Welcome

Already it’s summer again and this, the XIIIth edition of *Epistula*, the twice-yearly Roman Society newsletter, is packed full of news of both recent and forthcoming events.

There’s plenty to look forward to via the Society over the next few months with a wide range of lectures and conferences. Also, there is news of exciting new changes and fundraising opportunities at the library and a questionnaire on the use of IMAGO. The Society would like to hear your opinion on this electronic resource. There’s also the first details of RAC/TRAC 2018.

Beyond the Society the newsletter contains lots of information on upcoming meetings, including a chance to celebrate Theodor Mommsen’s 200th birthday and the 30th anniversary of the Roman Finds Group.

There’s also a wealth of new learning opportunities. For those of us wishing we could see ancient Rome in all its glory an online course offers a digital opportunity to explore its streets, while Bath’s Archway project invites you to sponsor a virtual tile.

Sadly, though, it is not all good news and our ‘From the Field’ pages outline the damage to a coffin recovered from the Late Roman cemetery at Poundbury, and the importance of its former occupant’s burial rites.

Please do keep sending in your news about research, forthcoming events and new publications.

Matthew Symonds
Editor

Society News

Events Round-up

On 7th March, over one hundred members and guests attended an evening of lectures on *The Social Impact of the Roman Army*, introduced and chaired by Professor Greg Woolf. Professor Ian Haynes explored the topic *Roman Italy and Roman Britain: a comparative study of the social impact of Rome’s armies*, and Professor Penelope Allison gave a fascinating lecture on *Women, Children and the Roman Army*. The lectures are available to watch on YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0UvP08J4qO8&list=PLO_zKwIJ8jxOH5H0brpnZgktXDTI_hE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0UvP08J4qO8&list=PLO_zKwIJ8jxOH5H0brpnZgktXDTI_hE).

Speakers Ian Haynes, Greg Woolf and Penelope Allison at the Social Impact of the Roman Army lectures
On 3rd June, the Roman Society’s AGM was followed by a colloquium marking the bi-millennium of Ovid’s death. If you missed the occasion, you can catch up with the lectures by Professor William Fitzgerald ('Metamorphosis and Metamorphoses'), Dr Ioannis Ziogas ('Actaeon’s Gaze: Art and Spectacle in Ovid, Metamorphoses 3'), Professor Helen Lovatt ('Ovid and the Argonauts: Heroides, Metamorphoses and Maffeo Vegio’s Vellus Aureum') and Dr Katharina Lorenz ('Remix culture! Pompeian mythological painting and Ovid') on YouTube here: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLO_zKwlRj8jYC7mDeiTv6mGfGOFOCH1A.

A day conference on sculpture (Sculptural Display: ancient and modern) was held at Senate House on 28th June, organised by the Hellenic and Roman Societies and generously sponsored by Mr Christian Levett. All the lectures have been filmed, and a report will follow in the next edition of Epistula with a link to the playlist.

The Society’s Archaeology Committee has also supported two events: the Annual Cotswold Archaeology Lecture in Cirencester, delivered by Mark Maltby on the topic Animals and Society in the Roman Cotswolds; and a workshop, Material Culture and Writing Practice from Antiquity to the Early Modern period: an interdisciplinary workshop, at the University of Kent, organised by Dr Ellen Swift.

**Dates for your Diary**

Details of the Society’s London lectures will be sent to members in September. There will be evening lectures on Tuesday 7th November 2017 and Tuesday 6th March 2018 at Senate House, and next year’s AGM will be held on Saturday 2nd June.

Only a few tickets remain for the conference on 4th November, Retrospect and Prospect: 50 Years of Britannia, held in advance of the publication of the 50th issue of the Society’s journal, Britannia, a journal of Romano-British and kindred studies, in 2019. Sign up here: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/retrospect-and-prospect-50-years-of-britannia-tickets-34098336041.
Society news

There are still some spaces remaining for the annual conference at the British Museum with the Association for Roman Archaeology. This year it will be held on Saturday 16th December and is on the theme of Trajan.

Tickets cost £20: please send a cheque or debit/credit card details to the Roman Society, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU. Members may bring guests.

