

LUCERNA



THE ROMAN FINDS GROUP
NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 39, September 2010

Lucerna

Roman Finds Group Newsletter 39

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Notes for contributors

Contributions are always welcome – particularly on new finds –so please send them to us, and share them with the rest of the Roman Finds Group!

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Editorial

Welcome to the 40th^h edition of Lucerna.

Firstly we must apologise for the lack of a Lucerna earlier in the year and late arrival of this newsletter. This has primarily been caused by a lack of articles submitted. A plea earlier in the year prompted several FLOs to get in touch, but unfortunately their contributions have been delayed.

Thanks go to Michel Feugère for his article on the artefacts project, David Griffiths for his book review and Richard Hobbs for his notes on the Norwich meeting.

Emma Durham & Lindsey Smith

CRISIS - YOUR GROUP NEEDS YOU!

The RFG in is crisis – you may have noticed the absence of meetings and a winter newsletter this year. The committee members, all busy people, are running out of steam and although we have plenty of ideas, we do not have the time to implement them. We are looking for new committee members who are prepared to help with the organisation of the group, especially with arranging meetings. Committee meetings are held in central London and we can assist with expenses.

If there is anyone out there who is prepared to host/help to arrange a meeting, without joining the committee, we would also be delighted to hear from you and without your contributions our hard-working editors are unable to produce regular issues of *Lucerna*.

So if you can help, or can write something for *Lucerna*, however brief, please get in touch with Nicola or our editors, Emma and Lindsey. The RFG has been a useful forum for everyone with an interest in Roman finds since 1988. We all want it to continue and with your help, it will.

Study Day Reviews

ROMAN FINDS GROUP

FISHBOURNE

7th September 2009

The day began with an introduction to the new Collections Discovery Centre by Rob Symmons, the Curator of Archaeology at Fishbourne Roman Palace. The Centre was designed not only to house the collections and provide room for researchers to work, but also to provide access for the public. To this end the various sections of the store (sensitive store, bulk collections, conservation lab) are all visible through large windows. Panels describe the work undertaken in the Centre.

The Centre houses not only the collections from the Palace itself, but also finds from excavations conducted within a one mile radius of the site and from the District Museum, including the sites of Chilgrove villa and St. Pancras cremation cemetery.

The move into the new Centre lent itself to a complete resorting of the finds from Palace excavations. All of the metal finds have now been sorted into material, site and context order and the information stored on a computer catalogue. This process is now being undertaken on the bulk finds. Future sorting will also tackle the finds and archives of the Chichester Archaeological Society/Group.

As well as caring for the finds currently held in the store, plans also include possibly sieving the spoil heaps from the excavations carried out by Barry Cunliffe in the 1960s in order to collect small finds such as fish bones which were not collected at the time.

Denise Allen, Deputy Director, Andante Travels, then gave an overview of glass in Roman Britain. Complete glass vessels such as the Portland Vase have long been studied as objects of art, but analysis of glass needs to include

typologies, examination of the distribution of different types and the details of manufacture. Although there is no evidence for glass making in Britain, there was glass working.

Laura Burnett, Finds Liaison Officer spoke about the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Sussex. While Roman finds account for 40% of the finds reported to the scheme nationally, in Sussex they account for only 20% of finds. However, this lower number could in part be accounted for by single records which represent multiple finds from one location. While there are not a lot of finds from the Weald, there is a concentration along the coast, and the PAS data generally supports that found on the HER.

Rob Webley, Finds Liaison Office for Hampshire discussed a bound captive figure from Andover (HAMP-378231). These figures are found in a variety of locations in the northwest frontier provinces and are thought to date to the second and third centuries.

James Kenny, District Archaeologist, Chichester District Council discussed the history of archaeology in the Chichester area and the development of the palace at Fishbourne and the town at Chichester.

Jane Ellis-Schön, Collections Manager and Curator of Archaeology Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museum gave an interesting talk on the Roman copper alloy vessel hoard found by a metal detectorist in 2005, from Kingston Deverill, Wiltshire.

Helen Rees, Curator of Archaeology, Winchester Museums, talked about excavations at Winchester. In the 1970s and 80s these concentrated on the suburbs and city defences and included cemeteries at Victoria Road.

