

LUCERNA



THE ROMAN FINDS GROUP
NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 32, September 2006

Lucerna

Roman Finds Group Newsletter 32

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Notes for contributors

E-mailed text should be sent as either a .doc, .txt or .rtf file. Please use sufficient formatting to make the hierarchy of any headings clear, and do not embed illustrations of graphs in the text but send them as separate files. E-mailed illustrations should preferably be simple line drawings or uncluttered b/w photos and sent as .tif or .jpg files. No textured backgrounds, please.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2006/7

Annual subscriptions of £8 (or £11 for two members at the same address) are due on **October 1st** for the year 2006/7. Thank you to everyone who paid the subscription promptly last year - and if you are among the few who have not yet paid I am most willing to receive any arrears.

Please contact me if you would prefer to pay by standing order, or alternatively you can download a form from the web site (www.romanfinds.org.uk).

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Editorial

Welcome to the 32nd edition of Lucerna. I'm very pleased to be able to provide a summary of Philip Kiernan's important research on Roman model objects; please contact Philip direct if you are able to provide him with material which he may not be aware of. I would also be interested to hear from anyone who has a view on the unusual silver spoon I have described here (p. 4).

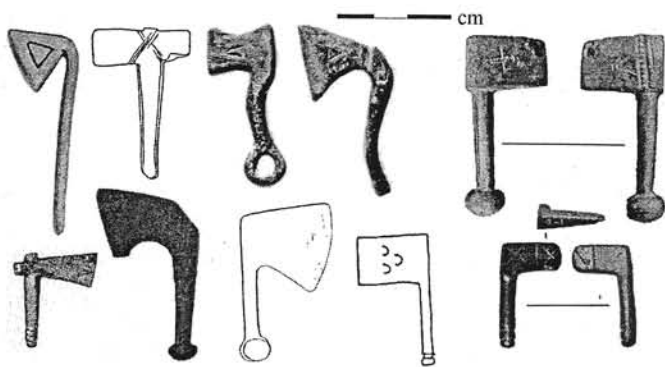
This issue includes reviews of two study days which have taken place since the last Lucerna, the regionality conference in Oxford, and the RFG site visit to Silchester. There is also an extensive list of new books and conferences which will no doubt be of interest to members.

Finally, I have drawn attention to the AHRB project to encourage collaborative awards. This has the potential to greatly increase the number of doctoral research projects on Roman small finds, which can only benefit the subject in the long term.

Richard Hobbs

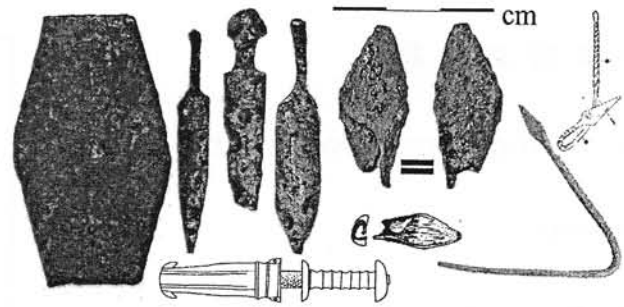
The Roman Model Objects Project

Model objects are a phenomenon that should be well known to British archaeologists and small finds specialists. They are common in Britain, and have been better documented here than in any other country. Models can be defined as small reproductions of daily Romano-British objects, which served no useful function of their own. In most cases, model objects had a ritual purpose, such as serving as votive offerings. It is often suggested that models were substitutional offerings, which were dedicated in sanctuaries by people who could not afford the real thing. This explanation, however, is too simple. The various finds classified as models afford different interpretations. To better understand model objects, I have begun to assemble a corpus of these objects from Rome's northwest provinces.



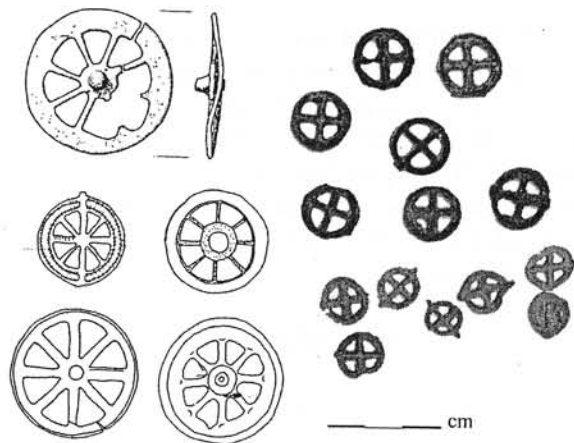
Model Axes

The most commonly found type of model object is probably the miniature axe. Over 50 miniature axes have been published in Britain alone, and the Portable Antiquities Scheme has recorded many more. Outside of the U.K., axes are known from several sanctuary sites in France and Switzerland. It seems unlikely that model axes are substitute offerings for real axes, and it has been proposed that they represent the axe used to slaughter animals in sacrifices.



Model Weapons

Model weapons have been found in a number of British sanctuaries, including Frilford, Woodeaton and Uley. The most common type is the model spear, which can be divided into two groups: those with a metal haft of their own, and tiny iron spearheads which would originally have had a wooden haft. Small representations of swords and shields are less common. Larger finds in the north of France seem to confirm that model weapons really were substitutes for the Iron Age practice of depositing war booty in temples.



Model Wheels

The line drawings on the left represent bronze wheels, the photos on the right are lead and potin.

Model wheels are more common in France than in Britain, though examples have been found throughout Europe. They vary somewhat in their composition, but small four-spoked wheels made of lead and potin seem to be the most common type. Copper alloy examples with

more spokes, and sometimes a central piercing for the axle, are also fairly common. Model wheels were once thought to be a form of Iron Age coinage, but they have never been satisfactorily explained. It seems most likely that they represent the main attribute of the Romano-Celtic wheel god.



The so-called ‘Mithras Symbols’

In spite of their name, the so-called “Mithras Symbols” have nothing to do with the god Mithras. They consist of copper alloy depictions of farming tools: shovels, picks, yokes, ploughs, scales, keys, ladders, etc.; and certain small reptiles: frogs, lizards and snakes. They are found in burials from the 3rd and 4th century A.D., mostly around Cologne in Germany. A single group is known from Sussex in the U.K. It was the frequent occurrence of the snake in groups of these objects that led 19th century scholars to attribute them to Mithras, whose cult image also includes a snake. More recent scholarship has attributed them to Jupiter Sabazius, another mystery god, but as with Mithras the iconography of the models do not quite match that of the god.

Model axes, weapons, wheels and the “Mithras Symbols” are just a few groups of objects which archaeologists have classified as ritual models. Many models cannot be so easily placed into

such groups. These include model fibulae, ships, coins, shoes, houses, anchors and more. Miniature lamps and ceramic vessels are so very common as to merit a study in their own right. Anatomical votives are also a different phenomenon that have already been well studied. The chief defining factor of a model object is its non-functionality. Many small finds mimic objects from daily life, but still served practical functions. This includes decorative attachments which formed parts of larger functional objects. It is not always clear whether model objects are free standing votives, or the detached pieces of something else.

By assembling a corpus of these votive models we can hope to answer some of the basic questions about model objects, such as their dating and distribution. Such a corpus should also establish a better typology of model objects. Finds with a good archaeological findspot will allow stray finds to be better dated and understood. A collection of this sort of information should also provide a glimpse into the actual religious significance of these objects.

Assembling such a corpus is a large task, and the principal component of my doctoral thesis, and such work cannot be done without outside support. If you are aware of objects similar to those listed here, either in the U.K. or elsewhere, I would very much like to hear from you. All information used in the final publication will be gratefully acknowledged.

