!’

Rachel Nesbitt

‘A huge thank you for giving me the opportunity to dig at Vindolanda this summer. I would not have been able to even think about coming if it wasn’t for the very generous bursary I was awarded and I am so grateful I was able to take part. It was so exciting discovering such a mixture of well preserved, everyday artefacts as well as more unusual finds like the Roman standard. Knowing our finds could contribute to the understanding of the culture felt really important to me. This experience has been incredibly helpful with regards to my future. I had recently decided to minor in Archaeology at university and the dig confirmed my interest because I found I really loved it. Nothing beats the feeling of being the first person to discover something that has been hidden for hundreds of years. It made me realise that I would like to continue doing work in this area and I am looking forward to reapplying to come next year. Thank you for a brilliant two weeks.’

Florence Wynne

‘I had an absolutely tremendous time. Vindolanda is a site which is particularly special to me. I first visited aged 13 with school just before the conversion of the museum. The site was my first formal excavation and the subject of my standard grade Scottish GCSE equivalent project. Thank you for the opportunity to excavate at the site. It is this which helped me decide to read archaeology at University.’

Alice Jaspers

Investigating the archaeology of death at Pompeii: The necropolis and fugitives of Porta Nola

In the summer of 2015 a new programme of excavation and conservation began to investigate the necropolis at the Nolan gate and reopen some of these monuments. The necropolis was first uncovered in the early 20th century, and excavations in the mid-1970s identified further tombs alongside the road which encircles the city.

The aim of the project is to learn more about the physical characteristics of the inhabitants of Pompeii, as well as their diet, way of life and funerary practices. This will be achieved through the excavation of a cross section of burials, osteological analysis and the study of the casts of the fugitives of Pompeii. The site offers an exceptional opportunity as different levels of social strata are represented around the cemetery, from the monumental tombs of Obellius Firmus and Aesquilia Polla, to the so-called poor graves alongside the city wall.

The project is also studying the plaster casts made of 15 individuals who were caught during the volcanic eruption of AD 79. The casts, currently being conserved as part of the Grande Progetto Pompeii, have been previously assessed for their positions and characteristics, whilst little attention has been paid to their contents, the skeletons of the individual, a rich source of information about the population. Each case will be studied using techniques including photogrammetry, laser scanning and x-rays to support the osteological study.

The first funerary monument investigated by the project in 2015 was the tomb of Marcus Obellius Firmus, discovered and partially excavated in 1976. The earlier work had recovered a marble columnella and a blue glass cinerary urn, presumably of Firmus, whose funeral is recorded on a marble inscription on the front pediment. The new excavation discovered a further cremation inside the tomb, and preliminary analysis identified the burial...
From the field

3D laser scanning of a cast from Porta Nola.

as a mature adult male. From inside the tomb, hundreds of bone fragments of a funerary bed were recovered, delicately carved and covered in gold leaf. Work was also undertaken to consolidate the monument and its decoration.

To the south of the Nolan Gate, the project has begun work on a series of Greek names carved into the city wall. Traditionally, these have been interpreted as grave markers, perhaps belonging to slaves or poorer members of society. Excavations in the late 19th century recovered 36 cremation urns, although it is not clear how these may have related to these inscriptions. The 2015 excavations explored a 15m stretch alongside the wall, revealing a more structured burial area than previously thought. A much later burial, closer to the eruption of AD 79, was that of a young infant, aged between 3 and 6 months, which had been lined with amphora fragments.

The Pompeii Porta Nola Necropolis project is a three year research initiative directed by Llorenç Alapont Martin (l’Ilustre Colegio Oficial de Doctores y Licenciados en Letras y Ciencias de Valencia y Castellón), Stephen Kay (British School at Rome) and Rosa Albiach (Museo de Prehistoria e Historia de La Diputación De Valencia). The conservation programme is conducted by Dr Trinidad Pasies (Museo de Prehistoria e Historia de La Diputación De Valencia). The project acknowledges the considerable support given by the Soprintendenza Speciale per i Beni Archeologici di Pompei, Ercolano e Stabia, Professor Massimo Osanna and Dott.ssa Annalisa Capurso. It is supported in the field by Sig. Vincenzo Sabini.