The programme is as follows:
1.30-1.45 Introduction
1.45-2.30 Professor Amanda Claridge (Royal Holloway): ‘Trajan’s Forum and Column in Rome: new discoveries’
2.30-3.15 Dr Bernhard Woytek (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna): ‘SPQR OPTIMO PRINCIPI. Trajanic coinage as a tribute to “the best of emperors”’
3.15-3.45 Tea
3.45-4.30 Professor Andrew Poulter (University of Birmingham): ‘Soldiers on the move: Trajan’s conquest of Dacia’ (With a practical demonstration of Roman armour)
4.30-5.15 Dr Nick Hodgson (Arbeia Roman Fort & Museum): ‘Britannia omissa: the military situation in Britain under Trajan’
5.15-5.30 Closing remarks

Preparations for RAC/TRAC 12th-15th April 2018 in Edinburgh are well under way. A copy of the Session Abstracts and a Call for Papers (deadline 8th September) are now available from the dedicated RAC website: www.romansocietyrac.ac.uk. Members should keep an eye on the website for all further updates and booking information in due course.

Library news

New Librarian Appointed
Following the retirement of Colin Annis, we are delighted to announce the appointment of Joanna Ashe, who started on 22nd May. Joanna comes to us from the library of the Royal College of Physicians and has an MSc in Library and Information Sciences and a BA in Classics from Oxford University.

JSTOR
We are very pleased to inform members that remote access is now available.
To access this resource use this link: (https://catalogue.libraries.london.ac.uk/iii/cas/login?service=https%3A%2F%2Fcatalogue.libraries.london.ac.uk%3A443%2Fpatroninfo~S24%2FIIITICKET&scope=24) to login to your Library record, using your name and Library barcode number.

Then click on the option for Catalogue Search and in the title search, input the phrase ‘JSTOR journal storage’ and select the last option – ‘Remote access via WAM using University of London SHL/SAS or Institute library ID membership number’. Alternatively, if you have found a journal in the Catalogue which is available via JSTOR, then click on JSTOR and you may enter your name and Library barcode number now in order to log in.

If you do you yet have a plastic library card, please email: iclass.enquiries@london.ac.uk and one will be posted to
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you (please confirm postal address) or you may collect one at the Library desk.

The Hellenic and Roman Library (HARL) Fundraising
As members know, following the forming of The Hellenic and Roman Library (HARL, Reg. Charity No. 1163798) in 2014, and the signing of the new long-term Agreement with the University of London, we have now started a fundraising campaign to build sufficient funds to enable HARL to maintain and enhance the Joint Library as part of a world-class research facility for future generations. Over two hundred attended the launch of the campaign on 7th February at Senate House which showcased the Bloomberg writing tablets, followed by a reception in the Library. Two giving schemes were launched: the Friends of Minerva (for annual giving, and one-off gifts to a Designated Fund) and the Apollo Society (for legacies).

IMAGO survey - can you help?
Can you spare two minutes to help the Roman Society? The Archaeology Committee wants to find out what people think about the Society’s online image bank, IMAGO, and has put together a short online survey. We are keen for as many Roman Society members as possible to complete the survey, particularly those who have used (or would like to use) IMAGO. The results will inform how we can update and improve this service for the future.

IMAGO was conceived in 2010 to commemorate the Roman Society’s centenary. Originally intended to make digital versions of the Society’s much-loved slide collection available to as wide an audience as possible, IMAGO has since grown to include over 4,000 photographs of sites, monuments, inscriptions and objects from Rome and the Roman world. These images can be freely downloaded and shared for educational and research purposes. The site is now viewed several hundred times a month. As well as seeking Roman Society members’ views, we will also ask the wider public for their thoughts via Twitter and Facebook.

So, if you wouldn’t mind answering a few questions, please go to http://bit.ly/IMAGOsurvey and send us your response. The survey will remain open until 15th September.

Are you a Tweeter or a follower?
As part of the Roman Society’s efforts to reach out and encourage the public’s interest in Roman studies we are increasingly active on social media. Since we started our YouTube channel a little over two years ago, videos of our lectures have been viewed 17,147 times, and our Twitter
account has grown to over 8,000 followers – although our Facebook page has a more select (if growing) number.

We’re finding social media to be a useful way of sharing interest and enthusiasm for the different facets of Roman studies, as well as being another means of letting people know about our events, and those of relevant societies and museums. As well as events, we tweet local and national press reports about archaeological discoveries, book reviews, and images from our IMAGO database, and also re-tweet engaging material by others.

If you’re interested in what we’re doing, why not take a look at www.twitter.com/TheRomanSoc or find us on Facebook or YouTube?