Chris Lydamore, Museum of Harlow brought along replica Roman beverage infusers and warmly (!) encouraged some light-hearted discussion on their potential function through modern experimental use.

Roman Finds Group/Norfolk Museums Service meeting

NORWICH CASTLE MUSEUM

30th January 2010

The meeting in Norwich in January was very well attended with approximately 100 delegates. This was largely down to the high level of interest in the various activities and study days which the museum hosts on a regular basis: a large proportion of the attendees were not Roman Finds Group members but locals. Thanks to Adrian Marsden and John Davies for helping to organise the meeting.

In addition to the talks the meeting provided the opportunity for the delegates to view glass and pewter from Hockwold, which was laid out at the back of the lecture theatre.

We don't have detailed notes on the contents of all the talks, but a list of speakers and subjects runs as follows:

- Richard Hobbs (British Museum) 'The Stafford Allen box: a Victorian gentleman's collection of antiquities and curios' (see below)
- Ralph Jackson (British Museum) 'Romano-British Oculists' stamps revisited' (see below)
- David Gurney (Norfolk Landscape Archaeology) 'A task of such peculiar interest': an introduction to Roman Norfolk
- Harriet Foster (Norfolk Museums Service) 'The late Romano-British glass from Hockwold in the wider archaeological context'
- Andrew Rogerson (Norfolk Landscape Archaeology) 'Roman Norfolk through the eyes of the Historic Environment Record'
- Will Bowden (Nottingham University) 'The 2009 Caistor Research Project'
- Adrian Marsden (Norfolk Landscape Archaeology) 'Coin forgery in Roman Norfolk'

Detailed notes on two of the talks are provided below.

Richard Hobbs (British Museum) *'The Stafford Allen box: a Victorian gentleman's collection of antiquities and curios'*

The 'Stafford Allen' box was acquired by the BM in 2008. The box itself is made of rose wood and walnut inlaid and dates to the 17th century. Inside is an assortment of about 270 artefacts distributed between 3 custom-made trays. Most of the artefacts are Romano-British, although there are a number of non-Roman items, such as Venetian glass beads and a few medieval and post medieval items. Although most of the items were either sewn into the trays or glued down, a number were 'free floating' objects, sometimes attached to pieces of annotated card. One of these items is a rather splendid Etruscan inscription on a bronze plaque, which can be dated to the 3rd to 2nd centuries BC, and records the name of an Etruscan deity Culsans, later associated with Roman Janus. We know that it was in the collection of Filippo Buonarroti, great-grandnephew of Michelangelo in Florence, where it was recorded in Dempster's *Etruria Regalia* in 1723, but until now it had considered to be lost.

A large amount of genealogical research and a fortuitous connection with what we know about the Croydon hoard of Viking material (discovered in 1862) led to identity of the collector being established as William Allen (1808-1897), brother of Stafford, in whose family the box had been kept after William's death (and handed down through the generations). One of the most interesting aspects of the collection is that a large number of artefacts (roughly 50) are annotated as coming from 'Ad Fines', which we know to be Roman Braughing in Hertfordshire. The actual Roman name for Braughing is not known: 'Ad fines' is a misnomer. The name derives from a manuscript associated with one Richard of Cirencester, which provides the names of various places in Roman Britain in the form of an itinerary. The manuscript was published in good faith by William Stukeley in 1757 and the name 'Ad fines' (as the Roman name for Braughing) continued to be used in literature on Roman Britain up for some time after. Although Allen, when collecting his material, believed that Braughing was called 'Ad Fines' this doesn't alter the fact that a large number of his

objects came from Braughing. They may well have come to light as a result of the construction of the Great Eastern Railway, which cut through Braughing in 1861. It is known that many of the items discovered ended up in private collections, so it seems likely that William acquired a group of material.

The William Allen box is now on display in Room 49 (the Weston Gallery of Roman Britain) at the British Museum. It is hoped that a full discussion of the box and its contents will appear in the next (or next but one) edition of *the Antiquaries Journal*.

Ralph Jackson (British Museum) '*Romano-British Oculists' stamps revisited*'

Of all the diseases in antiquity, those affecting the eyes were, if not the most feared, probably the most troublesome, frequent and widespread. Blindness, or even hindered vision, was a serious handicap, especially to breadwinners, and a disproportionately large part of Greek and Roman medical literature concerns eye diseases, in particular remedies for eye infections. Foremost were *lippitudo* and *aspritudo*, which between then correspond to conjunctivitis, trachoma and other eye diseases displaying the symptoms of inflamed and running eyes.