Website: www.bsr.ac.uk; Twitter: @PompeiiNecropoli

Making wine for the Roman emperor at the imperial estate at Vagnari, Italy, 2015

As part of an ongoing project begun in 2012, this summer Maureen Carroll and a team of specialists and students from the University of Sheffield explored the archaeological remains of the central village (vicus) of a rural estate at Vagnari in ancient Apulia which generated revenues for the Roman emperors from the early first century A.D.

This interdisciplinary project focuses on agricultural and artisanal production in the vicus and the exploitation of human and natural resources in the region. The 2015 excavations revealed a building of the 2nd century A.D. with a large room in which circular plastered basins had been inserted into a mortar floor. Each basin held a ceramic container with a body diameter larger than a metre. This room was a cella vinaria, a wine fermentation and storage room, in which very large wine vats (dolia defossa) were fixed in the ground. Dolia were heavy and cumbersome, with a capacity of 1000 litres and more. They were buried up to their necks to keep the temperature of the wine constant and cool, a necessary measure in hot climate zones like southern Italy. They were used and re-used for long periods of time, being cleaned and lined with pitch every year before the new grape harvest. The pitch lining on the inside of our dolia was still intact.
From the field

This is the first evidence for wine-making at Vagnari. And this was no ordinary wine, as it derived from vineyards belonging to the empire’s greatest landowner. There is clearly more of Vagnari’s *cella vinaria* to uncover. Because we uncovered only the corner of the room, we expect to find more *dolia* and other facilities, such as a wine press and a tank for the pressed grape juice. Excavations in 2016 should clarify how large the storage room was, how many vats of the emperor’s wine in total it housed, and what the volumetric storage capacity of the structure was.

Surprisingly, one of the *dolia* at Vagnari contained two human skeletons in its fill. It remains an intriguing and challenging question whether we are dealing with victims of a crime, who were hastily dumped in this wine vat after it ceased to be used for storing wine, or some other irregular (and illegal) disposal of corpses within the settlement.

The research in and around Vagnari continues to make a significant and innovative contribution to an historical, social, and scientific understanding of life and death in a region that once was intimately connected to the capital of the Roman empire.

Maureen Carroll

---

**Hiding in Plain View**

The Mid Tees Research Project is an amateur research project set up to investigate "blank" Roman spaces in our area, i.e. those spaces between the known sites on modern distribution maps. We have been reviewing existing records, particularly sites recorded from aerial photographs where the identification is far from certain. In particular we have been concentrating on sites simply recorded as "prehistoric/medieval field systems" and "sub-rectangular enclosure", catch-all terms which often denote uncertainty in identification.

Our first success was the villa at Dalton on Tees (NZ301081), moving the developed villa landscape north to the Tees valley, and recently we have been reviewing the alignment of Cades Road through our area, and its function in the Roman landscape. We are currently working on two new military/settlement sites on our postulated alignment of the road.

Newsham (NZ374101) is a promontory site on the north bank of a loop in the river commanding the tidal-limit fordable points. Initially recorded on the local Historic Environment Record as "prehistoric and medieval field systems", in 2012 we identified a marching camp 205m x 225m (4.6 hectare) with multiple subdivisions, including extant north and south gates with *tituli*. Within and without the camp are multi-period phases of settlement activity. The archaeology in the marching camp field extends some 400m x 200m (8 hectares), and is one of

Antony Lee

---

**Fragment of a marble bull statue from Lincoln**

The Collection museum in Lincoln is delighted to have recently acquired a rare fragment of zoomorphic marble sculpture, found in Lincoln in 2013. The fragment is in the form of the torso of a bull, sadly missing its head and legs but still demonstrating signs of the quality of its original workmanship. The findspot is to the north of the *Colonia*, on the line of Ermine Street and on the edge of the identified cemeteries and extra-mural occupation. Subsequent test pitting on the site by the Lincoln Group for Excavation, Education and Research (LAGER) revealed evidence of later quarrying but sadly no Roman context for the find, maintaining the possibility that the statue is a later import. Research into the potential form of the complete bull, carried out with the kind and invaluable assistance of Professor Martin Henig, has suggested that it might date to the 1st Century AD and have been originally in the pose known as *'taurus cornupeta'*, the 'butting bull'. This pose is well attested in the Greek and Roman worlds and particularly on the coinage of Augustus and Vespasian. Professor Henig believes the original sculpture is more likely to be domestic than religious or funerary in nature, perhaps once adorning a garden as part of a wider pastoral scene.