From the Field

Damage to Roman stone coffin at Poundbury, Dorchester, Dorset

A visit to Dorchester at Easter coincided with the first reports of damage to a Roman coffin temporarily on display in the undercroft of the Brownsword Hall at Prince Charles’ Poundbury, to the west of the town. The media coverage prompted a visit to the site, which revealed that the damaged lid and base had been removed. An adjacent noticeboard made clear that this was the coffin recovered in 1969 from grave 99 in the Late Roman cemetery outside Poundbury Camp. Rescue excavations on this site, directed by myself between 1966 and 1980, produced a series of settlements ranging in date from the Bronze Age to the early post-Roman period as well as a section of Dorchester’s Roman aqueduct and three successive phases of Roman burial. Of the 1,200 burials in the late cemetery the most significant were contained in 11 mausolea: the coffin from grave 99 in mausoleum R7 was the best-preserved of the ten stone sarcophagi discovered at the site.

The sarcophagus belonged to one of three graves below the mausoleum floor. It was flanked by an adult in a wooden coffin and the debris of another stone coffin, which had been destroyed during the lifespan of the early post-Roman settlement. The coffin from grave 99 was manufactured using Ham Hill stone and contained the gypsum-packed burial of a 50-year-old male. He had been laid to rest without any obvious grave goods, but impressions of a shroud were preserved in the plaster, while staining on it suggested purple-dyed cloth. Gold fibres around the feet must have derived from either a narrow decorated edge or footwear.

Organic residues and staining of the bones suggested that, as with other stone and lead-lined coffins on the site, the deceased had been embalmed, with gypsum forming part of the process. Such a rite had previously been identified in high-status burials of the period (Green 1977) and this has become the subject of renewed research by Nicole Reifarth (2013) and Rhea Bretell (unpubl PhD, Bradford Univ., 2016). Similar burials have been identified at major cities in the western Empire. Their presence at Dorchester, though, where they form up to 8% of the 1100 excavated graves, raises questions about the status of some of the Late Roman occupants. This extensive and organized urban cemetery was probably used by the Christian community, the presence of which is evident from finds
From the field

Interior of coffin in grave 99, exhumation of remains in progress, the gypsum packing largely removed exposing decayed skeleton and organic traces. Alison Freeman working at the head end, on the left Frances Stoner in process of discovering gold fibres in the area of the feet, close to the 20cm scale. Note the axe-dressed finish on side of coffin lid on right. (Scan of colour transparency by Christopher Sparey-Green. © Dorset County Museum)

From the 1970s the coffin had been on display in the offices of the Southern Electricity Board in Weymouth, but more recently it had been moved to Poundbury as a prelude to display in a new school. After being temporarily installed in the open pillared space beneath the Brownsword Hall since August 2016, the coffin suffered extensive damage when the lid toppled onto the pavement. The writer has reported the circumstances of its discovery 48 years ago to the Duchy of Cornwall and to local archaeological agencies and, after assessment by conservators, it has now been agreed that repairs will be undertaken.

Christopher Sparey-Green BA; MIfA
Honorary Associate Researcher, School of European Culture and Languages (Classical & Archaeological Studies), University of Kent

Interior of Ham stone coffin, grave 99, eastern end, the white arrows locating position of gold fibres in the area of the feet. Scale approximately 16 cm. (Scan of colour transparency by Christopher Sparey-Green. © Dorset County Museum)
From the field

Frances Stoner holding toe bone with gold fibres attached. (Scan of colour transparency by Christopher Sparey-Green. © Dorset County Museum)

Gypsum plaster from the interior of the stone coffin in Grave 99. The underside of the gypsum plaster block shows the impression of the shroud. (Photo by Christopher Sparey-Green. © Dorset County Museum)

30th anniversary meeting of the Roman Finds Group

New research on finds from south and south-western Roman Britain will be presented at Salisbury Museum on 20th and 21st October 2017. The event will comprise five sessions, with 19 speakers, as well as posters and finds. One session is dedicated to brooches in memory of Sarnia Butcher. The attendance fee includes free museum entrance and a private viewing of the Wessex galleries, as well as Terry Pratchett: His World. This exclusive major exhibition focuses on the extraordinary life of the creative genius behind the Discworld series.

There will also be a special 30th Anniversary reception and evening social/meal (additional £20), plus a pre-conference guided tour of Salisbury Cathedral for a small additional cost. Accommodation is available in nearby Sarum College.

