Welcome
We welcome you to this XIIth issue of Epistula, the twice-yearly newsletter from the Roman Society. This issue reports on various Roman Society activities that have taken place since Epistula XI.

It also describes important recent finds from Roman Britain, including fieldwork at Homestall and Bridge Farm, and fieldwork from further afield at Pompei and Vagnari in Italy. Thanks to Neville Morley for commissioning a contribution on the Cena Trimalchionis, and to Nigel Roberts and Claire Nellany for their reports on school activities.

This newsletter relies on you for information that you think will interest your fellow Romanists, whether archaeology, art, ancient history, literature or any other aspect of the Roman world, so please do send in your news on recent research, upcoming talks or new publications for the next edition. If you have suggestions for an event that you would like to host in your area, please contact the Archaeology Committee (office@romansociety.org).

Maureen Carroll and Roberta Tomber
Editors

Society News
A Message from the President
These are exciting times as we plan the Roman Society’s future activities, supporting and disseminating the latest research in Roman studies both within and beyond the academy. At the heart of all we do lies our splendid Bloomsbury library, an invaluable resource, which we hold in trust for future generations of classical scholars and enthusiasts. Following on from the signing of the agreement between the Hellenic and Roman Societies and the University of London in April, the board of the Hellenic and Roman Library (the body which represents the Societies’ interest in the combined library) has been mapping out plans for fund-raising, under the expert direction of William Conner (who has led development campaigns for numerous arts organisations and Oxford colleges). (see page 4). We are currently in the process of appointing a Campaign Board. Further details of these developments will be communicated soon.

Our Librarian Colin Annis, for so many years staunch in his devotion to the library, will be retiring at the end of this month (see page 5). I’d like to take this opportunity to thank him most warmly on behalf of the Society for all he has done in supporting readers, defending the library’s interests through some difficult times and enhancing its resources for the future. We all wish him a long and happy retirement.

The process of appointing his successor is now underway. A key goal of our fund-raising campaign is to build up an endowment, which will eventually fund the new librarian’s post. We are also developing a range of initiatives to enrich the library’s resources, to support...
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younger scholars and to bring the latest scholarship to school classrooms.

On 7 February, we will be holding a special evening event at Senate. Roger Tomlin and John Pearce will discuss the Bloomberg writing tablets, discovered in the heart of the city, which cast an astonishing new light on life in Roman London. A drinks reception will follow in the Library where we will announce our fundraising activities in support of the Library (more details are on page 4). Please do join us.

Catharine Edwards, President

Events Round-Up

Since the publication of Epistula XI, a number of events have been held. In September, members enjoyed a visit to the British Museum’s popular exhibition Sunken Cities: Egypt’s Lost Worlds, preceded by a special lecture by Dr John Taylor from the BM’s Department of Ancient Egypt and the Sudan.

Members returned to the British Museum at the beginning of November for the annual joint colloquium with the Association for Roman Archaeology. This year, there were four topical lectures on the theme Empire off Limits where the speakers (Mike Bishop, Philip Kenrick and Kevin Butcher) discussed the destruction of archaeology in North Africa and the Middle East, and the measures taken to safeguard ancient sites and finds for the future. In the final paper on the Gertrude Bell archive, Mark Jackson reminded us that these problems are hardly new.

The Society also collaborated with the Yorkshire Dales Landscape Research Trust and the Yorkshire Archaeological and Historical Society, Roman Antiquities Section in hosting a conference on Romans and Natives in Central Britain. Over a hundred attended the event in Grassington to hear talks by John Cruse, Mike Haken, Fraser Hunter, Sonia O’Connor, Sue Stallibrass, Richard Tipping, Dave Went, Tony Wilmott and Pete Wilson.

The Society also hosted an evening lecture at Senate House, delivered by Professor Eleanor Dickey with the title: Naked from the knees up: ancient Latin textbooks rediscovered. Eleanor discussed such questions as “How did a Roman make excuses?” “What did a Roman child say to another child who had taken his seat at school?” “What did a Roman wife say to her husband when he came home drunk?” The answers are found in ancient Latin textbooks, which were written to teach ancient Greek speakers Roman culture as well as the Latin language. Watch the full lecture on Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0909NqMwxXI&t=9s

