# ROMAN FINDS GROUP NEWSLETTER XVI

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July 1998

## **Data Protection Act**

Under the terms of the 1984 Data Protection Act, The Roman Finds Group is required to ask its members whether they have any objection to personal data about them being held by the Society on computer. The personal data consists of members' names and addresses used for mailing notices of meetings, and will be released only to archaeological organisations. If members have any objections to personal data about them being held by the RFG, could they please write to the editor

# Editorial

I'm not quite sure if many people read these editorials, but I will take the opportunity anyway to draw your attention to the appeal on page 11 for new committee members.

In the last editorial I enquired what your views were about catalogues, and whether, if they were made accessible via the Internet, you would be able to use them. I only had one reply about the catalogue issues, from which I deduce that most members don't have strong views. Three members let me know their email addresses and I know of a handful of other members who can be contacted by email. From this admittedly unsystematic survey, I would estimate that at best only about 10% of the membership would have easy access to electronic information. At present it would appear that most people who might use catalogues of Roman finds would find it difficult to use them if placed on the Internet.

Members might like to be reminded of the committee members contact addresses. Angela Wardle (1 Stebbing Farm, Fishers Green, STEVENAGE, Herts. SG1 2JB) deals with all membership matters (subscriptions changes of address etc.), and Jan Summerfield (English Heritage, Historic Properties South East Region, 1 High Street, Tonbridge TN9 1SG) handles all the other group secretary matters. Please note the change of address for Jan.

The deadline for the next Newsletter will be December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1998. As ever, all contributions gratefully received, no matter how short. If you feel inspired to write more than 1,000 words, I would be grateful if you could contact me first. Please send all contributions to:-

Hilary Cool, 16 Lady Bay Road, West Bridgford, NOTTINGHAM NG2 5BJ

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# HOME NEWS FROM ABROAD: THE CLAUSENTIUM LAMELLA

The last issue of the Roman Finds Group Newsletter carried a description and illustration of a mystery object from Clausentium (XV, p. 6 item 098). There is, in fact, very little mystery about this object at all and it belongs to a familiar and reasonably well-dated object type of first to third century date, which has been found on a number of Romano-British sites. It does, however, raise a few broader questions about the publication of Roman objects of bone, antler and ivory from British contexts, simply because the copious list of occurrences of the object type is to be found not in an English publication, but tucked away as a note in Jean Claude Beal's excellent Catalogue des Objects de Tabletterie du Musee de la Civilisation Gallo-Romaine de Lyon (Lyon 1983).

Beal's footnotes to his catalogue entry mentions objects of a similar type from various sites in northern Europe and the British examples, in a list conveyed by Stephen Greep. came from Caerwent, Castle Hill, Exeter, London, Richborough, Silchester and York. As of 1983, practically all of these examples remained unpublished and although this is no longer the situation, most sadly still remain inédits. Recent publications from Canterbury and York, at least, have included objects of this type. In addition, several other from northern Europe have also been published, including those from Magdalensburg and Szöny, and Maria Biró has even suggested that these bone lamellae can .... be found in any Roman settlement', which is a

fair reflection on central Europe, at least (*The Bone Objects of the Roman Collection*, Budapest 1994, 54). It might also be added that if they came from Britain, however, then you would be lucky to find published details of them.

Bone strips of this sort may have had several functions. There is a clear relationship with the so-called Tesserae nummulariae, and this has been drawn out by Kordula Gostencnik, in describing the Magdalensburg pieces ('Das Kleinfunde aus Bein vom Magdalensberg', Carinthia I (1996), 129-30). The tesserae, however, have inscriptions cut into them, making it relatively easy to determine their use. Beal has noted that two examples from Lyon do not have graffiti or traces of painted inscriptions, and this is also the case with the Canterbury and York lamellae, although further scientific analyses could conceivably reveal traces of writing. Forthcoming publications on material from both Magdalensburg and Augst will undoubtedly throw still further light on these objects, but it remains regrettable that Stephen Greep's altogether excellent work on Romano-British finds such as these should remain largely unpublished, and that the objects themselves are consigned to museum stores, rather than prominent publications

#### Ian Riddler,

Canterbury Archaeological Trust, 92a Broad Street, CANTERBURY CT1 2LU

# THE HOXNE HOARD - AN UPDATE

Work has been continuing on the Hoxne hoard in advance of publication and below Peter Guest and Catherine Johns provide an update on progress so far. First of all Peter Guest gives an overview of the publication plans in general and the coins in particular. It is followed by summary of the work on the jewellery by Catherine Johns.