£40 for fully paid up RFG members, £30 for students, £48 for non-members, and a £25 day rate (students £20). To download the booking form and full programme go to: http://romanfinds.org.uk/news.

Conferences & Meetings

Mommsen’s 200th birthday

Theodor Mommsen was born on November 30th, 1817. The Center for the Ancient Mediterranean at Columbia will be celebrating the event with a one-day conference on December 9th 2017. Speakers will include Clifford Ando, Werner Eck, Harriet Flower, Bruce Frier, W.V. Harris and Stefan Rebenich. A wide-ranging discussion will consider Mommsen’s development, methods, achievements and limitations.

The event will take place in Columbia’s Casa Italiana (aka The Italian Academy). All are welcome, but if you plan to attend please inform the Coordinator of the Center, Elizabeth Heintges: emh2130@columbia.edu.

Norfolk Archaeological & Historical Research Group Summer Conference

A one-day conference on Roman East Anglia will be held on Saturday 22 July 2017 in association with the Centre of East Anglian Studies. The venue is the Thomas Paine Lecture Theatre at the University of East Anglia. NAHRG has organised a conference examining various aspects of the Roman occupation. Speakers will be Simon Elliot
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(author of ‘Sea Eagles of Empire’), David Gurney (recently-retired County Archaeologist), John Peterson (UEA researcher), James Albone (Norfolk HES) and last but not least, Guy de la Bedoyère (Time Team’s Roman expert).

The cost for NAHRG and CEAS members will be £24.00 per person. This includes a full day of lectures, refreshments, and a buffet lunch. Non-members will also be welcome at £27.00 per head. Cheques will not be banked until we know the event is viable. A full timetable will be sent to attendees. If you have any queries, please email enquiries@nahrg.org.uk or ring Tony Bradstreet on 01953 453915. To keep costs down, communication will be by email wherever possible.

Congress of Roman Frontier Studies
The 24th congress will be held from 1st to 10th September 2018 in Belgrade, Serbia. This triennial event brings together scholars, specialists, and students from around the world in order to share the most recent research and debate frontier issues. More than 400 delegates from over 30 countries participated in the highly successful 23rd Congress, held at Ingolstadt, in 2015.

Exhibitions

Scotland’s early silver

An exhibition at the National Museum in Edinburgh this autumn will shed new light on late Roman silver in Scotland and its long-term impact as a raw material and power tool in the early Medieval period. It is the culmination of the latest phase of a research project on early Medieval Scotland, sponsored by The Glenmorangie Company. The exhibition will showcase the latest research on the famous Traprain Law hacksilver hoard as well as displaying recently discovered hoards, including an early medieval hoard from Gaulcross, Aberdeenshire, with some unusual Roman military finds. A book will be published to accompany the exhibition. Entry is free.

Hadrian’s Cavalry
Until 10th September 2017

On 8th April, the Hadrian’s Cavalry exhibition launched at ten museums along the World Heritage Site of Hadrian’s Wall: Arbeia Roman Fort and Museum, Segedunum Roman Fort, Baths and Museum, Great North Museum: Hancock, Corbridge Roman Town, Chesters Roman Fort, Housesteads Roman Fort, Roman Vindolanda, Roman Army Museum, Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery, and Senhouse Roman Museum.

Each site hosts a portion of the exhibition focusing on a specific aspect of the cavalry, be it training the troops, or living with horses, while the perspective ranges from that of a specific cavalryman to taking an empire-wide view. With loans from across Britain, France, Germany, and Austria, the exhibitions bring together some of the most spectacular pieces of cavalry equipment to have adorned horses and men.

A range of events accompany the exhibition, but the main one is ‘Turma; Charge!’ which will be held on 1st-2nd July in Carlisle. Thirty horsemen will attempt to recreate manoeuvres from the equestrian games known as the Hippika Gymnasia for the first time in Britain since the fall of the Roman Empire. As well as providing a spectacle...
that promises to be remarkable to behold, this event will also be experimental archaeology in action. The most up-to-date translations of the ancient sources describing the games are being used, while the re-enactors’ equipment will be carefully checked in order to maintain accuracy at all times.

To find out more about this exhibition please visit the following link, where you can download the exhibition leaflet and purchase the guide http://hadrianscountry.co.uk/hadrians-cavalry-2017.