At the beginning of December, the Society was very pleased to host the Roman Research Trust’s Joan Pye Lecture at Senate House. This was a special event this year, featuring talks by Tim Evans (The Roman Rural Settlement Project: introducing the enhanced online resource) and Michael Fulford (Settlement and Economy in the Countryside of Roman Britain) before the launch of the Society’s latest publication, Britannia Monograph 29: The Rural Settlement of Roman Britain, by Alexander Smith, Martyn Allen, Tom Brindle and Michael Fulford (see page 7).
Pudding Pan Samian Ware on Display at Turner Contemporary

“Within the space of a few years back, people who are curious in antiquities have taken occasion to observe a very peculiar kind of red earthenware found amidst the cottage furniture of the fishermen on the Kentish coast, within the mouth of the Thames...I at last found an old fisherman, who had in his possession two or three of these Roman pans, which were in common domestic use.... he described [the wreck site] at two or three leagues from the shore, and which was well known to the fishermen by the name of Pudding-pan-Sand, or rock...”

So wrote Thomas Pownall in 1779. Unbeknown to the fisherman, these ‘pans’ were items of Roman Samian ware, the cargo of a shipwreck that sank off the coast of Whitstable in about AD 200. The ship was probably on its way to London. The fisherman apparently used the vessels to bake ‘puddings’, although the recipes used are sadly now lost in the mists of time.

In the first collaboration of its kind, the British Museum and Turner Contemporary Programmes have commissioned artist Hannah Lees to create a new work for the Clore Learning Studio in response to twelve items of Roman Samian ware on loan from the British Museum collections. The pottery was all made in Lezoux. Although the exact location of the wreck is unknown, it is thought to lie near Pudding Pan Rock, a site visible from Turner Contemporary’s Learning Studio. To date, about 550 vessels have been recorded from the site by marine archaeologist Michael Walsh, who has acted as a special advisor to the exhibition. His book on the Pudding Pan wreck and its cargo will be published by The British Museum shortly.

Hannah Lees’ work is inspired by ritual and religion and influenced by her interest in history and heritage connected to her home-town of Canterbury. She explores cycles of decay and regeneration, often using natural materials and is particularly interested in rituals surrounding consumption. She has been working with Richard Hobbs and Sam Moorhead at the British Museum to research the Roman history of Kent, particularly with regard to Roman consumption and trade routes.

The exhibition runs until 8th January 2017.

Launch of a new Interactive App for the Antonine Wall, Part of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site

The app uses digital models, 3D scans, augmented reality and traditional interpretation, such as video and text, to create an engaging and interactive experience for visitors. Virtual reconstructions are based on data from accurate LiDAR scans, with textures for models taken from scans of excavated building materials. Initially covering only the Roman fort at Bar Hill, it will be developed to include other sites along the Wall over the next three years, and will feature more digital content as this is captured and produced.

The project is being delivered as part of an international partnership, with funding from Creative Europe. The ‘Advanced Limes Applications’ (ALApp) project brings together Scottish, German and Austrian partners, with experience in the digital and heritage sectors, to create a mobile app platform and exciting new visitor content for
The completed app will improve understanding and access for users on-site, but also for those who may want to visit ‘virtually’ from elsewhere. It will also form a bridge between the sites and their artefacts, which are often housed many miles away. The app is available for both android and ios and is available now for free.

A drinks reception will follow in the Library to announce fundraising initiatives to be undertaken in support of the Library following the signing of the new long-term agreement with the University of London.

The Hellenic and Roman Library (HARL, Reg. Charity No. 1163798) was established in 2014 by the Hellenic and Roman Societies as a charitable company with the purpose of looking after their interests in, and the management and operation of, their Joint Library as part of the Combined Classics Library, in collaboration with the Institute of Classical Studies of the University of London. As part of these arrangements, HARL is responsible for the costs of employing the Librarians. A key aspect of its remit is fundraising for the endowment of the Librarian posts, and also to defray other costs associated with the Library.

Please join us for an interesting and informative evening and learn more about our future plans.

Fiona Haarer

Join us at 5.30pm on Tuesday 7 March, Woburn Suite (G22/26), Senate House, for an evening of lectures on The Social Impact of the Roman Army.

Professor Greg Woolf will chair lectures by Professor Ian Haynes (Roman Italy and Roman Britain: a comparative study of the social impact of Rome’s armies) and Professor Penelope Allison (Women, Children and the Roman Army).

Wednesday 15 March, 7.30pm: Bingham Hall, King Street, Cirencester

The Roman Society is pleased to support the Annual Cotswold Archaeology Lecture which this year will be delivered by Dr Mark Maltby (Bournemouth University) on Animals and Society in the Roman Cotswolds. All are welcome.