More information about the Roman Model Objects Project can be found at:

www.kiernan.uni-web.org

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Or by post:

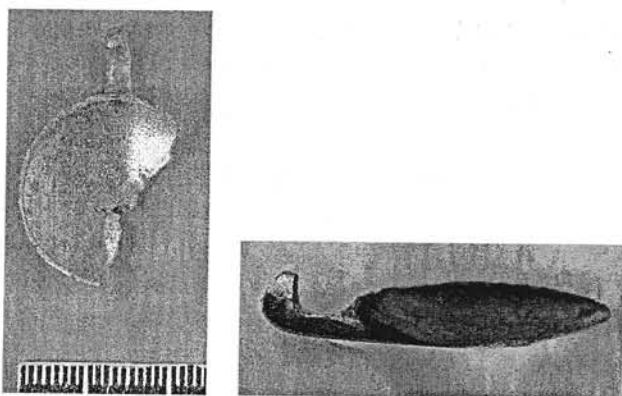
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Unusual silver spoon fragment

An unusual fragment of a Roman silver spoon, from Turvey, Bedfordshire, has recently come to light through the treasure process. It has a plain rounded bowl, part of which has broken away, leaving a jagged edge, and the handle is missing. But the unusual aspect of the spoon is the offset, which is semi-circular (see illustration).

Small silver spoons with rounded bowls – often termed ‘egg-spoons’ – are well known across the Roman world, and are even more common in copper-alloy. In Britain, examples include one from the Backworth hoard, Northumberland (BM reg. no. 1850,06-01,14). The Turvey spoon however is unusual, because the type does not usually have an offset between the bowl and the handle, with the two sections usually running together. Comma-shaped offsets, a variation of the semi-circular offset on the Turvey spoon fragment, are a common feature of late Roman spoons with pear-shaped bowls, of which there are numerous examples (see for instance, Cahn and Kauffmann Heinimann 1984, 84, table 48).

The spoon therefore seems to provide a link between the two types – but I would be curious to know if anyone has seen any other examples?



Reference: Cahn, H.A. & Kaufmann-Heinimann, A. 1984. *Der spätrömische Silberschatz von Kaiseraugst*. Derendingen.

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A jug handle from Silchester



Fig. 1. The jug handle from Silchester. Image: Silchester Project, University of Reading. Not to scale.

Members of the RFG who went to Silchester in the summer will have seen for themselves the jug handle terminating in a human right foot that came from the bottom of a well on the site (SF 4399, context 6436; see also p 13 of this issue). Jugs of this type, which is neatly called in German *Fusshenkelkrüge*, have a wide distribution from Thrace in the east to Britain in the west, with most examples coming from Pannonia, Germania and Gallia Belgica, where they lie along the trade routes of the Danube and Rhine, with a further trail in Gaul along the Rhône and Saône (Tassinari 1973; Szabó 1981 and 1983; Sedlmayer 1999, Karte 3; Pirling 1993). The foot may be the right or the left, or sometimes both occur, and may be naked or sandalled, with the sandal usually shown by applied white-metal strips. The toe nails are usually marked, and on some handles the joints of the toes are also shown and the detail extends to a well-modelled leg with the muscles of the calf showing, although on most handles the

realism of the modelling ends above the foot and the handle above it is plain and square or polygonal in section. There is often a small curled leaf above the foot, here appearing on the photo of the Silchester handle as a knob-like projection. The thumb rest may be in the form of a lotus bud or a curled leaf, and the side terminals can represent the heads of water birds, but on some handles all these features may be very debased.

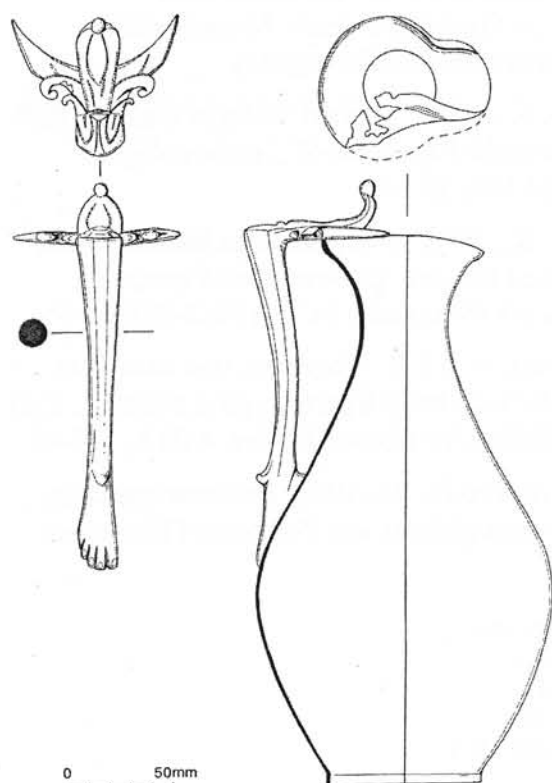


Fig. 2. The complete foot-handle jug from Elms Farm, Heybridge, Essex. Image reproduced with permission of Mark Atkinson, Field Archaeology Unit, Essex County Council, of behalf of English Heritage.

As far as I am aware, there are only three complete jugs from Britain, from Hauxton in Cambridgeshire, Corbridge in Northumberland, and Heybridge in Essex. The Hauxton and Corbridge jugs have both feet present on the handle, while the Heybridge jug has only the right foot. On the Hauxton jug the feet peep out from rudimentary drapery that flicks out above them and hangs down on either side, a feature derived from an earlier Graeco-Roman tradition.

Tassinari divides foot-handled jugs of the Roman imperial period into two groups, eastern and western, but there is some overlap between the two. The eastern group has an ovoid lower body, and the Heybridge jug falls into this group, while the western group are taller and more slender, with a cylindrical lower body, and it is to this variety that the Corbridge and Hauxton jugs belong. Szabó suggests that the western group were probably first produced in a Gaulish workshop in the late 1st century AD with production spreading to the Danube region in the 2nd century, while Sedlmayer argues that the more scattered distribution of the eastern group points to production in a workshop in the Rhine-Danube area aiming principally for the export market (Szabó 1983, 91-2; Sedlmayer 1999, 19). As mould fragments have been found in both Spain and Syria (Tassinari 1973, pl. 13, 1-2), the true pattern of production appears to be more complex.

Context plays an important part in our understanding of these jugs. Examples of the eastern form derive mainly from graves, while many of the western variety have been found in association with rivers, wells and springs in or near sanctuary sites, suggesting that they were purpose-made ritual rather than domestic vessels. In a combination of both contexts a western type jug was found in a hoard with pottery vessels in a cemetery at Tongeren, Belgium (Vanvinkenroye 1984, 215).

The British vessels fit into this pattern, although not very neatly. The Hauxton jug is recorded as having been found with two other metal jugs, and perhaps pottery and glassware as well, but its precise context is not known, and there is no guarantee that all the vessels were directly associated when buried (Hurrell 1904, 496; Liversidge 1958, 11). They may represent a single hoard, or they may come from several graves or a single rich grave. However, the site lies close to the river Granta, making conformity to Szabó's pattern for the western group also a possibility. The Corbridge jug came from Site 43 within the eastern military

compound, just south of the Stanegate. Three temples lay on the other side of the compound wall, and a bone plaque carved with a representation of a Mother Goddess bearing a pile or basket of fruit in her lap was found near the jug (Forster and Knowles 1913, 234, 275-6, fig. 22). The intervening wall could be seen as denying any association between the jug and one or other of the temples, but their proximity is tantalising. The Heybridge jug came from a small pit in a plot of land fronting the approach road to the site's temple precinct, so, as at Corbridge, the proximity to a temple is close but not direct.

The Silchester handle came from a suitably watery context, and there was a temple nearby, so again there is a close but not direct association with a sanctuary. A number of other small finds with religious connotations (e.g. iconography and/or deliberate damage) have been recovered from the site over successive seasons, and this handle adds to the growing body of evidence that it provides yet another example of the deposition of votives in open features or small scrapes in the soil that characterises the area around so many Romano-British religious sites.

Acknowledgments

The Silchester jug handle is published here with permission of Professor M. Fulford, University of Reading, and the Elms Farm jug with the permission of Mark Atkinson, Field Archaeology Unit, Essex County Council. I would also like to thank Georgina Plowright of Corbridge Roman Fort Museum, who some years ago, in connection with the Elms Farm jug, kindly provided me with details of the one from Corbridge.