#### The coins

In September 1997 the Dept. of Coins & Medals at the British Museum began working towards the publication of the coins from the Hoxne Treasure. Seven months later and the catalogue is complete, with over 15,000 coins having been sorted and identified in as much detail as possible.

The Hoxne Treasure was accidentally discovered almost six years ago by Mr Eric Lawes while searching for a friend's hammer in a field in Suffolk. The Treasure was originally contained within a large wooden chest and forms perhaps the most spectacular collection of objects from late Roman Britain. The Treasure was acquired in its entirety by the British Museum in 1994 and two departments within the Museum now share responsibility for the Hoxne objects. Coins and Medals is fortunate in being able to begin the long process of identification and analysis of the coins, while the silver tableware and items of gold jewellery are given prominence in the Dept. of Prehistoric and Romano-British Antiquities' new Weston Gallery of Roman Britain.

The great quantity of objects combined with the depth of research required to fully appreciate the significance of the Treasure, have led the B.M. to decide to publish the material separately in distinct volumes. The numismatic material will hopefully be fully available to a wider audience within two years, with volumes studying the other objects, as well as the historical and social contexts of the Treasure, appearing soon after.

The cataloguing and study of the Hoxne coins alone is a considerable task. Four denominations of coin were included in the hoard - gold solidi (580), large silver miliarenses (60), smaller silver siliquae (14,640ish) and a few scrappy bronzes (24). J.W.E. Pearce spent many years at the B.M. studying the silver coins of this period and his exemplary and ground-breaking work was published as a series of articles in the 1930s and 1940s. The Hoxne coins provide the stimulus to collate and update Pearce's work on these coins which will hopefully be useful to other numismatists. The collection at the B.M. provides the perfect environment for this type of detailed numismatic research and it is fitting that Pearce's own collection was left

to the Museum to allow others to continue the refinement of his invaluable chronology.

Although the sheer scale of the discovery near Hoxne has resulted in the use of the word 'Treasure' to describe the find, it is in fact one of an increasingly well-known type of late Roman precious metal hoard. The last years of the Roman period are notoriously difficult to interpret archaeologically and finds such as Hoxne offer brilliant, but rare, glimpses into the material culture of the late fourth and early fifth centuries. East Anglia has produced a number of impressive collections of plate and jewellery - the Thetford and Mildenhall Treasures are only two of the more well-known finds. Otherwise, over 90 hoards containing the latest Roman coins to enter Britain are known, almost without exception from East Anglia and southern England. This pattern of discovery is unique from the late antique world and perhaps the study of the Hoxne hoard will provide answers to some of the many questions asked about the enigmatic and murky years of the transition from Roman Britain to Anglo-Saxon England.

Not so many years ago, archaeologists and historians felt that the answers were already known. Relying on the later accounts of sources such as Gildas and Nennius among others, hoards like Hoxne were seen as the result of dramatic and bloody incursions by 'Germanic' pirates and invaders who, after terrorising lowland Britain and driving the Romanised natives from their towns and villas, themselves settled on the vacated land. Today's archaeology is not such a confident beast. It is increasingly becoming clear that the validity of some of the traditional perceptions have been undermined by broader enquiries and new discoveries.

The great majority of the coin hoards from this period close with issues struck for the Emperors Arcadius and Honorius at the Milan mint between AD 397 and 402. The size of the Hoxne hoard has produced a handful of coins (8 out of 15,000!) struck as late as 407-8, including two of the usurper Constantine III. In a recent study of these hoards my own interpretation of the material was that these coins were being used and lost sometime after AD 410, that silver and bronze coins circulated in different areas for different reasons. and that even a series of catastrophic events does not satisfactorily explain why Britain produces more later Roman coin hoards that the rest of the Empire put together.

How many years after 410 coins were circulating in Britain is more difficult to answer. On the whole numismatists would agree that understanding the common practice of clipping the silver siliquae at this period will add considerably to our knowledge. Andrew Burnett at the B.M. and Cathy King of the Ashmolean Museum, have debated this phenomenon in some detail, and came to different conclusions about the date and purpose of clipping. Over 90% of the Hoxne siliquae have been clipped to some extent, varying from slight cutting around the edge, to clipping so severe that the legends were completely removed to leave only an anonymous imperial bust in the centre. By grading the degree of clipping for the first time, together with an extensive metallurgical

survey of the siliquae, it is hoped that Hoxne will inform our discussion of the fate of late Roman silver coins in Britain.