This year’s AGM will be held on Saturday 3 June. It will be followed by a colloquium on Ovid’s Metamorphoses to mark the bimillennium of the death of Ovid. The speakers will be Professor William Fitzgerald, Dr Ioannis Ziogas, Professor Helen Lovatt and Dr Katharina Lorenz.

On Wednesday 28 June, we will be hosting with the Hellenic Society a conference on Sculptural Display: ancient and modern. More details will be advertised to members by email and on the website nearer the time. We are grateful to Christian Levett for his generous sponsorship of this event.

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Colin Annis, Librarian - Retirement

Colin joined the Library as the Senior Library Assistant in 1979 before becoming Deputy Librarian in 1989 and Librarian in 1995. He is also an Honorary Member of the Hellenic Society and an Honorary Vice-President of the Roman Society. He is retiring at the end of December and we all wish Colin a very long and happy retirement.

Colin Annis

Conferences and Meetings

Unlocking the Provinces: Defining and Prioritizing Roman Provincial Studies


Thanks to the support of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, an international symposium focusing on the place and role of Roman provincial archaeology in North American curricula will be held in Toronto.

A full programme and registration details can be found at https://unlockingtheprovinces.com/

There is no registration fee, but, due to limits of space at the venue, advance registration is necessary.

Archaeology in and around Berkshire

The Berkshire Archaeology Society is hosting a multi-period programme at its annual conference on Saturday, March 4th, 2017, at The Cornerstone, Norrey’s Avenue, Wokingham, 10am-4pm.

Professor Mike Fulford will talk about his excavation of Insula III, Silchester, followed by Dr Steve Ford telling of his Iron Age and Roman discoveries in Berkshire. Then we move to an eighteenth-century site, at Maidenhead Congregational Church, where Dr Helen Vernon of MOLA excavated 60 individuals buried in the first half of the nineteenth century who have been identified by their coffin plates and burial records, many of whom had lived through the tumultuous Napoleonic wars and the aftermath.

The ‘Round Mounds Project’, run by Dr Jim Leary of The University of Reading, which seeks to unlock monumental mounds in England, from Neolithic round mounds to medieval castle mottes, will be discussed. Janette Platt of MOLA will also present the results of an archaeological assessment of the mineral producing areas of east Berkshire, which show settlement, ritual and industrial sites through all chronological periods.

All are welcome. There is no advance booking. Cost: £10, payable at the door. Bring a packed lunch or eat in Wokingham. For further information contact: tacaoombs1@gmail.com.

The 27th Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference

Durham University, Durham, UK, Tuesday 28th to Friday 31st March

Sessions:
S1. Dialectics of religion in the Roman Empire
S2. A globalised visual culture? Towards a geography of Late Antique art
S3. The seamless web and the Empire without limits: Society and technology in the Roman Empire and beyond
S4. Social boundaries in the Roman world
S5. Theorising Roman wells and their contents: Beyond structured deposition
S6. Luxury items: Production, consumption and the Roman military
S7. The production and distribution of food in the Roman Empire: modelling political, economic and social dynamics
S8. Space, identity, and heritage on the Lower Danube frontier
S9. From multiple narratives to multiple voices: Challenging multivocality in Roman archaeology
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S10. “Take two of these for what ails you” – Material approaches to medicine and magic
S11. Towards an archaeology of values in the Roman World: Interdisciplinary exploration in theory and method
S12. Glass reflections: Understanding the complexity of glass in the Roman Empire and beyond
S13. General Session: Open to any papers with topics outside the remit of the named sessions

Workshops:
W1. #archaeology: media, theory, and the archaeologist in the digital age
W2. Ancient identities today: Iron Age and Roman heritage

Early Registration from 21st November 2016 to 16th January 2017. Regular registration from 16th January onwards. A full program will be on-line from mid-December. For more information visit: https://www.facebook.com/TRAC.committee/ or email the Local Organizing Committee at trac.2017@durham.ac.uk.

Roman Society Event: Retrospect and Prospect: 50 years of Britannia and the State of Romano-British Archaeology

A Roman Society conference celebrating fifty years of Britannia, will be held on 4th November, 2017, at Senate House in London. The conference will explore the highlights of the last fifty years of Romano-British archaeology, with an emphasis not just on excavation and discovery, but also inscriptions and artefacts. Speakers will also consider future research priorities and they will present current research in some areas not traditionally covered by Britannia, such as osteology and zooarchaeology.

Confirmed speakers are: Martin Millett, Neil Holbrook, Ian Haynes, Ellen Swift, Naomi Sykes, Rebecca Gowland, and David Mattingly. Further details and booking information will follow in the next Epistula.