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Study Day Reviews

Regionality in Roman Britain

22nd to 23rd April 2006

Rewley House Oxford, Department of Continuing Education

This two day conference set out to explore regionality in Roman Britain, a subject which prompted lively debate. The conference was a sell out and a number of RFG members were in attendance.

Martin Millett 'Regionality in Roman Britain'

Martin provided a broad overview of the background to regionality studies. Discussions need to be set against this backdrop of the out-of-favour 'Romanisation' term, which tends to ignore regional variation and imply that Britain was a homogenous whole. As an example, Haverfield back in the early part of the 20th century, heavily influenced by Victorian and Edwardian ideas of empire, divided Britain into military and civil districts, which over-emphasised the importance of military influence. This was an approach continued by Frere. Cyril Fox emphasised ecological differences, for instance between highland and lowland zones, and in his work on Cambridgeshire how the local ecology (wooded areas in some places, lighter soils in others) affected artefact distribution.

During the 60s and 70s, economic explanations for regionality came to the fore. For example Rivet looked at the uneven spread of villa estates across Britain, with many clustering around urban centres, and concluded that this related to the economic pull of these urban locations, which provided better opportunities for the sale and purchase of villa produce. And later Millett himself explored the idea that the civitates were at the core or regional, tribal groupings, and these inter-related with the imperial powers in different ways.

Martin went on to discuss ongoing survey work being carried out in the East Riding of Yorkshire, where patterns of regionality can be explored at ground level. The landscape is almost universally flat and low lying, and the light soils are responsive to aerial photography.

The study has thrown up some interesting contrasts within a small area. At Holme-on-Spalding Moor, there is evidence of smelting of iron in the Iron Age, which disappears from the record as ore sources dry up in the Roman period, where it is replaced by pottery production. There is little artefactual evidence – for instance, only four coins from a wide area – and a little distinction between the Iron Age and Roman periods (so continuity). How is this social isolation to be explained? Economic factors? Cultural conservatism? Tenural structure?

Three kilometres away at Shiptonthorpe, the situation is very different. In the pre-Roman period, there is very little evidence for on site activity, and the landscape was wooded at the time of the Roman invasion. Settlement develops where the Roman road from York to Brough on Humber cuts across a stream. Some enclosures have been excavated, some have been identified by geophysical survey. In contrast to Holme-on-Spalding, there are a vast number of artefacts: 2,500 so far. There is evidence of timber buildings, including a large aisled hall. The people are literate, as evidenced by a couple of wooden writing tablets and styli.

The third area is around Hayton. Here there was placed a Roman fort, around which settlement developed, and an enormous density of occupation. This includes several thousand metal objects and tonnes of pottery. At Burnby Lane there is even a small Roman bathhouse, and the remains of an oak cupboard with bone inlay was also discovered, the sort of item which would not look out of place anywhere in the Roman world. It is difficult to see here anything other than the adoption of a Roman practice.

So the point is that within this small study region, the contrasts are major: some areas suggest that little changes over 600 years, other areas that there is rapid and major development after the Roman conquest.

Chris Gosden ‘What was ‘Roman’ about artefacts in Britain after AD43’

Objects interact with us in a complex set of ways; they provide us with a series of ‘prompts’ which form the basis of how we live. Therefore if objects change, a new way of seeing and interacting with the world is provided. There are two types of process at work: first, the adoption of new objects on the basis of prior experience; second, the acceptance of a whole series of things which are unfamiliar, but make some sort of internal sense (e.g. a Roman style of house instead of a round house).

The dragonesque brooch provides a good example. From AD60, it has a new way of manufacture, i.e. plate, and it is sometimes made of brass; but there is continuity with enamelling and the curvilinear nature of the design. Samian is another ready adoption – perhaps those who used it did not see it as ‘Roman’, because they had got so used to it.

Chris discussed the site at Marcham in Oxfordshire. This has a series of features from the Iron Age through to the Saxon period, which has been excavated on and off since the 1930s. There is a curious large round feature, about 40m across, the function of which has still not been firmly established; is it an amphitheatre? (*Not sure why not* – Ed.). Or perhaps some kind of henge monument, seemingly established in the early first century AD?

Ralph Jackson ‘Cosmetics in late Iron Age and Roman Britain’

For many years, cosmetic grinders were thought to be pendants. This changed when both parts – the pestle and mortar – were discovered at King Harry Lane. It is believed that these were used

for the preparation of mineral based cosmetics. Ralph has recorded over 700.

There are two types, centre looped and end looped (both pestle and mortar). Both often have traces of wear, e.g. on inner side of groove. There is a great variety of wear patterns, some being very heavily worn, others little. Some pestles are much smaller than originally as the result of heavy use.

But what were they used to grind? No substance so far has been detected, and there is nothing in the literature which can help. However, some have been found with cosmetic implements – for instance, a find from London where the whole lot were corroded together – and this implies that they were part of the process of beautification. The substances seem unlikely to have been medicaments, as none have ever been found in association with medical instruments.

There are numerous minerals which might have been used, and the trade in these as cosmetics is mentioned in the ancient sources. Powdered white lead was used a face whitener; malachite could provide a green; white and red chalk, powdered charcoal or soot; haematite; Egyptian blue. Experiments with replica sets showed that these sorts of substances worked very well; it is likely that after the powder had been produced, it could have been mixed with oil and applied.

Who used these kits? Only four sets have come from graves, one male, three possibly female, but the evidence is poor. As for distribution, there is a preponderance of centre looped pestles in the east, but apart from that, nothing of great significance. However there is a concentration at military and temple sites, which would seem to be of significance – they could easily have been used as votives. As for date, most are first to third century AD.

There is some regionality in style. For example, zoomorphic motifs are very localised in east Anglia. But bird headed loops are much

more evenly spread and take you over to the west. The enamelled type is very easterly.

Kathy Sas 'Beyond beauty: regionality in Roman jewellery?'

Kathy took us on a chronological journey through discoveries of jewellery in her native Belgium. In the first century AD, there is an intermixing of local traditions with Roman jewellery techniques, for instance snake rings (one from Tongeren) and intaglio rings. The Romans introduced the diamond, and rubies and emeralds from the Egyptian Red Sea.

A silver necklace with ornamental disc at Bonn; green and blue enamel and gilding, with a foxtail chain. These necklaces were worn by local women, as depicted in local sculpture. A ring from Banner is a rare example of the continuation of La Tene style.

The torc, a well known Celtic object, was taken over by the Romans where it was placed on the armour. Bracelets also resembled torcs, for example finds from Wijmegen and Wijshagen. It is possible the torc became more decorative during the Roman period, rather than being a symbol of power and status. A torc and wheel pendant found around the neck of an urn used for a cremation.

A rock crystal finger ring in a burial mound near Tongeren shows Isis, and is presumably linked to the cult of Isis. A tombstone from Arlon shows a woman holding a jewellery box and holding a rock crystal ring. Banded decoration is popular in Gaul and Moesia; thin layers of gold foil looked like expensive gold jewellery, for instance a bracelet from Viminacium in Serbia.

As for production, a site was discovered on the road from Bologne to Cologne which produced some interesting items relating to a jewellery workshop. These included a lead plaque with gem imprints and a small gold workers hammer. The imprints are interesting, as they do not seem to be a mould for glass

paste gems; perhaps the lead was used to test the quality of the glass impressions, or used to test the mould out to make sure it was adequate.

In the second to third centuries AD, a site was established for glass and metal working at Liberchies. Here there is an enormous variety of imported and locally produced jewellery, for example a bronze bracelet with a sliding knot fastening. This is all linked in the third century to a growing interest in complex jewellery, for instance *opus interasile* (openwork), which utilised delicate piercing tools. A ring from Beckmal, with the inscription 'Utere felix', demonstrates this well. Another example is a fine ring found in 1998 at Tongeren, which is gold *opus interasile* set with an intaglio nicolo engraved with the portrait of Commodus. This may imply that the original owner was in receipt of the ring from the emperor himself.