Learning

The Study Group for Roman Pottery
On 28th March 2017 the Study Group for Roman Pottery announced the launch of the digital National Roman Fabric Reference Collection.
http://romanpotterystudy.org/nrfrc/base/index.php

At the announcement, Roberta Tomber said “It is a great pleasure to announce that the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection: A Handbook is now live on the SGRP website. As you know, it has been a lengthy process, but hopefully it will be a valuable resource for a wide range of users. The website is essentially the published handbook, with Andy Chopping’s original fresh-break photos immeasurably enhanced as digital images, and a photomicrograph added for each fabric. Numerous organisations and individuals were instrumental in finalising the resource and are thanked in the introduction to the site. Here I would like to mention the Roman Research Trust, who funded this resource, and Museum of London Archaeology, Historic England, and the British Museum, all of whom have had a longstanding input into the NRFRC. Above all, I am grateful to Paul Tyers, whose tireless efforts are responsible for the completion of this project.”

Enquiries regarding the sherd collection should be directed to the department of Britain, Europe and Prehistory (BEP@britishmuseum.org) and the thin sections to the department of Scientific Research (science@britishmuseum.org).
The Archway Project
The Archway Project will transform the former Victorian spa buildings close to the Roman Baths in Bath to create new learning facilities.

Cross-section showing the new Roman Baths Learning Centre and the Roman baths

In 2019 three new facilities will open. These include a Clore Learning Centre, which will provide a hands-on and accessible learning experience. A key feature of the centre will be a cutting-edge Investigation Zone set among in-situ Roman remains. 25,000 young people and local residents are expected to visit the centre each year. A new World Heritage Centre will interpret Bath’s World Heritage Site, with the ambition of inspiring 100,000 to explore heritage across Bath every year.

Mock-up of the new Investigation Zone with children studying archaeology

Finally, 1,000,000 visitors will be able to enjoy a new area of the Roman Baths that is not accessible to the wider public. The Archway Project has reached a fundraising milestone and there are now enough funds to start the work. However, fundraising for the Archway Project continues. There are various ways to support the project. From £5, sponsor a virtual tile www.romanbaths.co.uk/sponsor-tile or from £100, adopt a Roman stone www.romanbaths.co.uk/adopt-roman-stone.

For more information about The Archway Project visit www.romanbaths.co.uk/archway-project.

Explore ancient Rome online
Readers are warmly invited to join in a free online course about ancient Rome, created by Dr Matthew Nicholls of the Department of Classics at Reading. This accessible course uses Matthew’s detailed digital reconstruction of the city to provide a unique introduction to Rome’s architecture. Learners discover the ancient city through video (shot in Rome, and also derived from his digital reconstruction), written articles, discussions, quizzes, and unique interactive steps that allow users to explore parts of the digital model for themselves on their computer, phone, or tablet.

The course is grouped into five subject areas: the site and infrastructure of the city; political architecture; buildings for religion; housing, commercial architecture and tombs; and buildings for entertainment (including the Circus Maximus, bathhouses, and Colosseum). A theme that cuts across these subjects is the discussion of how we know what we (think we) know about ancient Rome, looking at the different types of evidence that an ancient historian might consult – literary accounts, archaeological remains, inscriptions, coins, ancient art works, poetry, and more. Matthew is joined by other experts from Reading and the British School at Rome to offer some insights.

The Investigation Zone site as it is currently
Learning

The Future Learn course Rome: A Virtual Tour of the Ancient City runs in conjunction with the University of Reading and the British School at Rome

The course will run for five weeks, and the content is designed to take about three hours per week – but there is no set timetable or compulsion to read every last step! The idea is that learners progress at their own pace, and share their impressions and questions in lively online discussion boards.

The course ran to great acclaim in March to April, attracting about 13,000 learners from around the world and generating plenty of discussion from learners of every sort of background and level of knowledge. Many learners commented that their learning on the course would inform or stimulate a trip to Rome, helping to place the ruins into context.

The next run of the course is scheduled for October, and you can sign up to register your interest here: https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/rome. Matthew and his team would be delighted to meet some of you there!

Roman archaeology courses in Mill Hill

The Mill Hill Archaeology Study Society in north London has been running stand-alone courses in archaeology on Friday mornings for several years. Courses last for ten weeks and consist of two-hour sessions, with slides, talks, discussion, handouts, and tea and biscuits. All of this is available for just £75 per course – see www.mhass.co.uk.