Society Publications

The Journal of Roman Studies 106 and Britannia 47 have been published and are being dispatched to members. If you haven’t received your copy by mid-December, contact: office@romansociety.org.
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Research

Excavating Troy ... in Roman social history, or, how to date the Satyricon
Changing long-established scholarly contentions is a bit like excavating Troy. Few will believe that it is possible; many will doubt the scholar’s intuition and vision. A case in point is the question of the date of what is commonly known as Petronius’ Satyricon. This extraordinary piece of Latin literature has attracted allocation to the Neronian period – despite numerous reasons against it. Trimalchio, the larger-than-life central character of the single longest surviving part of the Satyricon – the so-called Cena Trimalchionis – has repeatedly been identified as a caricature of the emperor Nero. The supposed identity of the Satyricon’s author – ‘Petronius’ – has, as is well known, added to this view, being identified with Nero’s arbiter elegantiae.

Such identification has simultaneously led to a silencing of the voices that uttered caution on the basis of our knowledge of the literary history of the Roman Empire, not least with regard to the development of what we call the Greek novel. But the silence of the lambs will soon be over – for it is possible to show that the Cena Trimalchionis was written after another piece of well-known Latin literature of the early second century – the published correspondence of Pliny the Younger.

In Pliny’s letters to Trajan, a considerable amount of attention is paid to former slaves who have been granted freedom, but not citizenship. Pliny, keen to establish himself as the ideal senator, and to represent Trajan as the best of emperors, depicts himself as the necessary agent to turn freedom into freedom and citizenship, without which the former slaves’ enjoyment of libertas is severely limited. In Pliny’s world, imperial government works to promote deserving individuals to greater heights. The Roman world is seen at its best in its Plinian garb.

In sharp contrast, the Cena Trimalchionis stages three manumission scenes in which former slaves receive freedom without citizenship, the so-called Junian Latin status. Analysis of the condition of Junian Latins quickly unveils the miserable deadlock to which the affected individuals are subjected. Contrary to the view that the Cena celebrates freedom, including ideas of carnevalesque code-switching and role-swapping, study of the quality of the liberty granted in these scenes demonstrates a much more subtle and, in fact, highly critical approach to libertas in the Cena, the manumitting

29: Alexander Smith, Martyn Allen, Tom Brindle and Michael Fulford, edited, New Visions of the Countryside of Roman Britain - Volume 1: The Rural Settlement of Roman Britain

It has often been stated that Roman Britain was quintessentially a rural society, with the vast majority of the population living and working in the countryside. Yet there was clearly a large degree of regional variation, and with the huge mass of new data produced since the onset of developer-funded archaeology in 1990, the incredible diversity of Roman rural settlement across the landscape can now be demonstrated.

A new regional framework for the study of rural Roman Britain is proposed, in which a rich characterisation has been developed of the mosaic of communities that inhabited the province and the way that they changed over time. Centre stage is the farmstead, rather than the villa, which has for so long dominated discourse in the study of Roman Britain; variations in farmstead type, building form and associated landscape context are all explored in order to breathe new life into our understanding of the Romano-British countryside.

Order a copy from office@romansociety.org for a special price of £38
master – Trimalchio – remains in control of his (former) slaves through the means of Junian Latinity.

The Cena offers a sharply contrasting approach to the relationship between freedom and citizenship (via Junian Latinity) to that sketched in Pliny’s letters: were it not for its Neronian dating, the manumissions in the Cena would be seen to pervert the effort expended by Pliny on building the best of empires. But indeed they do: for Pliny’s letters preserve the names of the three Junian Latins who are granted citizenship by Trajan – and the three onomastic signifiers are also present in the Cena! The fact that names play a large role in Pliny’s structuring of his correspondence has long been recognised. It should therefore be no surprise that his efforts are undermined and ridiculed on an onomastic level, too.

Who those three Junian Latins are, and how ‘Petronius’ works to make a pun on their names requires a more detailed reading than is possible here, and some more serious engagement with the intricacies of the Roman slave system, all to be found in U. Roth’s, ‘Liberating the Cena’, Classical Quarterly 66.2 (2016). Too good to be true? Remember Troy! And as Trimalchio would have said: si factum non est, nihil est; si factum est, controversia non est!