Jet also became popular in Belgium, and would have most likely been imported from Whitby, Yorkshire. For instance there is a grave found at Cologne with jet bracelets, one of which is alternate gold and jet stripes. Amber also became popular, and was imported from the Baltic Sea. During the fourth and fifth centuries, the influence of the Germanic penetration becomes more clear. In particular, filigree and granulation re-appear as popular techniques.

There is good evidence for contact with Britain. For instance at Oudenberg in Belgium, one grave had three bracelets, all of which were probably produced in the south of Britain. The cogwheel bracelet is a good example; this is a British type, but there is evidence that they travelled with their wearers, who ended up in Belgium graves. This probably indicates marriage to a soldier, who was re-stationed from somewhere like Porchester, to Oudenberg, both of these being forts.

Sally Worrell 'Region and religion in Roman Britain'

Sally began by providing a brief overview of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), of which she is the Roman and Iron Age finds advisor. So far 196,000 artefacts have been added to the database; 85% of these have come from metal detectorists. As for Roman figurines, 119 metallic religious figures have come up so far under PAS, which adds to a corpus of around 600 known to date. No substantial work on previous discoveries has been done since the 1970s, so Sally's research (work in progress) is the first to re-visit this area.

Roman Britain was a polytheistic society, and the range of images seen reflects this. There are images of the emperor, which obviously relates to the cult of emperor (including a recent bust of Lucius Verus which turned out to be made in the late 18th/ 19th century in Birmingham). Personifications of the Roman state, Fortune, Fate and Victory are known, and Jupiter, Juno and Minerva were obviously popular with the military. Caesar mentioned the popularity of Mercury with the Gauls, and alongside Mars and Hercules, these are the most commonly found gods in Britain, although Venus, Bacchus and Apollo are also well known. Eastern gods are also known, e.g. Isis, Serapis, Harpocrates, Cybele, Attis, Sol, Mithras. There is a concentration along the military lines in the north.

There are limited numbers of large-scale sculptures in Britain (the Uley Mercury being the most famous, carved from Cotswold limestone). There is also the Mithraeum in London, for example. As for non metallic items other than stone, pipeclay figurines are known to have been imported from central and eastern Gaul, and there are rare discoveries of wooden figures, such as Epona at Winchester.

As for size, the Birdoswald Hercules is clearly exceptionally large. Most are much smaller, and were made in a range of styles, from very classical (such as the latter example),

and more indigenous (such as the Southbroom figurines). The smallest are probably the horse and rider brooches (if it is accepted that the rider represents Mars), which were often used as votive offerings at shrines.

Sally looked specifically at the distribution of Mars and Mercury figures and associated items (e.g. the cockerel and the goat which accompany Mercury). Mars figures are fairly well spread over the Cotswolds and central and eastern England. There seem to be quite a few around Torksey in Lincolnshire. 'TOT' finger rings also might be related (Mars Toutatis). Could it be that Mars is some kind of tribal god in this part of the world?

Peter Guest 'Regional patterns in Romano-British coins'

Despite the title, Peter concentrated on Roman coin finds from Wales, of which 52,000 Iron Age and Roman have been recorded to date, from 1,100 separate findspots. These can raise a number of research questions: were coins used in Wales before the Roman conquest? How did Roman coins arrive? What functions did they have? Is it possible to detect different responses to Roman coins?

Only 35 Iron Age coins are known, and these come mainly from the far south-east of Wales. This implies of course that coins were not taken up by indigenous tribes in Wales, even though they were adopted in other parts of the country. 20 of these are gold; 70% are single finds.

Claudian coins in Wales mostly seem to follow the pattern of early Flavian forts (so they were lost 30 odd years after they were struck). There is a strong correlation between Claudian copies and the military, which strongly suggests that they were produced inside the forts themselves (there are some tentative mould fragments from Usk, for example).

By the Flavian period, coins were widespread, which demonstrates how quickly

the area became monetised. But there are regions which are blanks, particularly the highland areas and some coastal zones. And if you plot coins up to AD192, most coins come from military sites, although this must be linked with the fact that most excavations in the past concentrated on military sites so these have produced most of the evidence. However, there is a pattern to be discerned, because most of the coins found on military sites date to the earlier period, whilst the proportion on civil sites increases during the second century. This must indicate that coinage was gradually adopted as people became more used to it.

In terms of the proportion of silver and copper-alloy coins on different types of site, high value silver coins tend to come from vici and rural settlements. It also seems to be the case that in inland zones, silver coins are far more common than AE coins. These inland coins are also more often found in hoards, whilst in coastal locations there are smaller numbers of coins in small places. This would indicate a different pattern of loss, with perhaps AE coins being used in coastal regions for exchange, whilst inland silver was being used as a store of wealth. So there it is possible to discern different ways of treating coins.

Ellen Swift 'Regionality in late Roman small finds'

Ellen outlined some of her PhD research which she has recently been reviewing. She emphasised the importance of looking in detail at the decoration on bracelets, because there is a wide variety of designs which seem to show regional variation. Some types for example are restricted to the central/southern region, the south west and the south east.

One bracelet type with a punched dot motif, a border and a special type of fastening only appears in coastal locations in Britain, all of which are military sites. This pattern is mirrored on the continent, which must demonstrate that this was therefore associated with the army. And when compared to other

classes of artefact – for instance, German marbled flagons from Cologne and Trier – these too come up specifically on military sites. And despite being on military sites, these bracelets are for female wear.

Cogwheel and multiple motif bracelets were also discussed. More than 100 of these have been found, and they all date to the second half of the fourth century and the beginning of the fifth.

The cogwheel bracelet is known in a variety of locations across Britain, but on the continent only about four places, for instance Oudenberg and Tongeren. The multiple motif type however seems to get to lots of places on the continent – but are they the same as the British examples? In most instances, they are different, but there are examples of exact matches on both sides of the channel. This demonstrates that this bracelet type must have been made in Britain.

There are also other differences between the assemblages. Cogwheel and multiple motif bracelets are found on all types of site in Britain, but on the continent they are heavily biased to military sites and large towns (and this is not to do with a lack of other types of site on the continent). There are a number of important continental sites with grave groups which can help; for instance Krefeld Gellep, Noyelles-sur-Mer and Oudenberg. At Krefeld-Gellep for example, there are around 78 graves with bracelets in them, and 32 graves have dress accessories only. Other graves have glass and pottery vessels (the latter being the most common grave good).

This would imply therefore that the graves with the bracelets are burials where the deceased has been interred with minimum fuss, i.e. just wearing normal dress. The further implication is that these people are seen as others, foreign, non-local, and perhaps 'low status'. However, much more study is needed, as although the graves show evidence of travel from Britain to the continent, there were

undoubtedly other ways in which dress accessories could have reached the sites. The regional distribution of objects can mask the different life histories that the objects themselves may have had.

Richard Reece ‘East and west in Roman Britain reviewed’

Richard provided a typically irreverent summing up, in which he made sure that he was equally generous and mean to all the speakers in equal measure. He expressed surprise that none of the speakers had drawn parallels with modern examples of regionality – people preferring disembodied theory from our present day experience, which can help us gain entry into the material culture of the ancient world.

Richard pointed out that the Romans themselves are irrelevant to the debate, because you have to define what you mean by ‘Roman’ (which, he pointed out, none of the speakers actually did). But he nonetheless felt that the conference had pushed the subject forward and showed that the study of Roman Britain is alive and well!

Richard Hobbs
Prehistory and Europe
The British Museum

RFG Subscriptions due for 2007!