Setting the Hoxne coins within the widest context (numismatically speaking) provides the best possible opportunity of interpreting the phenomenon of hoarding at this date. From the few near contemporary historical snippets that survive, it is clear that for a fortunate section of society, Europe was an extremely comfortably place to live in the early fifth century. The Hoxne hoard represented a scale of wealth unimaginable to the vast majority of the population living in later Roman Britain, but in real terms would have been small potatoes to the Italian senators for whom the Hoxne hoard was equivalent of 2/3 days income! A great deal of work has already been done on these coins, but a great deal more is needed to fully understand the diverse economic and cultural influences that led to the burial and loss of the Hoxne Treasure.

> Peter Guest Hoxne Project Special Assistant Dept. of Coins and Medals Bristish Museum

#### The Jewellery

In addition to the 15,000 coins, the Hoxne treasure contains 29 pieces of gold jewellery, nearly 200 silver items, some of them tiny and fragmentary, and organic material such as bone box-inlays. These are the responsibility of the Department of Prehistoric and Romano-British Antiquities. The descriptive catalogue of the non-coin elements of the hoard was completed by the summer of 1993, but there is still much work to be done before a full publication is ready. Periods of temporary display in the British Museum and at Ipswich for a total of some twelve months during 1993-5 prevented further detailed work at that time, and after that, the overriding priority was to complete the extensive conservation and restoration programme, so as to enable the hoard to be placed on permanent display in the new Weston Gallery of Roman Britain. This was achieved. The new gallery opened in July 1997, and the Hoxne assemblage occupies a prominent place in it.

In normal circumstances, the research programme would have recommenced immediately after the completion of the gallery. However, the Great Court Scheme and the British Museum Study Centre, major building projects now under way at the museum, affect the Prehistoric and Romano-British Department directly and fundamentally, and from the autumn of 1997 we have had to embark on packing and re-location into temporary and scattered accommodation with very restricted access both to our collections and our library facilities.

This difficult situation will continue until the Study Centre is completed, but in spite of the obstacles, we are now beginning to move forward again with the Hoxne programme. More post-conservation, post-restoration photography is required, more scientific examination will probably be needed in due course, and crucially, the drawing of objects for publication, a process which cannot be hurried, will start shortly; all this means that individual objects will be disappearing from display for varying periods of time.

The nature of the gold jewellery and silver tableware and toilet utensils points to the hoard belonging to more than one individual, very likely a family. The range of jewellery, including bracelets in pierced work, one of which bears an inscription with the owner's name (Juliana) belongs firmly to the international style of late-Roman gold: without the sound provenance and hoard association it would be impossible to say where they were made and used within the Empire, though the Latin inscriptions naturally indicate the western Empire. The exceptionally rare body-chain is a particularly significant find, and has led to some new research on this type spanning the Hellenistic to early Byzantine period.

The outstanding features of the silver assemblage include the presence of large sets of matching spoons and ladles, unparalleled in any other late-Roman hoard, and the four decorative pepper-pots, three of which were very fragile and damaged, and have survived only through skilled professional excavation and conservation. Needless to say, they constitute the only concrete evidence so far for the use of pepper, a valuable and expensive spice, in Roman Britain.

There are many intriguing theoretical aspects to pursue, for example the evidence for careful packing of the objects, consistent with the theory that later recovery was envisaged, and the probability that larger silver vessels which would not fit in the wooden box were concealed separately: it is likely that a family which owned at least a hundred silver spoons also possessed large silver bowls, jugs and platters. At a time when the process of hoarding in antiquity is an active field of investigation for archaeologists, it is vital that the evidence provided by a major hoard excavated by professionals is fully examined and

assessed. This will take time, but it is well under way.

Catherine Johns Dept. of Prehistoric and Romano-British Antiquities British Museum

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## A DAY AT CIRENCESTER

13<sup>th</sup>. JULY 1998

For its summer meeting the RFG bravely ventured beyond the boundaries of the railway system, and a very good turnout of about 35 people visited the Corinium Museum at the kind invitation of John Paddock.

John gave the first lecture on the military equipment from Cirencester. The first century material relating to the occupation of the fort at Cirencester (c. AD 47-60) has been published by Webster in the first Cirencester Excavations report (Wacher and McWhirr 1982). John pointed out, however, that there was also Flavian material and as much 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3rd century material as there was 1<sup>st</sup> century material. Most interestingly some of the later material clearly showed evidence of being unfinished and, in some cases, of being failed castings. It has been suggested that the later material might be associated with military engineers brought in to help build the defences, but this scarcely explains the evidence for manufacture.