Ulrike Roth
University of Edinburgh

From the Field

Pompeii: New Excavations at the Necropolis of Porta Nola

A second season of an international field school at the necropolis of Porta Nola took place this summer at Pompeii. The joint research project between the British School at Rome (BSR), the Ilustre Colegio Oficial de Doctores y Licenciados en Filosofía, Letras y Ciencias de Valencia y Castellón (CDL) and the Museo de Prehistoria de la Diputación de Valencia (MPV) was established in order to better understand the necropolis and conduct an initial programme of conservation. The small cemetery offers an opportunity to study a cross section of the population of Pompeii.

Following the excavations in 2015 of the tomb of M. Obellius Firmus, an anonymous schola-type tomb, and burials beside the city wall (between Porta Nola and Tower VII), the focus of the new season was a rectangular structure opposite Porta Nola and the area surrounding the tomb of M. Obellius Firmus. Alongside this, further conservation work was conducted together with a study of the cremations of two Praetorian guards which had been discovered in the 1970s.

The low rectangular structure alongside the schola type tomb of Aesquillia Polla was initially discovered and excavated in 1908, but the investigation was inconclusive. The new excavations revealed a series of rubbish dumps and discarded building rubble within the monument, and also a coin of AD 73 of Vespasian, suggesting that the monument was abandoned by the time of the eruption of AD 79. Below these layers no cremation burials were discovered, although the stratigraphy beneath the tomb has indicated a late construction date.

The excavation of an area immediately to the north and west of the tomb of M. Obellius Firmus aimed this season to contextualise the stratigraphy within and below the tomb across a wider area. Following the clearance of a shallow level of topsoil and some lapilli, a series of deposits was recorded which contained the clearance of material from inside an ustrinum, including fragments of a funerary bed, ash and charcoal.

Furthermore, immediately to the north of the tomb, an ustrinum was discovered. To the west of the tomb, a stretch of a beaten-earth road was exposed which led from the basalt-paved road surrounding the city through a small gateway into the necropolis. The initial study of the stratigraphy of the area appears to indicate that the area underwent a substantial reorganisation after AD 62, perhaps associated with the powerful earthquake of that
The project also analysed the cremation burials of two Praetorian guards discovered in the 1970s, but which were not subject to osteological analysis at the time. The first of these was the burial of the twenty-year-old L. Betutius Niger, as recorded by the funerary stele, which documented his rank as a Praetorian soldier of the II cohort and his length of service as two years. The anthropological analysis of the cremated bones verified the data provided by the inscription. The second cremation corresponded to an individual whose funerary stele was partially destroyed, with only the last line remaining which records that he served for eleven years. The anthropological study revealed he was about 30 years old at the time of his death. Due to his mature age and pathological characteristics, such as the formation of enthesiophytes in the pelvis, possibly caused by the micro-trauma of repetitive action.

The Pompeii Porta Nola Necropolis Project is directed by Llorenç Alapont, Rosa Albiach, and Stephen Kay. The project is grateful for the considerable support given by the Soprintendenza Pompei, in particular the Soprintendente Professor Massimo Osanna and the inspector for the area Dott.ssa Annalisa Capurso. More information about the project and details of how to apply for the 2017 field school can be found at www.bsr.ac.uk and on Twitter @Pompeinecropoli.

With support from the British School at Rome, we were granted a permit to excavate in 2016 in a new area east of the winery, and this fieldwork shed important light on the early phases of settlement activity at Vagnari vicus. The most exciting new discovery was a building, only partially excavated, with storage facilities. This building predates anything found thus far in the vicus, and the pottery, loom weights, ceramic oil lamps, and iron implements that were retrieved can be dated to the Hellenistic period, to the 2nd century B.C. at the latest. The structure was re-used and enlarged in the early first century AD, precisely when the land became an imperial possession. Some of the walls of this first Roman building were preserved, although in places they had been robbed out when another structure was built to replace this one. On top of one of these dismantled walls, a bronze coin of Vespasian was found, indicating that the building was dismantled after AD 70. This must have been a relatively high-status structure, with floor coverings of white and grey marble slabs. Several very large panes of window...
From the field

glass retrieved here also suggest a well-appointed structure. A grant from the Hugh Last and Donald Atkinson Funds enabled a Roman glass specialist, Caroline Jackson from the University of Sheffield, to travel to Vagnari and study the glass panes.

The structural and *in situ* artefactual evidence retrieved demonstrates beyond doubt that there was a predecessor settlement here, perhaps a villa, which was taken over and adapted when the imperial estate was created and the Roman *vicus* established in the early first century AD. This Apulian region clearly had not been depopulated or empty after the Roman conquest in the third century BC, although it remains to be clarified in further excavation seasons precisely who built and inhabited the Hellenistic settlement. In addition, we will be pursuing the evidence for a change in status of the *vicus*, from a relatively high-status settlement with glass windows and marble floors in the first century to a village that intensified its focus on the economic output in industry and agriculture in the second and third centuries AD.