Of 'eye specialists' whose names have survived the majority were the *auctores* of eye-salves, as recorded in the extensive pharmacopoeias and, in still greater numbers, on the dies of *collyrium* stamps. There is no doubt that some of the expensive long-distance imports were effective. *Lycium* is a case in point. One variety was obtained from the branches and roots of a tannin-rich shrub of the Boxthorn family which grew in Lycia (amongst other places) and from which the drug took its name. Even better for eye diseases was Indian *lycium* extracted from shrubs of the Berberis family. *Lycium* was still in use in India in the 19th century, whence some was taken to Britain and found to be effective in the treatment of conjunctival ophthalmia. Hardly surprising, for its constituent, berberine, has an antibiotic action.

The word *collyrium* was understood to mean an eye medicine. The great majority were dried sticks of *collyria*. In the North-West provinces of the empire the sticks were impressed, prior to drying, with *collyrium* stamps. These small rectangular stone tablets had dies cut in one or more of the faces on the narrow sites. The inscriptions, usually in Latin, are retrograde to enable reading of the impression. They generally comprise three components in one or two lines: the name of the medicament, a personal name and the name of the ailment or the indication for use, almost invariably connected with the eyes. Well over 300 *collyrium* stamps are known, the overwhelming majority of which come from the provinces of Gallia, Germania and Britannia. It has been observed that the British *collyrium*-stamps, virtually without exception, come from sites located on the main Roman road network. Furthermore the majority come from towns or their hinterland, and their even distribution may be more than coincidence: healers based for example in a town would have had a large enough catchment, and the proximity of healer's premises to arterial roads would have facilitated travel for them or their patients.

Occasionally, residues in the containers (for the *collyria*) have proved susceptible to scientific analysis, but the organic component has usually proved difficult to detect and categorise. The relatively recent discovery of a grave near Lyon, however, provided the opportunity for comprehensive modern analysis of a comparatively large number of properly excavated *collyrium* sticks.

(Thanks to Ralph for kindly providing a copy of his lecture notes from which this summary is taken.)

Richard Hobbs
Prehistory & Europe, The British Museum.

The Artefacts Project:

An Encyclopaedia of Archaeological Small Finds

During the last three decades, archaeology *benefited* from two major changes: a complete renewal of methods, with the generalized use of computers and the internet; and a spectacular increase in the mass of available data, partly due to the development of large rescue excavations. It also *suffered* from two major changes – the same ones. One of the reasons is that the marvellous tools we now have at our disposal were neither generally nor consistently used to balance the inconveniences of such a huge documentation.

There was a time when I complained about not having enough data to study, and this was even a cliché among people studying small finds, but as time passed, I no longer find that this is so. On the contrary, we all know that we ignore an increasing part of the available documentation, even when it is published (let alone what is not). A single researcher cannot cover all the documentation available, and so s/he is forced to reduce the scope of any study undertaken, which is certainly contrary to the overall aim of any research.

I believe that the time has come to change our working methods, *i.e.* to build international databases that allow specialists to share the available data, as physicians or biologists have long ago achieved. We now have the tools to make this little revolution happen, but only if we accept the consequences of this new era...

This project, **Artefacts**, that I describe below for *Lucerna* readers, should not become a book either in the near future, or ever. Its aim is to bring to common knowledge the thousands of objects which are available, either in publications, museums, archaeological archive stores or private collections. In comparison with existing databases, it has the ambition to classify the objects as soon as they are registered, thus allowing another researcher not only to find them, but also to improve the scientific information available for that particular artefact-type. I know that **Artefacts** will never be exhaustive, yet it can provide the main data (identification, date, bibliography...) for a great

number of objects, thus becoming a highly useful tool for archaeologists, museums and collectors.

The working group on **Artefacts** is open to anyone having the qualifications to join it; these are detailed at the end of this article.

1/ An online database

Artefacts is an online database, which means that it can only be opened or modified while using a quick-access (adsl) internet connection. It is presently not available to the public on the internet but makes use of dedicated software. For security as well as convenience, the researcher has a copy of the images on his hard drive, and whatever he changes among images is first registered on his computer, then sent to the server. Other information, such as changes in the text or keys, are registered directly on the server.