Please send your subscription of £8 (£11 joint membership) by **October 1st** to continue to receive your copies of *Lucerna* and reduced rate attendance of Roman Finds Group meetings. Subscriptions should be sent to:

Angela Wardle
RFG Treasurer
1 Stebbing Farm
Fishers Green
Stevenage
Herts. SG1 2JB

**RFG visit to Roman Silchester
1st August 2006**

The RFG summer meeting was held outside this year, at the Roman town of Calleva Atrebatum. 21 members came to Silchester to visit the University of Reading’s ‘Town Life’ project (<http://www.silchester.rdg.ac.uk/>), directed by Prof. Mike Fulford and Amanda Clarke.

M.G. Fulford - Site Tour

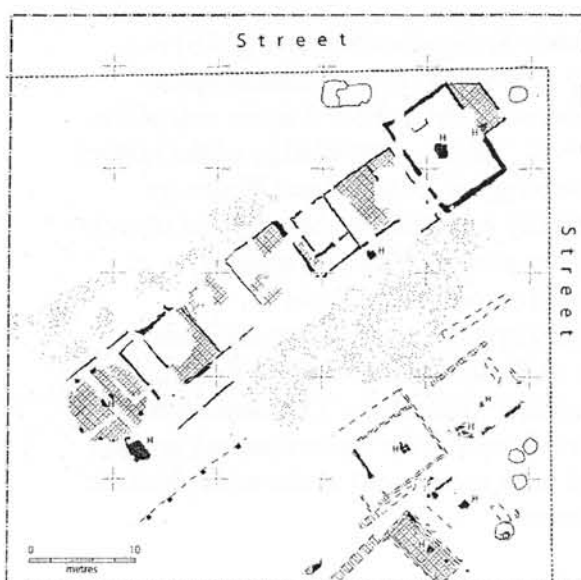
The day began with a site tour by Mike, outlining the aims and progress of this research and training excavation, which has run for ten years and will probably continue for a further five seasons. Excavations focus on an area of Insula IX, near the centre of the ancient town and at the junction of two important roads. The first seasons unearthed evidence for the nature of the Victorian explorations – the insula was first excavated in 1893, the fourth season of a twenty year project by the Society of Antiquaries of London to excavate the entire Roman city. The results are now published on an interactive website (http://www.silchester.rdg.ac.uk/victorians/vic_home.php).

Mike stressed the importance of the insula for our understanding of the late Roman town as it was here that the so-called Ogham stone was found. The report on the latest Roman phase is just reaching publication (“Life and Labour in Late Roman Silchester”, *Britannia Monograph Series 22*, out autumn 2006, available at reduced price of £50 until March 2007).

The tour focused on the earlier archaeology currently being investigated, in particular on a series of timber buildings set at an angle to the Roman street grid. The alignment of these structures probably goes back to the late Iron Age settlement on the site, and is perpetuated by subsequent stone buildings. It is only in the latest Roman phase

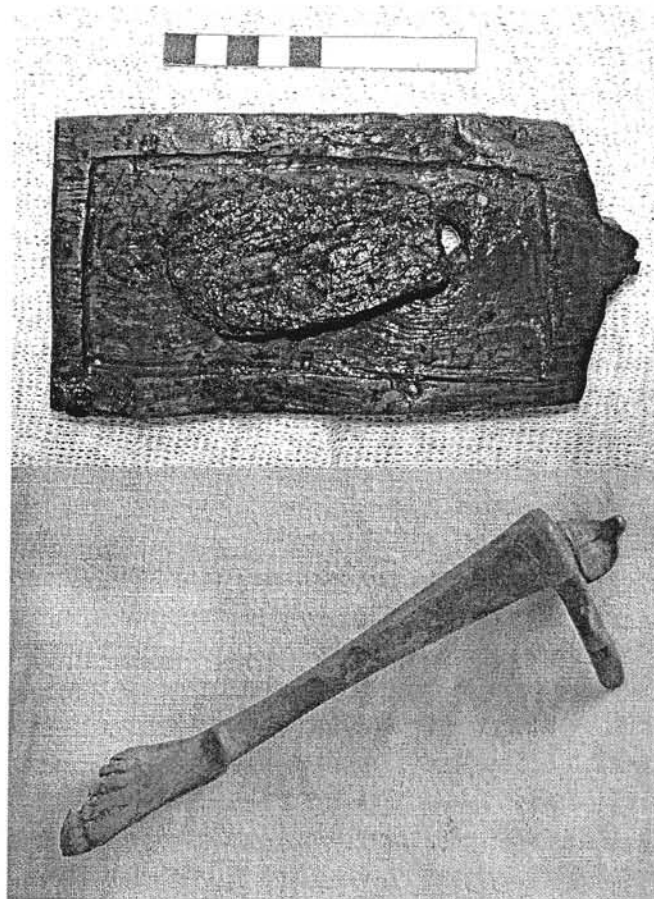
that the houses in the Insula are orientated along the main street.

In addition to the rectangular (and one circular) timber structures at the centre of the site, further buildings are being uncovered on the southern part of the excavation. Of particular interest is a timber-framed building with an *opus signinum* floor, which appears to have succeeded earlier structures with masonry foundations. This building may well continue under the bulk and form part of a larger structure identified by the Victorian excavators.



Sandie Williams 'The season's finds'

Following the site tour, we had a look at some of this season's finds. As well as being quizzed on some more obscure and difficult objects, Sandie showed a possible wooden writing tablet recovered from one of the two wells being excavated this season. The same well also yielded a bronze handle of a jug, elaborately decorated in the shape of a foot (see Nina Crummy's article on this, p. X). Earlier, and on a different part of the site, a bronze jug lid (decorated with a dolphin) had been found.



Hella Eckardt 'Teaching on Artefacts'

Hella Eckardt talked about the opportunities for artefact teaching at Silchester. As the excavation is run as a training excavation for University of Reading students as well as interested members of the public (places fill up quickly, so if you are interested in attending, you need to book by January), great emphasis is placed on teaching sessions. Students learn to identify artefacts, with training provided by University staff and by the artefact specialists who will write the relevant reports for the written publication. Many students now go on to produce artefact-based dissertations.

Hella also discussed the potential for 'Master Classes' on categories of objects to make sure knowledge on specific artefact categories is passed on.

Jill Greenaway 'The Reading Collection'

Curator for Archaeology at Reading Museum
 Jill Greenaway talked about the nature of the Silchester collection. This is derived from the earlier excavations on the site by Joyce and the Society of Antiquaries. As well as opening the collections to interested visitors and dissertation students, Jill and her colleagues are also researching the available documentation on these early excavations. Joyce's site diary, with many colour drawings has survived, and a recent project has scanned a large collection of photographs, showing the Society of Antiquaries excavation in progress. More information can be found on <http://www.readingmuseum.org.uk/>

David Sim 'Experimental Iron Working'

The day ended with a talk by David Sim, who emphasised the value of experimental archaeology and discussed some of his findings of the manufacture and use of iron objects, in particular military equipment. This included scale armour and *plumbata*, but also took in the production of cast iron during the Roman period. Interested readers can find more information on the topic in his recent book "Iron for the eagles" (Tempus).

Hella Eckardt
 University of Reading

Instrumentum membership

Following the article about *Instrumentum* in Lucerna 29 and the offer to act on behalf of members, thereby saving them having to make payment in Euros, RFG members are invited to contact Jenny Hall, RFG Treasurer to profess an interest. If there is sufficient interest and when numbers are known, Jenny will then calculate the exchange rate and charge members accordingly, thus saving them the bother of having to convert pounds to Euros. This offer applies to the 4-year membership of

Instrumentum only, which is extremely good value at 48 Euros.

Jenny Hall
 Museum of London
jhall@museumoflondon.org.uk

CALL FOR PAPERS:

PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME CONFERENCE 2007

17-18 April 2007, British Museum, London

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) is a voluntary scheme to record archaeological objects found by the public. A main aim of the Scheme is to 'advance knowledge of the history and archaeology of England and Wales by systematically recording archaeological objects found by the public'. The data collated is published in an online database (www.findsdatabase.org.uk) and also made available to Historic Environment Records, academics and researchers. This dataset offers an invaluable source for understanding artefact types and their use as well as the wider historic environment.