Further information on the project can be found at http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/archaeology/research/vagnar i. Applications for the 2017 field school will open in January.

Maureen Carroll
University of Sheffield

Second Season of Excavations on the Earthworks at Homestall Wood, Canterbury, Kent

A second short campaign of excavations was carried out during late October 2016 on earthworks in Homestall Wood, Harbledown, with the aim of completing a full section on Site A of the north-western side of the 35ha earthwork enclosure, Earthwork 1, and examining the find-spot of a group of late Iron Age pottery on the site of its much denuded south-western side (Site E). This enclosure, one of five within this area of woodland, is the most substantial in a complex extending over 1000ha of the South Blean and, including Bigbury Camp, comprises at least 26 other linear earthworks, pit groups, and enclosures.

Work on site A in February 2015 (*Epistula* IX, 15) had been curtailed by ground water, the present dry conditions allowing limited investigation of the upper filling of the ditch and the rampart tail. The ditch appears to be at least 11m wide, limited resources only allowing the upper metre to be excavated. Tip lines showed a complex fill with slow silting of the outer fill and a mass of clay descending over the inner ditch lip, suggesting the slighting of the main bank. A band of flints overlapping this may have been the edge of a metalled surface within the silted ditch, the surface producing a fresh sherd of a late Iron Age grog-tempered ware bowl. A truncated post setting was identified on the inner lip of the ditch.

The bank was confirmed as approximately 9m wide and 1m high, the constituent clay sloping gently to the rear. The only feature in the narrow trench carried 7m wide to the rear was a small rectangular pit filled with a dense carbon-

View of earthwork 1 taken from the peak of the bank at Homestall, showing the 9m wide external ditch

Pottery, lamps, and spindle whorls of the second century BC from Vagnari (Photo: M. Carroll)
From the field

research he undertook into Roman roads and particularly those running through the Weald of Sussex. In a paper of 1933 ‘A New Roman Road to the Coast’ (Sussex Archaeological Collections 74, 16-43), he detailed the route of the London road from Ashdown Forest down to the east bank of the Ouse through Bridge Farm at Wellingham, near Lewes. Whilst Margary dug a section across the road at Bridge Farm he was sadly unaware of the large Romano-British settlement lying beneath this unremarkable arable field or that his section was only metres away from the southern end of the road which he interpreted as running on towards Lewes.

On Site E, a limited excavation on the margin of the present wood revealed much disturbance from a wood boundary ditch and fallen trees, in a section of the circuit where the Earthwork 1 ditch is visible on LidAR in the pasture immediately outside the present woodland margin. The bank is presumed to have lain just within the wood but no earthwork survives. Immediately within the wood at this point, a rich collection of native and imported pottery, comprising Terra Rubra and Gallic White Wares, native imitations and local grog-tempered pottery, as well as amphora sherds of the late first century BC and early first century AD, has been recovered from a tree-throw hole. The original source of this material remains uncertain and may have been largely destroyed but, in a limited trench on the presumed site of the original rampart front of Earthwork 1, a hard, trampled surface appeared to seal an occupation deposit containing pottery of this type. An iron object on this surface awaits x-ray but may be a pointed type of ballista bolt. At the northern end of the trench, within the wood, a clean sandy soil overlying the natural gravel may the last remnant of the original bank the tail of which was not here accessible.

As before, the work was carried out with the kind permission and support of the woodland manager, Rick Vallis, of Silva Woodland Management and the landowner, John Wilson-Haffenden. The assistance of Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) staff, members of the Dover Archaeological Research Group, a research student from the University of Kent, and volunteers both local and from afar is gratefully acknowledged. The project could not have been undertaken without financial backing from the late Hugh Toller, to whose memory the current work is dedicated with much appreciation for his support.

Christopher Sparey-Green

Bridge Farm, Sussex 2016: Another Legacy of Ivan Margary

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the death of the Sussex archaeologist Ivan D. Margary. Margary provided many causes for archaeologist, particularly Romanists, to celebrate, but possibly his greatest achievement was the rich clay, unfortunately truncated by vehicle tracks but possibly the stoke hole of a surface oven. An adjacent clay-filled pit was also rich in charcoal and contained a small sherd of grog-tempered pottery. There were no other finds other than a very eroded fragment of an amphora, the fabric of Campanian black-sand type and similar to the Dressel 1 sherds previously found in the area.