One of the consequences of this is that the data sent by one author can be seen by everyone, so information is immediately shared. But of course, at this stage, the network must be limited to confirmed and responsible researchers, as any of them is allowed to make any change s/he wants in the database. The whole thing now contains 3757 type files, for a total of 13444 registered objects, which is probably a quarter, if not a tenth, of the 'critical mass' which will make **Artefacts** a useful database.

2/ An organized corpus

The principle of **Artefacts** is to register the objects in the correct section, with a proper period identification, which of course is something which can be improved in the course of time. The entry number given to every type contains two identification elements: a 3-letter code refers to a category, for example FIB for brooches (fr. 'fibule') or AJG for terret (fr. 'anneau de joug'). It is followed by 4 numbers, the first one linked to the chronology: 4 is Roman (30 BC – AD 500), 5 is early medieval (AD 500-800), etc. A type is therefore identified by a short code, like FIB-4232 or AML-2005 (the first one being a Roman fibula and the latter a La Tène amulet). Of course, dating in Britain and other European countries is different to that of France, and even within Britain there is not a straight switch into the Roman period in AD 43 for all areas – indeed, in some areas there was no Roman period. Similarly, only the first decade or so of the 5th century can be said to be 'Roman'. A qualification can be used here

for finds from particular regions, just as it can for items that have very specific date-ranges within the Roman period.

Let us look at a typical **Artefacts file**, for example, AJG-4011 (Fig. 1). This file belongs to the Roman section (DICO-4) and is described as an ‘anneau de joug’. There is a description and a commentary but no ‘parallels’, as we do not know of any study of this type at the moment. The file is signed (‘modif’) and associated with a large chronology (AD 100-400), which is only a guess at the moment. There is only one object in this file, a find from Evans (F, 39) which is illustrated in the picture window. There could be several occurrences and as many pictures as we like, if it proved necessary.



Fig 1. Artefacts File

3/ How to register an object ?

How does one register an object in **Artefacts**... ? Let us take a concrete example: s/he first needs to be an archaeologist to recognize a terret ... If not, for example if s/he only guesses that this is a Roman item, s/he would have to look at all the images of the Roman section one by one until s/he recognizes a similar object. But by knowing what it is, s/he can very easily find the code for a terret in the list of codes in alphabetical order, then check through all the terrets in the database (Fig. 2) to see if examples of the same type have been registered (bottom left of the window). Finally s/he can access the file and fill in the data for the object.

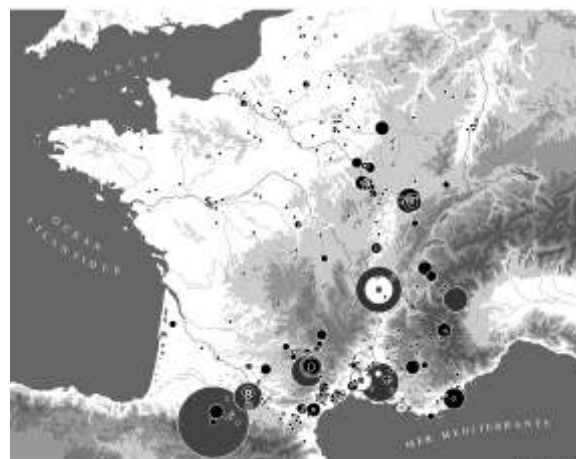
Fig 2. Object album



The type files use two ‘libraries’, one for the bibliography (BIBLIO-DICOBJ), with the usual abbreviation ‘Name date’, and another for the sites quoted (COORD), which has facilities to locate a site in any country and import its coordinates (Fig. 3). The system allows the items from any file, or from a group of files, to appear on distribution maps automatically edited in a post-script format. There is a variety of maps on the server, for any region, country or larger areas. See, for example, the map of Roman brooches (FIB-4 etc) in France presently in the database (Fig. 4).



Figs 3 & 4. Location coordinates and map
4/ An international project, really... ?