Even more puzzling is the incidence of the late military equipment of Hawkes and Dunning (1961) type. The presence of these at Cirencester is not surprising given the enhanced status of the town in the fourth century. A recent survey by Nick Griffiths has shown though, that that there is scarcely a villa or rural settlement in the Gloucestershire and Wiltshire area that has not produced examples of the IA and IB types. Can all of these be associated with passing soldiers or officials charged with collecting the *annona*? It is possible that that the status of this equipment needs to be re-assessed.

Lynn Bevan then gave a paper on the Bacchic metalwork recently found in the Midlands. One piece, the very fine jug handle from the Roman fort at Rocester has already been published (Cooper 1996). The other two were both patera handles, and new finds. One came from Brompton, Shropshire and the other from new excavations in the annexe of the Rocester fort. Interestingly the form of the Bacchic mask on the new Rocester patera is very similar to that on the Rocester jug, hinting perhaps at the jug/patera pairing often seen in graves.

Many of the pieces of Bacchic metalwork found previously in Britain have come from graves, but these three pieces had all been found associated with military sites suggesting a devotion to this saviour god amongst the officers. Clearly they had not been casually disposed of as a degree of care had been taken in detaching these handles from the body of the vessels, and on the Rocester patera a second (missing) head had been carefully sawn off perhaps to be used as an amulet. Significantly the annexe has produced other evidence of ritual behaviour in the form of unusual pit deposits.

In the afternoon Emma Harrison and Neil Holbrook gave us an overview of the work on Roman sites that the Cotswold Archaeological Trust has been carrying out. Emma provided an introduction to the recently published work at Kingscote (Timby 1998), and the Time Team investigation of the double courtyard villa at North Leach which the Trust was involved in. From the finds point of view both sites had come with problems associated with loss of context. For Kingscote this was associated with the classic backlog problems - different types of excavation, length of time between excavation and post-excavation etc. etc. For the Time Team experience the problems were associated with the speed of the excavations (many metal finds coming from metal detecting of the spoil), and the demands of television (finds being seized, unrecorded, for display by presenters and the cameras). The Time Team want to go back to North Leach, in the hope they can prove it to be a religious centre and not a villa which would, it appears, be too boring. So the site may be coming again to a screen near you soon.

The Trust is about to publish the fifth volume of Cirencester excavations (Holbrook forthcoming), and Neil gave a paper based on this asking the very pertinent question of what can small finds contribute to a wider understanding of a site and just what is a south-western find. The bones could be used to show urban/rural dichotomies, the pottery the shifting links of the Cirencester region but what of the small finds? This led to a good discussion where it became apparent that there are certain things that the finds community considers self-evident. That you cannot lump all finds of all periods into global analyses; that there is a very big difference between the early and late assemblages; that context is all. I was left, yet again, with the feeling that though we may feel many things self evident, we have still to get them across effectively to the wider archaeological community.

At the end of the lectures John invited those interested to visit the reserve collections and other members of the audience took the opportunity to look at the museum displays. It was therefore a splendid day with interesting and thoughtprovoking lectures and a feast of objects to look at it. Many thanks are due to John Paddock for hosting and organising the day, to Jan Summerfield for arranging it and (from the railway contingent) to Angela Wardle for organising the taxi shuttle between Kemble and Cirencester.

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J. Timby, 1998. Excavations at Kingscote and Wycomb, Gloucestershire (Cirencester). J. Wacher, and A. McWhirr, 1982.

Early Roman occupation at Cirencester Cirencester Excavations

> Hilary Cool 16 Lady Bay Rd., NOTTINGHAM NG2 5BJ

# LATE ANTIQUITY RESEARCH GROUP

LARG was established in 1996 for the coordination and promotion of archaeological and related work on A.D. 300-700 in Europe and the Middle East. It is probably the largest research group for professional research on this subject in Britain and concentrates on the Roman and Byzantine realms and those areas closely connected with them. LARG is based in the UK, and acts both as a national organization and an independent research group to promote and coordinate archaeological research in this period by UK-based scholars. The Group includes some specialists who study the archaeology of AD 300-700 in Britain, but aims to take a much wider view than narrow insularity. LARG has a tripartite structure and comprises the main research group, a national membership and a body of overseas fellows and associates.