The society was set up from a WEA group in archaeology, when the admin and paperwork just got too much. Some people say that the best thing about these courses is that there is no paperwork and no essays to write!

Recently the Romans have finally had their turn, and an autumn course on the Eastern Roman Empire will commence on 6th October 2017. There is no course in the summer because many of the group are too busy digging and travelling.

These courses are popular and attract a good mix of about 15 students with wide experience of archaeology and life, making for stimulating discussion.

For further details, please visit www.mhass.co.uk.

Ancient World Mapping Center

New online maps which have been created by the Ancient World Mapping Center are now available on free to download at http://awmc.unc.edu. The new maps include Asia Minor in the Second Century CE (1:750,000). This map was several years in preparation and may be printed (up to 300 dpi) from the file: 80 x 50 ins full-size.

Hierocles’ Synekdemos is presented on an Antiquity-A-La-Carte base following the 1939 edition of E. Honigmann. Two maps have been created of Ptolemy’s Table of Important Cities (Kanon Episemon Poleon), presented both on a Ptolemy base (courtesy of A. Stueckelberger, following his 2009 edition) and on an Antiquity-A-La-Carte base.

Books

D. Kienast, W. Eck, M. Heil 2017 
Römische Kaisertabelle. Grundzüge einer römischen Kaiserchronologie  
6th edition, Darmstadt

This latest edition of the table of Roman Emperors assembled by Dietmar Kienast refreshes a volume that has become a tried and tested standard work for the history of the Roman Empire.

The text provides an in-depth chronological framework for all of the Emperors from Augustus to Theodosius the Great inclusive. Information assembled to achieve this includes concise details of life, career, and governance of each emperor, while the primary and principal secondary sources are also stated. It would be interesting for all those who work on the imperial period.
The tenth book in the multi-language series on the frontiers of the Roman Empire has been published. It provides an overview of the wider frontiers of the Roman Empire, and the task of integrating them within an international World Heritage Site, while also documenting Serbia's progress towards this goal.

The development of the Roman Limes in Serbia is introduced, before the various sites along this portion of the frontier are given the guidebook treatment. This timely volume provides the perfect opportunity for prospective delegates on the 2018 Congress on Roman Frontier Studies to do their homework before arriving in Serbia. It is available online at: http://viminacium.org.rs/wp-content/uploads/files/pdf/Danube%20Limes%20in%20Serbia.pdf.

Most of the other books in the series are also available on line at: www.limes-oesterreich.at. Click on 'links and downloads' to access them.

Physical copies of the North Africa booklet are available from Fiona Haarer (office@romansociety.org) for £10.

Katherine M. D. Dunbabin 2016
Theater and Spectacle in the Art of the Roman Empire
Ithaca NY, Cornell University Press. Townsend Lectures/Cornell Studies in Classical Philology. £31.50
ISBN 9780801454059 (hardback); 9780801456886 (paper).
http://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu

This popular account of the excavations at the Roman fort, annexe, and external areas at Bearsden on the Antonine Wall looks at the material recovered from the site in a different way from the primary excavation report. The focus is on explaining the process of archaeo-logical excavation, the life of the soldiers based at the fort, the interpretation and presentation of the bath-houses and latrine, and a discussion of possible future work arising out of the excavation.

Available to members of the Roman Society for £16: contact info@archaeopress.com for details.

There is also now a blog on Bearsden: The Archaeopress Blog available on https://archaeopress.wordpress.com/
Empire, which was diverse in population and language. A wide and varied range of entertainment was available to a Roman audience: the traditional festivals with their athletic contests and dramatic performances, pantomime and mime, the chariot races of the circus, and the gladiatorial shows and wild beast hunts of the arena. *Theater and Spectacle in the Art of the Roman Empire* emphasizes the visual evidence for these events; it is richly illustrated in colour and black-and-white throughout.

Images of spectacle appear in a wide range of artistic media, from the mosaics and paintings that decorated wealthy private houses to the sculpture of tomb monuments, and from luxury objects such as silver tableware to more humble ceramic lamps and pottery vessels. The book places the information derived from this visual material into the wider context provided by the written sources, both literary and epigraphic, and so allows us to understand the functions that these images served in the social rituals of public and domestic life. By explicating both the social and cultural role of the spectacles themselves and the nature of their representation in art, the book provides a comprehensive portrait of the popular culture of the period.