Submissions

Submissions are invited on any aspect of archaeological or historical research using Portable Antiquities Scheme data (at least as a component) to advance knowledge of finds or the historic environment. Papers should be no longer than 40 minutes. It is planned that the conference proceedings will be published within one year, and it will be necessary for contributors to submit their paper for publication soon after the conference.

Submissions, outlining the nature of the proposed paper and no longer than 200 words, should be sent to Dr Michael Lewis, Deputy Head of Portable Antiquities & Treasure, Department of Portable Antiquities & Treasure, British Museum, London, WC1B 3DG, by 31 October 2006.

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Next Meeting: York

The Spring meeting will take place on **March 5th** in the Tempest Anderson Hall at the Yorkshire Museum. A separate flyer with more details will be sent to members in due course.

Collaborative Doctoral Awards

RFG members will be interested to hear that The Arts & Humanities Research Council implemented a new awards scheme last year under the title Collaborative Doctoral Awards. The scheme has great potential to increase the number of research projects based on archaeological material, including Roman artefacts, as it encourages universities to link up with museums (and other such institutions) to propose research on particular areas of the collections or areas of research. In the last round, two awards were successful which are relevant to the field of finds research: one is a link up between Birkbeck College and the British Museum, looking at Iron Age coinage in Britain, largely on the basis of information gathered under the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS); the other is between PAS and Kings College, London, looking at the impact of metal detected data on understanding historical environments and past societies.

For more information, please see: http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/university_staff/postgrad/collaborative_doctoral_awards.asp

Portable Antiquities Scheme News

Training for Finds Liaison Officers

Portable Antiquities Scheme staff training covers a wide range of subjects. Newly appointed Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs) receive training in the use of the PAS database, the procedures for reporting potential treasure finds and in other financial and IT issues related to the Scheme's running. The Finds Advisers (Sally Worrell, Ian Leins, Sam Moorhead, Helen Geake, Julian Baker, Kevin Leahy and Geoff Egan), curators at the British Museum and external specialists also deliver an extensive training programme on particular artefact types, object care and conservation. A considerable emphasis is placed in these sessions on practical identification and handling.



Dr Martin Henig conducting a training session at the British Museum.

The recovery of most of the artefacts reported to the PAS by metal detection means that the initial emphasis in training lay on metallic artefacts. Regular small group sessions in the identification and reporting of Iron Age and Roman 'small finds' and coins are run by the Finds Advisers, with J.D. Hill, Richard Hobbs and Ralph Jackson, at the British Museum and on a regional basis. An introductory programme of ceramic training for FLOs has recently been conducted by pottery

experts around the country. Between April and July 2006, eleven successful training days arranged in six regional groups took place. These gave a multi-period introduction to regional ceramic traditions, as well as guidance on identification, dating and reporting. Since much of the pottery brought to FLOs is of Roman date, there was inevitably a strong focus on Roman ceramics, both imported and regionally or locally produced wares. These events took place in the South-West (Salisbury/Taunton: Lorraine Mephram & David Dawson), the South-East (London: Louise Rayner, Fiona Seeley, Lyn Blackmore, Jacqui Pearce & Nigel Jeffries), the South Midlands (Bedford: Jane Timby & Anna Slowikowski), Eastern Region (Norwich: Sarah Percival, Alice Lyons, Paul Seeley & Andrew Rogerson), the West Midlands (Worcester: Derek Hurst & Victoria Bryant) and the East Midlands and Yorkshire (Lincoln: Maggi Darling, Barbara Precious, Jane Young & Anne Boyle). Recent Roman artefact training has included two very popular days of intaglio and finger-ring identification by Martin Henig, which took place at the Institute of Archaeology, UCL and the British Museum where a fantastic range of finger-rings and intaglios were made available for study. Training in artefact types related to other periods also takes place regularly (Lithics, Bronze Age, Early Medieval and Medieval metalwork).

Over the course of the last year, conservation training has been delivered by York Archaeological Trust who also prepared a booklet of conservation advice for finders and web pages on the PAS website (www.finds.org.uk/conservation/). Personal Safety training for FLOs was delivered by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust, a day of education training is scheduled to take place in October and a Slag Day organised by the Ancient Monuments Laboratory, English Heritage on how to recognise slags and other industrial debris, is planned for the near future.

Sally Worrell
Institute of Archaeology, UCL
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books books books books books books books books books books books books

Roman Military Equipment from the Punic Wars to the Fall of Rome, second edition

by M C Bishop & J C N Coulston

Rome's rise to empire is often said to have owed much to the efficiency and military skill of her armies and their technological superiority over barbarian enemies. But just how 'advanced' was Roman military equipment? What were its origins and how did it evolve? The authors of this book have gathered a wealth of evidence from all over the Roman Empire - excavated examples as well as pictorial and documentary sources - to present a picture of what range of equipment would be available at any given time, what it would look like and how it would function. They examine how certain pieces were adopted from Rome's enemies and adapted to particular conditions of warfare prevailing in different parts of the Empire. They also investigate in detail the technology of military equipment and the means by which it was produced, and discuss wider questions such as the status of the soldier in Roman society. Both the specially prepared illustrations and the text have been completely revised for the second edition of this detailed and authoritative handbook, bringing it up to date with the very latest research. It illustrates each element in the equipment of the Roman soldier, from his helmet to his boots, his insignia, his tools and his weapons. This book will appeal to archaeologists, ancient and military historians as well as the generally informed and inquisitive reader. (*Oxbow Books 2006*)

ISBN 1842171593. Paperback. Price GB £19.95

TRAC 2005

Proceedings of the Fifteenth Annual Theoretical Archaeology Conference, Birmingham, 2005

edited by Ben Croxford, Helen Goodchild, Jason Lucas and Nick Ray

TRAC 2005 was held at the Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, University of Birmingham, under the auspices of The Roman Society. Of the twenty-three papers delivered here, this volume presents eight, plus three special contributions. These three papers were commissioned to mark the fifteenth year of TRAC with the intention that they should take stock of TRAC to date and look to where it may go in the future. A very clear message is conveyed: that TRAC must continue to evolve and that a continued existence in its current form, though possible, will ultimately fail to realise further success. In seeking to engage with new ideas and theories, the endeavour symbolised by the first conference, to bring theory from the margins of Roman archaeology, continues today.

Contents include: Romanisation in southern Epirus: A ceramic perspective (Melissa Moore Morrison); An alleged Far West? The Romanisation of the countryside in western Gaul (Cécilia Courbot-Dewerd); Wild animals and domestic animals in the Roman sacrificial ritual: Distinctions between 'human' and 'animal' animals (Günther Schörner); 15 years of TRAC: reflections on a Journey (Eleanor Scott); 21st century TRAC: is the Roman battery flat? (Ray Laurence); The future of TRAC (Andrew Gardner).