At the moment, **Artefacts** is a project initiated by researchers from Southern France,

which has so far raised interest from researchers from the whole country. But, technically as well as scientifically, there is no reason why it should be restricted to one country. In the pre-Roman Iron Age as well as in Roman or later times, many object-types travelled long distances, and their study cannot be limited to the boundaries of our modern states. There is, therefore, a strong need for such a project to remain wide open to contributions from other countries, which will benefit from the database just like our fellow citizens.

Artefacts is a French software: the lists, aids and descriptions are in French, but there is no reason why we should not work on translations in different languages, depending on the investment of researchers from other countries.

We therefore strongly wish to welcome British colleagues to our working-group!

5/ Who can join the group ?

Contributing to **Artefacts** requests the following abilities :

- a specialized interest in small finds, either in general or in one category (for example, lamps, militaria, brooches, tools...etc). The time needed to use **Artefacts** is only justified if you are either working on small finds as a job, or have a bit of time to devote to them as a private hobby...;
- dealing with the images presumes that you are familiar with the *ad hoc* softwares: how to cut a picture and paste it onto a white background, change its size and add a graphic scale;
- to work on the database you need to be familiar with basics computer processes: such as importing images, saving in the right folder etc. ;
- last but not least, as everything is in French at the moment, you need some basic knowledge of this language, if only to recognise the types, or the fields and their contents....

Starting with **Artefacts** needs constant support, so I advise potential candidates to use a Skype or IChat account to allow me to hold their hand. On both of those, I am available during work hours under the following name: 'michelfeugereipc'. If you want to know more about **Artefacts**, please do not hesitate to contact me, either like that or by e-mail. I really hope this will bring some of you to get involved with

Artefacts and enlarge our present working-group.

If you would rather start out by asking a few questions of a fellow Briton who has already looked at the software, then contact Nina Crummy (ninacrummy@yahoo.com).

Michel Feugère

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Membership update

We remind members that fees are due in October. Please pay as soon as possible. Membership is still only £8 (for individuals) and £11 for two people at the same address. Standing order is also available, please ask Angela for a form or print one from the website.

In order to reduce costs and keep members better informed, we would be grateful if members could provide an email address. This will only be used to relay up and coming information on events such as the study days and the newsletter will continue to be printed.

It has been suggested that in order to facilitate communication between members, the RFG could produce a database of all members. This would include contact details (such as a postal address and/or email and areas of interest or specialist interest. The list would be circulated to members only and you have the option to opt out if you do not wish to be included.

If you are happy to have your details circulated, please contact Angela with your name, specialist interest and contact details (postal or email address).

Books books books books books books books books books books

Book Review

***The Glass Workers of Roman London* by Shepherd, J. and Wardle, A. London: Museum of London Archaeology.**

The discovery of over 70kg of broken vessel glass and production waste at 35 Basinghall Street, London, in 2005 (excavated by Museum of London Archaeology) provides a rare opportunity for the study of glass production in the Roman world. This lavishly illustrated and compact book offers an excellent introduction to ancient glass production beginning with its origins in the eastern Mediterranean and later in Roman Italy and Gaul. Shepherd and Wardle provide a step-by-step guide to glass production in Roman London and how the various 'ingredients' affected these processes, from sourcing imported raw materials and recycled broken glass (cullet), the furnace, and the subsequent production waste (e.g. moils, threads and trails). Detailed photographs and discussion of experimental research undertaken by David Hill and Mark Taylor significantly enhances the readers understanding of Roman glass production, whilst providing useful information on the waste products and what is left behind in the archaeological record.

The authors discuss why relatively little glass is found on Roman sites, highlighting the importance of recycling in the ancient world. In addition to the excavations at Basinghall Street, there are a further 20 sites with evidence of glass production (notably Guildhall Yard) in Roman London. Basinghall Street is located in the Upper Walbrook valley, on the outskirts of the town in close proximity to other small scale craft workshops, but not too far away from the more densely populated urban centre where the majority of customers would have lived and worked. A wide range of high-status and more

utilitarian vessels were produced at the site, indicating a demand for glass products from different social classes. The discovery of thousands of moils (each representing one vessel) suggests that substantial quantities of glass wares were manufactured at the nearby workshop. A full analysis of the glass from Basinghall Street is currently underway, providing important data for research on the scale of workshop production and quantifying an important aspect of the Roman economy, a field of study often difficult to identify due to deposition and preservation issues. The results are eagerly anticipated.