In order to interpret better the sculpture in the museum, a project to reconstruct the statue was undertaken in partnership with the University of Lincoln. A 3D print of the torso was used by a local artist to reconstruct the missing elements based on ancient comparanda, and the resulting model then scanned and printed to produce the replica for display.

Further information on the bull and the reconstruction project can be found on The Collection's website at [www.thecollectionmuseum.com](http://www.thecollectionmuseum.com).

Antony Lee
From the field

four linked areas with contiguous archaeology across a 750m x 750m (56 hectare) area, including major outlying features such as earthworks.

Hardstones Farm (NZ359153) is some 5km north of Newsham, which was recorded on the local Historic Environment Record as a "sub-rectangular enclosure". The site is a 60m x 40m rectangular feature similar to a small Roman fort/fortlet in size and style. A 1m section across the ditch circuit provided 106 pottery fragments including 41 pieces of 3rd/4th cent Crambeck Ware, and 46 pieces of calcite gritted ware in the upper contexts, together with isolated pieces of Oxfordshire mortaria, Samian, tegula, and local pottery from the lower contexts. The ditch is V-shaped, 4m wide and 1.4m deep.

We have just completed our first season of excavations at Newsham, further information can be found on our website at: www.midtees.co.uk

John Brown
Mid Tees Research Project

In 2013 the Culver Archaeological Project (CAP) undertook a magnetometer survey at Bridge Farm, Wellingham, just north of Lewes, to confirm the location of the London to Lewes road. This achieved spectacular results as not only were the boundary ditches of the road plainly shown but to everyone’s surprise an unknown bivallate enclosure and extensive settlement were also clearly visible.

The discovery was kept secret until late 2012 when a systematic metal detecting and surface collection survey could be undertaken for fear that ‘nighthawks’ might ravage the site. This delay gave CAP the opportunity to gain Heritage Lottery funding sufficient to undertake a large, commercially managed, community project during 2013.

The 2013 summer season saw four trenches opened, and analysis of pottery and coins established a three hundred year period of Romano-British activity from late first to late fourth century. This also resolved the late first century origin of two of the smaller road ditches in the settlement which were cut by the two late second century enclosure ditches. Industrial activity was uncovered to the south of the settlement. In 2014 a thirteen post rectangular building was targeted in pasture to the west, closer to the river, and each post hole revealed a waterlogged post base, one with carved spolia used as under-pinning.

In 2015 the project moved to the intersection of the London Road with the enclosure ditches and once more has produced surprising results. The road appeared to postdate the refilling of the ditches in the early part of the 3rd century, although confirmation of this must await the specialist artefact reports and further investigation in 2016. A dark activity/demolition layer overlaying both road and ditches supplied many interesting artefacts including late-3rd and 4th century coins, pottery and a fine 2nd century intaglio.

Further information on the project, results, field school and volunteering opportunities can be found at www.culverproject.co.uk.

David H. Millum
CAP Deputy Director

Wellingham: A Romano-British settlement in a bend of the Sussex Ouse

In 2011 the Culver Archaeological Project (CAP) undertook a magnetometer survey at Bridge Farm, Wellingham, just north of Lewes, to confirm the location of the London to Lewes road. This achieved spectacular results as not only were the boundary ditches of the road plainly shown but to everyone’s surprise an unknown bivallate enclosure and extensive settlement were also clearly visible.

The discovery was kept secret until late 2012 when a systematic metal detecting and surface collection survey could be undertaken for fear that ‘nighthawks’ might ravage the site. This delay gave CAP the opportunity to gain Heritage Lottery funding sufficient to undertake a large, commercially managed, community project during 2013.

The 2013 summer season saw four trenches opened, and analysis of pottery and coins established a three hundred year period of Romano-British activity from late first to late fourth century. This also resolved the late first century origin of two of the smaller road ditches in the settlement which were cut by the two late second century enclosure ditches. Industrial activity was uncovered to the south of the settlement. In 2014 a thirteen post rectangular building was targeted in pasture to the west, closer to the river, and each post hole revealed a waterlogged post base, one with carved spolia used as under-pinning.