Roman and Later Development East of the Forum and Cornhill: Excavations at Lloyd's Register, 71 Fenchurch Street, City of London

by Richard Bluer, Trevor Brigham and Robin Nielsen

Excavations in 1996-7 uncovered important new evidence for the development of the eastern part of the Roman Londinium, as well as medieval and later activity. Early Roman activity took place on sloping ground near a minor tributary of a small stream, known as the Lorteburn in the medieval period. First-century development included ditches and a scatter of timber buildings. Boundaries were aligned with a nearby road to the north-west of the site, and did not match the orientation of either the forum to the west or the Colchester road to the north. Development increased until interrupted by the Hadrianic fire. More substantial stone buildings, reached by secondary alleys or paths, date from the mid 2nd century onwards and include sunken rooms, good-quality painted plaster interior decoration, and unusual ribbon pointing and painted ashlar-effect rustication. A sunken-floored aisled building with brick pier bases may have incorporated a warehouse. In the mid 3rd century new masonry buildings were constructed on a different alignment. The new complex included suites of heated rooms and a possible bathhouse. Contemporary timber structures may have been outbuildings. The site produced an important assemblage of late Roman pottery. The Roman buildings were abandoned in the late 4th-century and their remains sealed by 'dark earth'. Reoccupation was represented by 11th-century rubbish pits and robbing of Roman masonry. The early 12th-century church of St Katherine Coleman lay to the north of open ground and gardens up to the 16th century. Post-Great Fire evidence included fortifications of the rebuilt 18th-century church, vaults of the East India Company Tea and Drug Warehouse and the Hambro synagogue. *188p, 115 b/w illus, 33 tabs (MoLAS Monograph 30, Museum of London Archaeology Service 2006)*

ISBN 1901992438. Paperback. Not yet published - advance orders taken. Price GB £20.95

Development on Roman London's Western Hill: Excavations at Paternoster Square, City of London

by Sadie Watson and Kieron Heard

Redevelopment of Paternoster Square in 2000-2001 provided the opportunity to reassess 1960s work at the site and review Roman activity on the western hill, south of the main east-west road from London to Silchester. Natural stream channels recorded at Paternoster and nearby sites drained south-westwards towards the Fleet river, rather than to the Thames as had been previously thought. The earliest Roman activity was associated with the c.AD 50 establishment of the main road, contemporary quarries and boundary ditches. One ditch contained two young male inhumation burials and a dog skeleton. Rudimentary buildings south of the road may have been briefly used during initial construction activity. Clay and timber strip buildings along the south side of the main road, and secondary roads leading southwards, date to the pre-Boudican period. The roads and roadside properties were re-established after the Boudican fire. Late 1st-century buildings included residential, commercial and small-scale industrial activities. Two 2nd-century kilns may be associated with brass making and include a crucible. Glassworking debris and furnace material was probably redeposited from nearby. Post-Hadrianic occupation included substantial buildings with tessellated floors and painted plaster walls set back from the roads. Activity declined in the later Roman period and five 4th-century burials cut into a disused secondary road. The southwest part of the site was largely external, with evidence for animal husbandry and bread wheat preparation, rare within Roman contexts. The large assembly of pre-Boudican pottery and other finds from the site includes Lyon ware and types of hinged brooches often associated with the military. A copper-alloy name-tag identified an auxiliary soldier, probably from the lower Rhineland or Cologne, and the early animal bone assemblage

was made up of high status kitchen waste of the sort produced by army supply trains, but the overall evidence could indicate a civil context which includes some military involvement. 168p, 116 illus, 28 tabs (MoLAS Monograph 32, Museum of London Archaeology Service 2006)

ISBN 1901992667. Paperback. Not yet published - advance orders taken. Price GB £13.95

Apicius, A Critical Edition with an Introduction and English Translation
by Christopher Grocock and Sally Grainger

Apicius is the sole remaining cookery book from the days of the Roman Empire. Though there were many ancient Greek and Latin works concerning food, this collection of recipes is unique. The editors suggest that it is a survival from many such collections maintained by working cooks and that the attribution to Apicius the man (a real-life Roman noble of the 2nd century AD) is a mere literary convention.

There have been many English translations of this work (and, abroad, some important academic editions), but none reliable since 1958 (Flower and Rosenbaum). In any case, this edition and translation has revisited all surviving manuscripts in Europe and the USA and proposes many new readings and interpretations. The great quality of this editorial team is that while the Latin scholarship is supplied by Chris Grocock, Sally Grainger contributes a lifetime's experience in the practical cookery adaptations of the recipes in this text. This supplies a wholly new angle from which to verify the textual and editorial suggestions.

This volume supplies a fully referenced parallel text (Latin and English) of Apicius and of the excerpts from Apicius done by Vinidarius. There is an extensive introduction discussing both the art of cookery in the later Empire and the origins of this text, together with a new hypothesis as to its true date. There are then long appendixes discussing the vexed question of the true nature of the Roman store sauces,

garum and *liquamem*. There is also a full bibliography and extensive discussion of the meaning of technical terms found in the text. This book will set a new standard for Apician studies. 448p, 12 b/w illus. (Prospect Books 2006)

Journal of Roman Pottery Studies Vol 12
edited by Geoffrey B Dannell and Pamela V Irving

This volume of the *JRPS* celebrates the career of Kay Hartley, described by Sheppard Frere as "the oracle on Romano-British mortaria". She has been associated with a number of important excavations, such as Heronbridge and Much Hadham, and it has been said of her that "no serious excavation report of the Roman period can be completed without either a contribution from her, or a reference to her work."

K F Hartley: A biographical note (*G B Dannell et al*); Kay Hartley: An appreciation (*Sheppard S Frere*); Mancetter memories (*Colin Baddeley*); Kay Hartley: Friend and teacher (*Roland Sauvaget*); Kay Hartley: A personal view (*Viv Jones*); The dating of Crambeck parchment ware (*Paul Bidwell*); Reflections on the choice of Brockley Hill as a pottery production site (*David Bird*); Varro's *dolia*: Jars for fattening dormice (*Joanna Bird*); Un potier du Rozier (Lozère) (*Ariane Bourgeois and Michel Thuault*); Late Roman pottery kilns at Goodison Boulevard, Cantley, Doncaster: Excavations by J R Lidster in 1957 and 1962 (*Paul C Buckland and John R Magilton*); Roman stone mortars: A preliminary survey (*H E M Cool*); The mixed grill over-egged (*Nina Crummy*); A study in scarlet: Samian pottery and the Claudian invasion (*Geoffrey B Dannell*); Brough-on-Humber fine wares production (*Margaret J Darling*); P-14 unmasked, and what happened next (*Brenda Dickinson*); Thomas May and Castor beakers (*J P Gillam*); Pots for tables; Tables awaiting pots: An exercise in speculative archaeoeconomy (*B R Hartley*); The Pitt Rivers collection of Samian ware in Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum (*Robert Hopkins*); The great Essex earthquake (AD60/1)? (*Raphael M J Isserlin*); A bird in the hand (*Catherine Johns and Val Rigby*); Food and drink in Wales: The impact of the Roman occupation (*Myfanwy Lloyd Jones*); Size matters: The role of smaller temporary camps in north Britain (*Gordon S Maxwell*); Les mortiers Drag 45: Leur place dans l'étude des céramiques d'époque romaine (*P H Mitard*); The Roman pottery industry of west-central Leicestershire (*Richard Pollard*); 'A glass vessel of peculiar form': A late Roman mould-blown bottle found with a burial at Milton-next-

Sittingbourne in Kent (*Jennifer Price*); Why save anything? (*Richard Reece*); The latest ceramic mortaria in Bulgaria? (*Vivien G Swan*); A collection of Samian ware found close to the first bridge at Piercebridge (*Margaret Ward*); 'The hidden paw': The mystery of the cat in Roman Britain (*Janet Webster*); Roman pottery production at Gelligaer (*Peter Webster*); Paternus, I or II? (*Felicity Wild*); A Roman paint pot from Castor, Normangate Field, and its contents (*H G M Edwards et al*); Rare tazze, paterae and a broad hint at lararium from Lactodorum (Towcester) (*Charmian Woodfield*).

224p (*Oxbow Books 2006*)

All these publications are available from www.oxbowbooks.com

Roman Droitwich: Dodderhill fort, Bays Meadow villa, and roadside settlement
by Derek Hurst

This volume covers three major sites in Roman Droitwich (Salinae). The full extent and character of the Neronian fort on Dodderhill are explained, and the remains of the large and spectacular villa at Bays Meadow are also revealed. Finds from the latter indicate a highly Romanised life style, possibly with direct imperial connections, indicating that the salt production was being operated under state control. Occupation of the villa, however, was severely disrupted at the end of the 3rd century. A third site provides evidence for settlement alongside an adjacent Roman road, and was notable for producing rich deposits of charred grain.