David Griffiths

Kentish Sites and Sites of Kent: a miscellany of four archaeological excavations

by Phil Andrews, Kirsten Egging Dunwoody, Chris Ellis, Andrew Hutcheson, Christopher Phillpotts, Andrew Powell and Jörn Schuster
Wessex Archaeology Report 24, pub. 2009
ISBN 978-1-874350-50-7, XXIII+275pp, 110
b/w figs, 34 b/w pls, online
appendices, Hardback, Price £10

This volume presents the results of archaeological investigations undertaken at four sites in Kent. The two 'linear' schemes: the West Malling and Leybourne Bypass and Weatherlees-Margate-Broadstairs Wastewater Pipeline, provided transects across the landscape revealing settlement and cemetery evidence of Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon date. Two Bronze Age metalwork hoards were also recovered and a variety of World War II features.

Of special interest are two cemeteries along the wastewater pipeline: a small cremation cemetery with burials deposited in caskets and a

mixed-rite cemetery with some burials in amphorae, and one containing a so far unique late Roman Rheinzabern samian jug.

Medieval settlement remains included sunken-featured buildings at West Malling, Fulston Manor, and Star Lane, Manston, that appear to belong to a type of building specific to Kent that had combined uses as bakeries, brewhouses, and/or kitchens. A short study of these, their distribution, form and possible functions, is included.

In addition to evidence for Bronze Age occupation, Manston Road, Ramsgate produced Anglo-Saxon settlement evidence with six sunken-featured buildings and a sizeable assemblage of domestic items.

Living and Working in Roman and Later London: Excavations at 60-63 Fenchurch Street

by Vaughan Birbeck and Jörn Schuster

Wessex Archaeology Report 25, 2009

ISBN 978-1-874350-52-1, XIII+138pp, 71 col figs, Hardback, Price £10

Excavations in advance of redevelopment for a prestigious office building in the east of the City revealed 10 broad phases of activity, ranging between the pre-Roman and post-medieval periods, with a focus on the 1st and 2nd centuries AD.

Roman Fenchurch Street follows the line of earlier ditches. For the first time, the entire width of the Roman road has been exposed, permitting adjustment of its course in the street plan of Londinium. Iron pipe collars demonstrate water management along the street and to the rear of the 2 plots identified on site. The 17 Roman buildings (later 1st-3rd century AD) show mixed domestic and commercial/industrial uses, including metalworking and butchery.

Although disturbed by modern buildings, later Roman finds recovered from medieval and post-medieval pits indicate continuity of activity, but there is a genuine lack of Saxon occupation. A peculiar deposition of animal bone in a medieval pit may provide evidence for ritual/magic practices.

Comparison with the adjacent site of Lloyd's Register demonstrates the considerable differences that can occur in the occupation history of two adjacent sites. The volume includes reports on the finds and environmental assemblages.

Armement et auxiliaires gaulois (Ile-Ier siècles avant notre ère) by

Lionel Pernet. 2010 75 € + 8 € de frais de port et d'emballage (ISBN : 978-2-35518-011-8).

This book offers a comprehensive and renewed vision on the subject of gallic auxiliaries during the Late Roman Republic. To fully understand this phenomenon, this study relies primarily on archaeological sources as well as on historical sources and ancient art. The area of study concerns Gaul in general, including Cisalpine and Transalpine Gaul, as well as the Alpine region. The archaeological groups of objects used for the study come mainly from warriors graves selected in modern day Northern Italy, Slovenia, Switzerland, Western Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium and France.

Chronologically, they range from the beginning of the 2nd to the end of the 1st century BC. The main part of the project is the establishment of a catalogue of 450 warrior graves which is organised geographically. One of the study's strong points is that all the weapons studied have been re-examined and some re-drawn from different museum collections. This allows a better understanding of the evolution of Celtic weaponry at the end of the Iron Age and how it eventually merged with Roman weaponry. A large part of the analysis focuses on the

typology of these weapons, e.g. the Coolus-Mannheim helmets and the republican gladii. The combination of archaeological sources with historical texts enables the study to conclude with a short history of the Gallic auxiliaries at the end of the Republic which in turn sheds light upon their role in the transition of Republic to Empire.