In 2015 the project moved to the intersection of the London Road with the enclosure ditches and once more has produced surprising results. The road appeared to postdate the refilling of the ditches in the early part of the 3rd century, although confirmation of this must await the specialier artefact reports and further investigation in 2016. A dark activity/demolition layer overlaying both road and ditches supplied many interesting artefacts including late-3rd and 4th century coins, pottery and a fine 2nd century intaglio.

Further information on the project, results, field school and volunteering opportunities can be found at www.culverproject.co.uk.

David H. Millum
CAP Deputy Director

Wellingham: The 2014 excavation showing the rows of excavated post holes.

The geophysical survey image showing the six trenches so far excavated.
Community Archaeology on Hadrian’s Wall: the discovery of the fort baths at Wallsend

Local residents at Wallsend, at the eastern end of Hadrian’s Wall, have discovered the long-lost Roman baths that once served the Roman fort of Segedunum. There are reconstructed baths at Wallsend, but these are not on the site of the Roman originals, whose exact location was unknown until now. As part of the HLF-funded WallQuest community archaeology project, Wallsend residents researched historic maps and records which pointed to the conclusion that the former Ship in the Hole pub, now demolished, was close to the original Roman bath-house. Trial-trenches found the long-lost baths at the first attempt. The real baths lie 130m south of the fort, much closer to the river Tyne than the reconstruction.

Excavation in 2014-15 has confirmed that the building originated with a distinctive Hadrianic plan that is known also at Benwell, Chesters, Carrawburgh, Netherby and Bewcastle. Unlike any other Hadrian’s Wall baths, the building has been completely rebuilt to a different plan, probably because of landslip.

Although only about a third of the whole building footprint has been uncovered, Wallsend offers the first opportunity to carry out large scale excavation on the baths of one of the Hadrianic Wall forts since the development of stratigraphical techniques in archaeology. All previous investigations (with the exception of small scale work at the outpost fort at Bewcastle in the 1950s) took place in the 18th or 19th centuries. The remains are well-preserved by the standards of urban Tyneside and are yielding rich evidence for the construction methods and history of what was one of the most ambitious Roman buildings at Wallsend. Plans are now being made to display the remains permanently to the public.

Nick Hodgson
Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums

Conferences & Meetings

Rural settlement in Roman Yorkshire

The second joint conference sponsored by the Roman Society and the Roman Antiquities Section (YAS) attracted 110 delegates from the two Societies and the wider public to Malton to hear a range of papers. The inspiration for the conference was the publication of Hayton, East Yorkshire: Archaeological Studies of the Iron Age and Roman Landscapes (eds, P. Halkon, M. Millett and H. Woodhouse).

The delegates were treated to papers from a range of speakers from the university, commercial and voluntary sectors. The papers included: Rural settlement across Roman Yorkshire: data syntheses from the Roman Rural Settlement project (Dr Martyn Allen – given in his absence); A neglected frontier: results from preliminary excavations on a high status settlement on the Brigantian-Roman frontier (Dr Clive Waddington); Roman impact on the landscape of the Foulness valley and the western escarpment of the Yorkshire Wolds (Dr Peter Halkon); Across Wold and Vale: new evidence for the dynamics of Roman rural settlement (Professor Martin Millett); The Landscape between Cataractonium and Scotch Corner (Dr Steve Sherlock); The Other Side of the Vale: The Magnesian Limestone in the Later Iron Age and Roman Period (Ian Roberts); Romano-British settlement patterns in Swaledale (Peter Denison-Edson and Philip Bastow); Lines in the landscape: Roman roads and rural settlement (Mike Haken and Hugh Toller); and What on earth were the Romans doing in Heslerton? (Professor Dominic Powlesland). The audience were also subjected to repeated plugs for the Hayton volume that had only arrived from the printers the previous day!

What the day did extremely well was to demonstrate the
range of research being undertaken by archaeologists from all backgrounds and the way that our understanding of Roman rural settlement is being both challenged and changed.