#### **Organization and Membership**

LARG's chair is responsible for the research programme, overall administration of the Group, overseas

relations and new membership. The academic secretary is responsible for UK organizational issues and meetings. The chair and secretary are appointed on a permanent basis. The current chair is K.R.Dark and the academic secretary is A.L.Harris. Correspondence regarding membership and overseas fellowships should be addressed to K.R.Dark. LARG, 324 Norbury Avenue, London SW16 3RL, and regarding 'day to day' matters, to the Secretary, Late Antiquity Research Group, Faculty of Letters, University of Reading, Whiteknights, Reading, RG6 6AA, UK. UK membership is restricted in the general run to professional specialists in the archaeology, history and art history of the period concerned. There is also the capacity for postgraduate students to become members, if they are working on closely relevant subjects. Nominations for membership at either level, are given by members to the chair for consideration, with supporting material. All membership is currently

free of charge. Although full membership is restricted to scholars based in the UK, an overseas senior fellowship programme is being established, whereby leading overseas scholars have formal links with LARG. Nominations for this, and suggestions as to how to develop it. are welcome. Recently, an overseas associate membership has been established, equivalent to the UK postgraduate membership. New grades of overseas and UK membership may also be introduced in future, to cope with continuing rapid expansion.

#### Activities

In addition to academic research by LARG itself, the Group holds bimonthly research seminars, at which a member presents the latest results of their current work. These are open to all members free of charge and offer an opportunity to discuss important new research prior to publication. There is also a Summer study visit. All LARG members pursue their own research and are capable of providing mutual assistance on a very extensive series of academic issues. Likewise, the Group can form the context for organizing collaborative research proposals and funding applications.

#### **Group Research Projects**

LARG sponsors two major research programmes of its own: the Istanbul

Archaeological Project, co-directed by its chair, and a combined research programme between LARG members in the UK, analyzing early Byzantine contacts with Britain. Suggestions for joint fieldwork or finds-based projects are welcome.

#### Personal Research Assistance

LARG is able to offer members advice and suggestions regarding planned work of their own and personal research and help establish new relationships between researchers. However, it must be stressed that LARG is not a funding organization, and can offer no direct financial support to UK members, overseas associates or overseas fellows.

#### Web Page and Publications

LARG maintains a Web Page at: <u>http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/~acxla</u> <u>v/larg.html</u> and, recently, it has been agreed that the well-known periodical on Byzantine Studies *Golden Horn* will be an official co-publication of LARG from 1998. An academic papers series is being established in late 1998.

> Ken Dark, LARG, 324 Norbury Avenue, LONDON SW16 3RL

# **RFG COMMITTEE NEWS**

The present committee have been in place since 1994 and two of the members have served since 1990. Not surprisingly, some members are beginning to flag and feel that it is time some new blood was injected into the system. As members will probably be aware, there is no formal mechanism for replacing committee members as the RFG membership as a whole rejected a formal constitution in 1990 and again in 1994. In the past people have found themselves on the committee either by self-nomination or by being made an offer they couldn't refuse by a current committee member, and it is now time to bring this mechanism into play once again. The most pressing need is for someone to take over from Jan Summerfield as Meetings Secretary, but two other volunteers are also needed. If you would like to

serve on the committee, or know someone who would be ideal, please contact Jan (English Heritage, Historic Properties South East Region, 1 High Street, TONBRIDGE TN9 1SG).

I know everybody is over-worked and over-committed these days, but please think about being a committee member. The meetings are organised, the newsletter produced, the mailings sent out by people who are equally over-stretched. If they are not replaced from time to time before they go *ping*, they and the group may both collapse.

## Review

Roman Blood, ISBN 1-85487-973-1, price £5.99 Arms of Nemesis, ISBN 1-85487-947-X, price £5.99 Catilina's Riddle, ISBN 1-85487-889-1, price £6.99 A Murder on the Appian Way, ISBN 1-85487-891-3, price £6.99

By Steven Saylor, published by Robinson

In the good/bad old days when Latin was firmly enshrined in the school curriculum, children quailed at the name of Cicero. Translating his stylised convoluted rhetoric was a bore, and left the impression that his rise up the political ladder was due to people voting for him just to shut him up. So it comes as no surprise that when Steven Savlor started to write an historical thriller-cum-murder mystery with Cicero as hero, he soon found the man impossible to live with on such an intimate daily basis. Relegating Cicero to walk on parts and noises off. Savlor invented a much more sympathetic hero. Gordianus the Finder.