Les sanctuaires de périphérie urbaine en Gaule romaine by

Ludvine Pechoux. 2010 72€ + 7,20 € de frais de port et d'emballage (ISBN : 978-2-35518-012-5).

Located at the gates of towns, the suburbia supply some of the most beautiful examples of Gallo-roman religious architecture.

Paradoxically, these large sanctuaries possess a prestigious architecture, but do not belong to the inner urban tissue of the town itself. However, they were not all of the same importance.

Like in Greece and in Rome, these suburban sanctuaries in Gaul gathered at the border between the town and the countryside a very wide range of communities. Studying their architectural and topographical characteristics, as well as the gods and the rituals they welcomed, reveals their different status. They were attended by different types of population and highlighted the new communal identities that were born with the building of new Gallo-roman capitals. They first emerged at the level of the neighbourhood, around small places of worship in the hands of small groups. Other places of worship were aimed at larger urban communities. Some sanctuaries created monumental gates to the town aiming at showing to travellers how powerful the urban elites were. Their existence depended on the degree of organisation and on the influence of Rome in the town. Some sanctuaries, which are qualified tutelary, are undoubtedly among the most important worship places for public religion of all urbes. Built during the second century, they contributed to a shift of the places of representation from the centre of the town to their suburban fringe.

Finally, other sites aimed at uniting the city as a whole. They were monumental buildings with an original architecture. Some perpetuated pre-roman worship places, but became public places at the end of the first century. They were built to welcome large crowds and their suburban location made it easy for every one to go there. They were at the top of a civic religion which spread over the territory following different schemes.

Proving the success of Rome imperial policy and expressing pax romana, the suburbs appear to be the privileged places for representing communities.

news conferences study days news conferences study days news study

Boom and Bust in Romano-British Purbeck

2nd October 2010

A symposium held at [Dorset County Museum](#), 66 High West Street, Dorchester, DT1 1XA on a 'Villa Economy and its Portable Antiquities in a Wider Context' by Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society (DNH&AS). An exploration of the research and portable antiquities from the Bucknowle Romano-British Villa near Corfe Castle in Purbeck (as published in 2009 as a Dorset Monograph) with the specialists who contributed to the report present to answer questions and explain the evidence. We will see how the villa emerges from a fascinating prehistoric background to become part of the local Purbeck picture during the Romano-British period. This is a unique opportunity to gain a better understanding of this fascinating local site. The Bucknowle villa gave up much more than evidence of buildings, affording us a tantalising glimpse into how people might have made a living at that time. We will look at how this dovetails with the evidence from the rest of the country and indeed with mainland Europe. For more information contact Jane Edis, tel 07802 956 648 (mob), email jiedis@aol.com.

New light on the Roman North East

9th October 2010

Formerly 'From Tweed to Tees'. Re-assessing Roman life and society in North-East England by the Archaeological and Architectural Society of Durham and Northumberland (AASDN), held at County Hall, Durham. The traditional image of Roman society in north-east England has been of one dominated by the military. Not surprisingly, Hadrian's Wall and the forts of the northern frontier have proved a focus for much

archaeological research in the region over the last hundred years. More recently, however, an increasing number of native and civilian settlements are being excavated allowing archaeologists to develop a more sophisticated understanding of the impact of Roman rule on the indigenous population and the relationship between the army and the non-military population. This conference will assess how our understanding of life and society in north-east England in the Roman period has changed, looking back at past work, exploring current projects and looking forward to new developments. Speakers to include: Nick Hodgson, David Mason, David Petts, and Philippa Walton. Tickets go on sale from 9.00am on Monday September 20th, which include buffet lunch. These events often sell out quickly so don't delay in making a booking on or after September 20th 2010. For more information contact Archaeology Section at Regeneration and Economic Development, Durham County Council, The Rivergreen Centre, Aykley Heads, Durham DH1 5TS, tel 0191 370 8712, email archaeology@durham.gov.uk, web www.romansociety.org/events/roman-society-centenary/conferences.html. The cost is £10.