Pete Wilson

XXIII Congress of Roman Frontier Studies

The 23rd meeting of the Congress was held at Ingolstadt, Germany, in September, under the chairmanship of Professor Sebastian Sommer. With 400 participants, it was the largest Congress to date. It was particularly pleasing to welcome so many German students attending local universities.

The programme was the usual mixture of lectures and site visits where it was possible to inspect the results of recent work on the *limes*. All were impressed by the extensive work undertaken to improve the presentation of these Roman military sites.

It had been hoped that the next Congress would be in Morocco, but, in the face of the present international situation, colleagues in Serbia gallantly stepped up to the challenge, and as a result the next meeting will be based in Belgrade in 2018, with Nijmegen following in 2021.

David Breeze and Rebecca Jones

Forthcoming Events

Storms, War and Shipwrecks: Treasures from the Sicilian Seas

A new exhibition will open at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, in June 2016. *Storms, War and Shipwrecks* tells the extraordinary story of the island at the crossroads of the Mediterranean through the discoveries made by underwater archaeologists. For 2,500 years, Sicily was the place where great ancient civilizations met and fought. Its rich and varied island culture has been marked by the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs and Normans. This major summer exhibition explores the roots of this multi-cultural heritage, featuring over 200 spectacular and unusual finds rescued from the bottom of the sea.

Dating from the Bronze Age to the Norman period, the objects on show will present a fresh and unexpected view of seafaring life, migration, trade and naval warfare around the island. The central gallery will showcase several bronze warship rams from the prows of Roman and Carthaginian ships that fought in the Battle of the Egadi Islands on March 10th, 241 BC. These extraordinary objects, accompanied by a digital reconstruction, will bring to life Rome’s victory over Carthage, an event that ultimately led to Rome’s domination of the Mediterranean. Other highlights include a bronze statuette of the Phoenician god Reshef, a remarkable life-size bronze elephant foot from a Roman triumphal relief and marble elements for the interior of a Byzantine church, including columns, with capitals and bases, a choir screen and an ambo that were

*The entry of the gladiators with Professor Sebastian Sommer.*

*Roman portrait heads, 2nd-3rd century AD, found in the sea of Syracuse © Museo archaeologico regionale ‘Paolo Orsi’ di Siracusa.*
shipped westward as part of Justinian’s church-building program.

The exhibition will also celebrate the vital contribution underwater archaeology has made to our understanding of the ancient world, from the work of pioneering female maritime archaeologist Honor Frost to recent discoveries employing cutting-edge technology.

*Storms, War and Shipwrecks* has been developed by a consortium of museums in collaboration with the Sicilian Soprintendenza per i Beni culturali e ambientali del Mare. The exhibition is accompanied by a book titled Sicily and the Sea (W Books, 2015). For further information, please see [www.ashmolean.org](http://www.ashmolean.org).

Alexandra Sofroniew

**Archaeology NOW at the University of Nottingham Museum**

A series of free talks and handling sessions that focuses on current archaeological work. Both talks will be followed by handling sessions and discussions with the speaker in the University Museum.

**Curating the Celts**

Dr Julia Farley, Curator of the European Iron Age Collections, Department of Britain, Europe and Prehistory, British Museum. Wednesday 13th January 2016.

Dr Julia Farley will talk about her work on the current exhibition *Celts: art and identity at the British Museum*. The exhibition explores the art and objects made by the peoples of Iron Age Europe who were referred to by the ancient Greeks as Keltoi. It also follows the story of how the words Celts and Celtic came to be redefined after 1500 to refer to the languages, histories and traditions of the modern Celtic nations.

**Antonine Wall: Using (and losing) money on the edge of empire**

Richard Abdy, Curator of Roman Coins, Coins and Medals Department, British Museum. Wednesday 17th February 2016.

Spanning from the Forth to the Clyde estuaries, the Antonine Wall lasted less than two decades of the mid-2nd century AD; within a Roman soldier’s period of active service. Its short-lived nature has left archaeology a clear snapshot of military life on the edge of empire. Richard Abdy has studied the coin finds of the wall: in the context of other forms of evidence for the monument’s construction and operation they give insight into how money was supplied and used on a daily basis in frontier forts.

All talks are at 1pm in the Djanogly Theatre. Please book your place in advance at the Box Office on 0115 846 7777.