Roman Blood is based on one of Cicero's speeches as a defence lawyer for a man accused of parricide, the most heinous crime known to a Roman. Gordianus (presumably named for the famous knot!) is no wisecracking Falco, but a quiet man with great curiosity, an instinct for the truth and consideration for the poor and weak. Gradually he unravels the threads of greed, hatred, self-seeking and lust that bind the novel's characters together, and that he is sometimes a bit slow on the uptake makes him all the more credible as a person.

This is the first novel in a series intended to sweep from the dictatorship of Sulla through to the

beginnings of Empire. Saylor's work will inevitably be compared to that of Colleen McCullough - she deals with the same period and sometimes the same people - and that of Lindsay Davis - she too has invented a Roman 'detective'. He has read neither, though he has met Davis several times, not only because he fears the dangers of unconscious plagiarism, but also because he works on Roman historical thrillers for a living and so prefers to spend his leisure time doing something different. With four novels in print, another soon to come out, and more on the way, who can blame him for taking a few hours off!

In Arms of Nemesis Gordianus finds himself in Campania, where he moves on the fringes of the Spartacan revolt, hobnobs with Crassus, richest man in Rome, encounters the Sibyl of Cumae, and increases his family. Probably the richest of the series so far in setting, atmosphere, political and personal tension, it is no wonder that Hollywood is interested in this story, which should do Saylor's pocket good, if not justice to his writing.

By the time of *Catilina's Riddle* Gordianus has retired from 'finding' to become a farmer in Etruria, surrounded by neighbours from hell. He cannot escape Roman political intrigue, however, and that old reactionary Cicero embroils him against his will with the charming potential revolutionary Catilina, bugbear of the establishment. The novel is awash with headless bodies and disarticulated bones, shifting between the destruction of Gordianus's rural idyll and the destruction of Catilina's political ambitions.

Lurking behind Catilina are Caesar and Pompey, and they move closer to central stage in *A Murder on the Appian Way*, which covers the murder of patrician-turned-plebeian Publius Clodius Pulcher. Murder and intrigue, riot and arson are thoroughly mixed in this book, stirred up to fever pitch by a mass of politicians, their wives, sisters, and mistresses. Gordianus, getting steadily older and greyer, continues to plot his way through the mess and to bring it all to a tidy conclusion.

An American by birth but a Roman by passion, Saylor's research is obviously both ex- and intensive, and is matched by his grasp of political machinations and the seemingly effortless prose that only comes with careful and close rewriting. He is clearly a master of his chosen craft and has produced a thoroughly enjoyable series, with no formulaic reworking of one good idea but changes of plot, mood and setting, and a wealth of interesting characters, both historical and invented. He has recently completed a lecture tour of Britain, but should be back in about two years' time. As modest and witty a speaker as he is a writer, his talks, like his novels, should not be missed.

Nina Crummy, 2 Hall Road, Copford, COLCHESTER

## Notes and News

### **Treasure Act**

The RFG together with the 700 to 1700 Finds Research Group and the Archaeology Section of the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) are planning a joint meeting in March 1999 to examine how the this Act and its pilot recording schemes are working. The venue and precise date have yet to be confirmed.

It is hoped that the meeting will put forward the views of all communities which this Act impinges upon. If you think you could help in the planning, please contact Jan Summerfield (address on page 1).

## **IFA Finds Group**

The next meeting of this group will be in Durham on October 1<sup>st</sup> 1998. The provisional theme is *Finds - the Academic perspective*. Further details from: Irena Lentowicz, 25 Highwood View, DURHAM DH1 3DT.

#### York Indexes

The York Archaeological Trust has embarked on a programme of publishing indexes to their reports in the Archaeology of York series. Members may like to know that an index now exists to Fascicules 1 to 5 of Volume 17 (the small finds). These include Arthur McGregor's reports on the Roman finds from the sewer at Church Street (17/1), and from Skeldergate and Bishophill (17/2), and Dominic Tweddle's report on the material from Parliament Street and other city centre sites (17/4) which also includes Roman material.

#### Books, books, books

Enclosed with this newsletter are a leaflet detailing a special offer on books from the CBA, and one giving details of publications by the Cotswold Archaeological Trust (see also p. 8).

If you are publishing reports that you think might be of interest to the members, remember we are always happy to publicise them in the *Newsletter*.

#### Email

One of the (very few) members who responded to my email queries in the last *Newsletter*, suggested it would be useful if a list of email addresses for members was circulated.

If other people also think this is a good idea, I'm prepared to coordinate and circulate such a list, but I will need you to send me your email addresses.

Contact me at :-

#### hilary.cool@btinternet.com