Today with the advantage of geophysics, we can clearly see in the magnetometer and ground penetrating radar images the road terminating as it hits the eastern road leading to the settlement at Arlington and on to Anderitum (Pevensey). But it is certain that this recent discovery would not have happened without Margary’s pioneering work of the 1930s and that must also be said for those made this year at Bridge Farm. The Culver Archaeological Project team returned to the trench excavated in 2015 on the intersection of Margary’s London road (M14) and the late second-century double ditch enclosure (Epistula X, 13). This gave the opportunity to dig below the shallower features and expand some of the areas opened last year such as the flint and iron slag road surface. But it was a series of deep pits that became the focus of this year’s dig and, in particular, one in the NE corner that revealed a quadrant of large lumps of

Bridge Farm, Part of Margary’s map (in brown) overlaid on modern geophysics
Learning

Redmoor Academy’s Footprints on the Fosseway Project

The project was established to allow students the opportunity to explore the Roman history of the school’s catchment area. This was done through a variety of activities in conjunction with the local Hinckley Museum and the Hinckley Archaeological Society. Research towards the project was undertaken by students at the local museum, at the Jewry wall in Leicester, and by attendance at talks by Roman experts. The project was launched before the whole school in an assembly in which ghosts of Roman citizens appeared and shared their stories.

One of the first projects was to create a life-size Roman chariot replica. Once complete it will go on exhibition in the town before returning to the school. The heart of the project was working with the local archaeological society on an excavation to uncover a new section of the Fosse Way which is within the catchment area of the school. Alongside the chariot and the dig, other students worked on creating costumes and jewellery for a presentation of the play The Girl from Andros by Terence. The play was performed by a combined company of professional actors and members of the school’s youth theatre. The production was shown to members of the archaeological society and the museum, as well as being performed as part of the local arts open-air festival. See the play on Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ZSmq1Tf6Y

Work is still in progress creating a mosaic for the school. The tiles are being produced by hand following research into how they were made. A final exhibition to complete the project will be held in June 2017, but already students and staff agree that it has been a phenomenal success.

Nigel Roberts
Redmoor Academy, Hinckley

Humanities Writing Competition 2016-2017, Girton College, University of Cambridge

This competition is for Lower Sixth Form (or equivalent) students and is aimed at anyone with interests in the Humanities. It is based on five objects from the College's small antiquities museum. Named after a Girton student, the Lawrence Room contains Anglo-Saxon finds from the College grounds, Egyptian material, including the rare portrait mummy 'Hermione', and Mediterranean material
from the Classical and pre-Classical worlds. This competition is an opportunity for research and writing beyond the curriculum, using one or more of the five objects as a focus. Essays or creative responses (such as dramatic monologues or short stories) are equally welcome. We are looking for the ability to connect different areas of knowledge, to think about details, and to communicate clearly. An online Lawrence Room catalogue is now available for use. Detailed pictures, descriptions and backgrounds of all the objects in the Lawrence Room collection are available for browsing, so please make use of it as an aid to your research.

Further information about the competition is available at https://www.girton.cam.ac.uk/undergraduates/for-schools/humanities-writing-competition.

Books

David J Breeze, 2016
Bearsden: A Roman Fort on the Antonine Wall
Edinburgh: Society of Antiquaries of Scotland

Excavations were carried out across the Roman fort and annexe at Bearsden for 10 seasons in the 1970s and ’80s in advance of redevelopment of the site. This was the first major excavation of a fort on the Antonine Wall since the 1930s. The significance of the report lies not only in the description and discussion of the structural remains but also in the many specialist reports the importance of which is heightened by the short life of the fort. The major analysis of the botanical remains illustrates life in the fort, the diet of the soldiers and the insects and parasites who shared their environment. The report also places Bearsden in its wider setting and considers the implications of the discoveries for the history of the Antonine Wall.

Order on line: www.socantscot.org/shop and enter BDENS at checkout for £5 discount. The 20% discount is available to everyone.

H.E.M. Cool, 2016
The Small Finds and Vessel Glass from Insula VI.1 Pompeii: Excavations 1995-2006
Oxford: Archaeopress (Roman Archaeology 17)

The material considered in this book dates from the second century BC to the final years of Pompeii’s existence before destruction in AD 79. The book has detailed typological discussions of the objects, considerations of their dating, and explorations of what they tell us about life in the different parts of the insula over the centuries. Of particular interest is the evidence for changing religious practices attested at the neighbourhood shrine associated with a public well.