**Upcoming events at University College London**

The annual Housman Lecture at UCL will be given by Professor Maurizio Bettini on:

*From market to metamorphosis. Cultural images of ‘translation’ in Rome.*

It will be held on 23rd February 2016, 6-7pm. [https://www.ucl.ac.uk/classics/events/2016-HousemanLecture](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/classics/events/2016-HousemanLecture).

**Archaeology in Berkshire and Surrounding Counties Conference, Newbury, Saturday 2nd April 2016**

Berkshire Archaeology Society is putting on an exciting selection of talks at their Annual Conference on Saturday 2nd April 2016. Dr. Catherine Barnett of the University of Reading will talk on the landscape and origins of Silchester in the Late Iron Age followed by Professor M. Fulford who will speak on the significance of the finds in Insula III in Roman Silchester. Another Roman site reviewed during the day is that of Boxford villa by Steve Clark of the Berkshire Archaeology Research Group. Phil Harding of Wessex Archaeology will present the Mesolithic flints he found in Eversley quarry, Hampshire and Chris Ellis of Oxford/Cotswold Archaeology will tell us about the multi-period site at Thame, Oxfordshire.

The conference will take place at St. Nicolas Church Hall, Newbury, RG14 5HG from 10.00 am until 4.00 pm. All are welcome. No advance booking needed. Entrance £10, please pay at door. Bring lunch or eat in Newbury.

For further information contact Trevor Coombs: tacoombs1@gmail.com

**Learning**

**The Harry Wilks Study Center at the Villa Vergiliana**

For those thinking of taking students on study trips to explore the wealth of archaeological sites on the Bay of Naples, the Vergilian Society of America runs a study centre with accommodation for up to 40 people. Facilities include a dining area, teaching space also suitable for evening activities, small library, internet and even the ruins of the ancient *amphitheatrum Cumanum*. The Administrative Director of the Study Center, Dr Antinima Sgariglia, is experienced in assisting in the organisation of any trip.

There is an option for you to join a short study tour in
May 2016. For this exploratory tour the Vergilian Society offers free board for teachers unfamiliar with the area. Feel free to contact us by email for the dates and the program. Registration deadline for this tour is December 20th 2015.

For enquiries about availability and all other details please contact Dr Antimina Sgariglia minasgariglia@gmail.com. For further information on the Society and the Villa Vergiliana: http://www.vergiliansociety.org/

ARLT Refresher Day: The INSET by Teachers for Teachers, 5th March 2016

Registration is now open for the next Refresher Day run by the Association for Latin Teaching. This will be on 5th March at University College London and there will be plenty of opportunities to share good practice, learn from fellow teachers and stay in touch with the latest research. Practitioners from all backgrounds are welcome, including experienced teachers, student teachers and non-specialists: all those with an interest in teaching Classics will find something to make it a fantastic experience. The programme includes:

• Key Lectures: Dr Stephen Colvin, University College London, on ‘Ancient Greek (and Latin): grammar, diglossia, and the koine’ and Dr Rosa Andújar, University College London, on ‘Living the Drama: learning from the UCL Classical Play’

• 3 Option Sessions on a wide range of teaching topics, including Latin and Ancient Greek set texts, Classical Civilisation topics, teaching methodology, Philosophy for Children, subject marketing

• Hellenic Bookservice

The cost is £30, which includes refreshments and lunch. For more information visit the ARLT website www.arlt.co.uk or contact the course director, Ana Martin, at a.martin@nwc.gdst.net

Books

Understanding Roman Frontiers: A Celebration for Bill Hanson

At the 23rd Congress of Roman Frontier Studies, a Festschrift for Bill Hanson to mark his retirement from Glasgow University, was launched by Beccy Jones. Entitled Understanding Roman Frontiers, A Celebration for Professor Bill Hanson, it is edited by David Breeze, Rebecca Jones and Ioana Oltean. The 29 contributors include several of Bill’s former students as well as his colleagues in the international frontiers community.

The focus of the book is how we understand the operation and function of Roman frontiers, how we learn about the effect of these frontiers on the people who lived in their vicinity, and how new scientific techniques, particularly remote sensing, help us to extend our knowledge. The book is divided into three parts: studies of the frontier installations; considerations of the value of artefacts; and discussions of future directions for research.