Roman Villas in Kent and Surrey

23rd October 2010

Held at the Old Sessions Lecture Theatre, North Holmes Campus, Canterbury Christ Church University, Canterbury, 2 to 5.30pm. A joint conference with the Surrey Archaeological Society and Council for Kentish Archaeology. Programme includes: Introduction to the Surrey Villas and Ashted Roman Villa (by Dr David Bird); Abinger Roman Villa (by Nikki Cowlard and Emma Corke); and Rescuing Roman Villas in Kent (by Brian Philp). Car parking available on site, but charges may apply. Tickets and bookings with SAE to main CKA address. For

more information contact Ruth Plummer at Conference Organiser, c/o Council for Kentish Archaeology (CKA), 7 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8HP, tel 020 8777 7872, email davru58-aeol@yahoo.co.uk, web www.the-cka.fsnet.co.uk. The cost is £5.

What's new in Roman Scotland? **23rd October 2010**

2010 is the 1600th anniversary of AD 410, often seen as the "end" of Roman Britain. It is also the 1800th anniversary of the last major Roman invasion of Scotland, by Septimius Severus. To mark these anniversaries, the Glasgow Archaeological Society is holding a day seminar along with the Roman Society, Britain's premier society for Roman studies, which celebrates its centenary this year. The event is to be held 9.30am to 5pm at St Mungo's Museum of Religious Life and Art, 2 Castle Street, Glasgow G4 0RH. This event is intended for a general audience, and aims to convey something of the excitement of recent and current finds, perspectives and debates in Roman Scotland. Other fee options: 12GBP Student; 5GBP light sandwich lunch. Cheques payable to 'Glasgow Archaeological Society'. For more information contact The Treasurer at Glasgow Archaeological Society, Rockingham, Shore Road, Kilcreggan, Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire G84 0HW, email info@glasarchsoc.org.uk, web www.glasarchsoc.org.uk/?page_id=283. The cost is £10 GAS/RS members / 15 other.

Emperors, Usurpers and Tyrants **30th & 31st October 2010**

To commemorate the 1600th anniversary of the End of Roman Britain, and to celebrate The Roman Society's centenary, Cardiff University and the Monmouthshire Antiquarian Association are hosting a two-day conference to explore the evidence for Roman continuity in western Britain in the 5th century. The archaeological evidence, however, indicates that a Roman way-of-life and perhaps formal Roman administration too, continued in

Western Britain for far longer than further east where the coming of the Angles, Saxons and other German settlers marks the beginning of English history. The conference will include a wide range of papers on the history and archaeology of 5th century Wales and Western Britain, delivered by experts at the forefront of current research who have been invited to speak on their specialist subjects. Themes and topics include the survival of town life, the Roman army, Roman and 'post'-Roman material culture and the transition to Christianity, as well as coinage, pottery and inscriptions. Members of the audience will be able to put questions to the experts during a 'Question Time' panel discussion on the second day. For more information contact Claire Rees at School of History and Archaeology, Cardiff University, Cardiff, South Glamorgan CF10 3EU, tel 029 20870505, email ReesCL@cardiff.ac.uk, web www.cf.ac.uk/hisar/newsandevents/archaeology/emperors-usurpers-tyrants-the-history-and-archaeology-of-western-britain-from-ad-350-to-500.html.

Recent Roman Research - what's new? **27th November 2010-09-09**

A day at the Priory Centre, Lincoln to review the results from recent excavations of Roman sites throughout the East Midlands. Speakers include Matt Beamish (University Leicester Archaeological Services), Lynden Cooper ((University Leicester Archaeological Services), Mick Jones (Lincoln City), Dr David Knight (Trent and Peak Archaeology), Dr Steve Malone (Archaeological Project Services), Simon Savage (Pre-construct Archaeology), Craig Spence (Bishop Grosseteste University College, Lincoln), Adam Thompson (Salford University). For more information contact Daryl Garton at Meeting Secretary, CBA East Midlands, 12 Collington Street, Beeston, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire NG9 1FJ, email daryl@dgarton.plus.com, web www.britarch.ac.uk/cbaem.. The cost is £100 full / 50 students.

TAG 2010

17th-19th December 2010

The 32nd Theoretical Archaeology Group annual meeting will be held at the University of Bristol. Sessions on any theoretical theme are welcome, but particularly on 'Science and Theory'. Online registration and call for papers will be opened in due course. For more information contact organising committee at Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Bristol, 43 Woodland Road, Bristol, Avon BS8 1UU, tel 0117 954 6050, email tag-2010@bristol.ac.uk, web www.bristol.ac.uk/archanth/tag.