The patterns within the data allow the tracking of the changes in consumer choice in the late Republican and early Imperial periods. The study demonstrates the growth in the absolute amount consumed, as well as an expanding range of specialist products. There is a considerable amount of data relating to the Augustan consumer boom, and there is also evidence for other major changes taking place in the last decade of the town’s life. Topics include the nature of textile working, the rise in the use of perfumes, and the growth of leisure activities. The assemblage is particularly useful for exploring the growth of glass vessel use, and the impact of the arrival of blown vessels. The finds from this insula have a relevance that goes far beyond this small Roman town. The book will be of interest both to finds specialists and those with a wider interest in the economy and changing lifestyles of this formative period.

This book is (available from http://www.archaeopress.com/ArchaeopressShop) is supplemented by the detailed catalogues, site information and the account of the excavation of the insula in the eighteenth century are freely available on the Archaeological Data Service.

DOI 10.5284/1039937
Roman cuisine, with its basic ingredients of olive oil, fish, and fresh vegetables, was the origin of the Mediterranean diet as we know it today. Mark Grant has unearthed everyday recipes like tuna wrapped in vine leaves, olive oil bread flavoured with cheese, and honeyed quinces. Like an archaeologist uncovering a kitchen at Pompeii, he reveals treasures such as ham in red wine and fennel sauce, honey and sesame pizza, and walnut and fig cakes.

The Romans were great lovers of herbs, and Roman Cookery offers a delicious array of herb sauces and purees, originally made with a pestle and mortar, but here adapted, like all these dishes, to be made with modern kitchen equipment. This revised and expanded edition includes previously unknown recipes, allowing the reader to savour more than a hundred simple but refined dishes that were first enjoyed more than two millennia ago.

The Oxford Handbook of Roman Britain provides a twenty-first century perspective on Roman Britain, combining current approaches with the depth and breadth of archaeological material from the province. Eschewing the traditional narrative approach, this volume introduces the history of archaeological research in the province and the cultural changes at the beginning and end of the Roman period. The archaeological record is approached thematically with sections on society and the individual, forms of knowledge and landscape and the economy.
The chapters showcase the work and theoretical approaches of a new generation of archaeologists and provide a comprehensive and critical review of the archaeological evidence. Aimed at academics and university students, this volume demonstrates why the study of Roman Britain has become one of the most dynamic areas in modern archaeological research.

T.P. Wiseman, 2016
*Julius Caesar*
Stroud: The History Press

Imagine a democratic state based on the rule of law. Citizens have equal rights, and contribute to the common wealth according to their means. Private extravagance is frowned upon, and legal safeguards protect the weak from the abuse of power. Now imagine a huge influx of wealth in the space of a single generation. Unprecedented economic inequalities follow. The rich get very much richer and come to believe that their interests and privileges are what the state exists to protect. Public assets are privatised, legal safeguards and regulations ignored or evaded. Social tensions become acute. The old ideals of consensus and co-operation seem helpless.
against the greed and luxury of a powerful few.

That was the state of the Roman republic when Gaius Julius Caesar was born in what we call 100 BC.

Richard Hobbs, with contributions by Janet Lang, Michael J. Hughes, Roger Tomlin and Jude Plouviez, 2016
The Mildenhall Treasure: Late Roman Silver Plate from East Anglia
The British Museum: British Museum Press
Publication date: October 2016. RRP £40.

Discovered in Suffolk in 1942, the Mildenhall Treasure is one of the most important collections of Late Roman silver tableware from the Roman Empire. This generously illustrated book offers a comprehensive study of the 28 pieces of the Mildenhall Treasure, the majority of which was crafted in the 4th century AD. The catalogue section presents an in-depth study of the form, decoration and mythological themes of the individual pieces, while supplementary essays provide further background to the famous discovery of the treasure and place it within a wider archaeological and art-historical context. The book also features new scientific analyses of the contents of the treasure and discusses the inscriptions found on individual objects.

This landmark publication will have international appeal to archaeologists, historians, and art historians due to the empire-wide importance of the material, and will be of particular interest to those studying the material culture of the Late Roman Empire, especially Roman Britain.

Richard Hobbs is the Weston Curator of Roman Britain at the British Museum.

To get a 10% discount off the RRP, order at the britishmuseum.org/shop and use the promotional code Mildenhall10 on checkout. Alternatively, email customerservices@britishmuseum.org and quote this code.