Understanding Roman Frontiers is available from Birlinn Publishers, and can be ordered from their website with a discount of 10% with free P&P in the UK.

Hayton, East Yorkshire: Archaeological Studies of the Iron Age and Roman Landscapes


This volume presents the results of fieldwork and artefact research that began in 1993 and continued until 2014. A series of excavations examined a number of sites within a 3 km square block on the York to Brough Roman road and focussed on the Hayton settlement.

The excavations are complemented by a range of survey techniques and extensive studies of artefactual and ecofactual material. The volumes conclude with two substantial discussion chapters that provide an in-depth consideration of the Hayton settlement and seek to understand it in the wider context of Iron Age and Romano-British studies.

This is the third volume from a long term research programme focussed on East Yorkshire that has also produced two other major publications: Rural Settlement and Industry: Studies in the Iron Age and Roman Archaeology of Lowland East Yorkshire M. Millett and P.
The Afterlife of Greek and Roman Sculpture: Late Antique Responses and Practices
Troels Myrup Kristensen and Lea Stirling (eds.)

For centuries, statuary décor was a main characteristic of any city, sanctuary, or villa in the Roman world. However, from the third century CE onward, the prevalence of statues across the Roman Empire declined dramatically. By the end of the sixth century, statues were no longer a defining characteristic of the imperial landscape. Further, changing religious practices cast pagan sculpture in a threatening light. Statuary production ceased, and extant statuary was either harvested for use in construction or abandoned in place.

The Afterlife of Greek and Roman Sculpture is the first volume to approach systematically the antique destruction and reuse of statuary, investigating key responses to statuary across most regions of the Roman world. Contributors to the volume address questions of definition, identification, and interpretation for particular treatments of statuary, including metal statuary and the systematic reuse of villa materials. They consider factors such as earthquake damage, late antique views on civic versus “private” uses of art, urban construction, and deeper causes underlying the end of the statuary habit, including a new explanation for the decline of imperial portraiture. The themes explored resonate with contemporary concerns related to urban decline, as evident in post-industrial cities, and the destruction of cultural heritage.

For further information: [https://www.press.umich.edu/8824429/afterlife_of_greek_and_roman_sculpture](https://www.press.umich.edu/8824429/afterlife_of_greek_and_roman_sculpture)

The Antonine Wall: A Handbook to Scotland’s Roman Frontier
Anne S. Robertson. Revised and edited by Lawrence Keppie.

The Antonine Wall, constructed between the Forth and the Clyde in AD 142, was held by the Roman Army for about 20 years as the northern frontier of the province of Britannia. A continuous barrier of turf on a stone foundation, it ran for 60 kilometres, with a regular series of forts along it. The Antonine Wall was made a World Heritage Site in 2008.

This Handbook outlines the historical and geographical background, and provides a detailed guide to the remains on the ground. It is lavishly illustrated in colour. Priced at £9.95.

In Bed with the Romans
Paul Chrystal

This book explores that familiar elite world as well as the role sex played in broader Roman society from the late Republic to the 3rd century AD – from sex in Roman marriage to homosexuality, from sexual graffiti and prostitution to sexual medicine and aphrodisiacs.

This provides a balanced account of sex and sexuality in ancient Rome over 300 pivotal years, while at the same time providing a lively and explicit account of the sexual exploits of a number of key protagonists at the end of the Republic and early Empire, men and women who have come down to us as alleged or actual adulterers, sexual predators or deviants.

This is published by Amberley Books; for further information contact Hazel Kayes: h.kayes@amberley-books.com.
Contribute and subscribe

Social media
Follow us on twitter: @TheRomanSoc
Like us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Society-for-the-Promotion-of-Roman-Studies
Watch videos of recent lectures on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyfMEzO0BTa3K316LOppYtQ

Subscribe/unsubscribe
EPISTULA is sent to all members of the Roman Society who have provided email addresses. Non-members may subscribe too, and receive the e-Newsletter, send an email to office@romansociety.org with the header <<EPISTULA subscribe >>
(to cancel use the header <<EPISTULA unsubscribe>>
This edition of EPISTULA will also be available via the Society’s website: http://www.romansociety.org/archaeology/e-newsletter-epistula.html

____________________________