CBA Research Report 146, ISBN 1 902771 55 9, 350pp, 70 illustrations, June 2006, CD-Rom, paperback, £32

An atlas of Roman rural settlement in England
by Jeremy Taylor

This publication will present the major findings of a project on the characterisation, mapping and assessment of late prehistoric and Roman rural settlement. The volume redresses the

balance in the study of rural Roman settlement, taking the discussion beyond high-status villas, to understand broader Roman rural land use. The evidence provides new insights into patterns of regionality in settlement, as well as an up-to-date overview of the nature and diversity of Iron Age and Roman rural life. The accessible discussion is also cross-referenced to a full set of online data from the full research project.

CBA Research Report 151, ISBN 1 902771 66 4, 80 maps and ills, 150pp, December 2006, Price £14.95

Cloth and clothing in Early Anglo-Saxon England: AD 450–700
by Penelope Walton Rogers

This archaeological study of textiles and costume considers all aspects of Early Anglo-Saxon clothing - how textiles were made in the Early Anglo-Saxon settlements, how the cloth was fashioned into garments, and the nature of the clasps and jewellery with which the clothes were worn. It is both a practical guide to the manufacture of clothing and a review of the significance of textiles and costume within Anglo-Saxon society.

CBA Research Report 145, ISBN 1 902771 54 0, 150 ills including colour reconstruction drawings, 350pp, August 2006, Price £19.95

These publications are available from the Council for British Archaeology website (www.britarch.ac.uk/pubs)

conferences study days conferences study days conferences study days

Conferences, study days, and courses, in date order

Birkbeck Faculty of Continuing Education 2006-07 course on 'Archaeological Ceramics: Theory and Practice in the Study of Pottery'

This workshop-style course offers the opportunity to develop your understanding of archaeological ceramics and improve your identification, recording and analytical skills. With a strong methodological basis, the module will allow you to focus on a particular period through project work on individual assemblages, with illustrated lectures, seminars and handling sessions.

The course consists of 26 meetings including a few Saturday workshops, but with most of the sessions being held on Monday evenings from 18th September 2006, between 6.30pm and 8.30pm, at Birkbeck Faculty of Continuing Education, 26 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DQ. The tutors are Jacqui Pearce, BA, FSA and Roberta Tomber, PhD, FSA.

The Birkbeck Faculty of Continuing Education course code is FFAR079UACPCE and the course carries 30 CATS points at Level 2. The fee is £215 (concessionary rate £105).

Further information can be obtained from the Archaeology Desk, Faculty of Continuing Education, 26 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DQ, tel. 020 7631 6627, archaeology@fce.bbk.ac.uk.

Enrolments can be carried out over the phone by calling Birkbeck Faculty of Continuing Education central enrolment facility on 020 7631 6651.

Pots and Pans: domestic artefacts of base metal Somerset County Museum, Taunton 23rd September 2006

The Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 Autumn Meeting will be held at the Somerset County Museum, Taunton. Based around the recently opened exhibit of English bronze cooking vessels, the day meeting will consider all aspects of cauldrons, skillets and related household implements including their form, manufacture and use, combined with a chance to get a close look at the material. Those attending the meeting are cordially invited to attend a meeting of the Antique Metalware Society on a complimentary range of topics at the same venue on Sunday. All welcome (society members free). Booking forms will be circulated to all members. For more information contact the organisers, tel.: 01366 328910, email quita@onetel.com, web www.frg700-1700.org.uk/Autumn%20conference.html. The cost is £5.

Oxford Roman Economy Project University of Oxford 27th September 2006

Approaches to quantifying the Roman economy, a one-day colloquium held at the University of Oxford. Places limited to 60. Speakers include: Alan Bowman, Lisa Fentress, Elio Lo Cascio, Matthew Ponting, Dominic Rathbone, and Andrew Wilson. Please also register interest with myrto.malouta@classics.ox.ac.uk. For more information contact Alan Bowman at University of Oxford, Classics Centre, Old Boy's School, George Street, Oxford OX1 2RL, tel 01865 288391, email alan.bowman@classics.ox.ac.uk, web www.classics.ox.ac.uk/. There is no charge.

Archaeology and history of the Greater Thames Estuary
Institute of Archaeology, University College London
30th September 2006

Work over the last two years in Essex, Kent and London. Held at Lecture Theatre, Institute of Archaeology, UCL, from 10:30am. Cheques payable to UCL. For more information contact Jane Sidell at Institute of Archaeology, UCL, 31-34 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PY, email j.sidell@ucl.ac.uk. The cost is £3.

Museum Association: annual exhibition
Bournemouth International Centre
23rd – 24th October 2006

Held at Bournemouth International Centre. Free entry and pre-registration. The event you can't afford to miss! Offers and exciting opportunity to meet a huge number and range of suppliers, companies and consultants. Take away ideas for your future and on-going projects, attend free exhibition seminars and gain expert and in-depth knowledge. Meet, network and share ideas with your fellow professionals. Be inspired. For more information contact Museums Association at Annual Exhibition, 24 Calvin Street, London E1 6NW, tel 020 7426 6940, email lorraine@museumsassociation.org, web www.museumsassociation.org/exhibition.

Theory and practice of community archaeology
University of Manchester
3rd – 4th November 2006

Archaeology for all, organised by University of Manchester and the City of Manchester. The aim of this major national conference is to provide a forum for debate about the growing area of community archaeology. The conference will provide an opportunity to explore: what the social, economic, tourism, educational and regenerative benefits of community archaeology are; how people can get involved in their own community projects; the role of the media; how to attract funds; the role of the professional,

amateur enthusiast and volunteer; where community archaeology is going. Those involved in community archaeology will be able to present ideas, share examples of best practice and identify common problems and solutions. Ultimately the intention is to explore how archaeology for all might be an integral part of community life, generating a sense of pride of place and ownership about common heritage. Specific sessions will tackle the questions of What is Community Archaeology? - This session will address the conceptual and theoretical issues surrounding community archaeology: what is it?; how does it work?; what are the different approaches to community archaeology (anthropological, theoretical, and practical)?; how accessible or exclusive is it? What is its role in the production of identity and place; What are the challenges and opportunities? - Papers in this session will address the challenges faced in organising and carrying out community archaeology projects: developing projects, funding issues, sustaining momentum, outcomes, pitfalls and problems; What makes archaeological projects special and unique to their community?: The Inspiration of the Project - This session will focus on a series of community archaeology case studies in order to explore the issues raised in sessions 1 and 2 in specific practical contexts. Papers will identify successful strategies, but also highlight the problems and issues that can arise in the practice of community archaeology; Does Archaeology for All have a Future? - This session will address future directions and ask the questions: where is Archaeology for All going? Is there a future for community archaeology? Theoretical, political, funding, and practical issues discussed in previous sessions will also inform the debate about the future of community archaeology. Call for papers. Those interested in presenting a paper should submit an abstract (max 250 words) for consideration by the organising committee. Places are limited and selection will take place by the end of June. There will also be an opportunity for poster presentations and those interested in offering one should also send a short abstract. The deadline for receipt of abstracts is June 22nd 2006. For more information contact Robina McNeil at Archaeology for All, The Organising Committee,

County Archaeologist, Greater Manchester Archaeology Unit, University of Manchester, Humanities Bridgeford Street Building, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL, tel 0161 275 2314, email robina.mcneil@manchester.ac.uk.

**Understanding Hadrian's Wall
Customs House Theatre, South Shields
3rd – 5th November 2006**

A conference to mark the publication of the 14th edition of the Handbook to the Roman Wall. Held at Customs House Theatre, South Shields, Tyne & Wear. Organised by the Arbeia Society in association with The Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne, The Cumberland & Westmorland Antiquarian & Archaeological Society The Hadrianic Society. Since 1992, the Arbeia Society has always arranged an annual day conference, the central theme of which is the study of Hadrian's Wall. Professor David Breeze suggested to the Society that following the publication of the Handbook it would be particularly useful for the conference in 2006 to air as many of the problems in our understanding of Hadrian's Wall as possible. The Society was delighted to accept this suggestion and in order to provide the time necessary to discuss these problems in depth is arranging the conference over an entire weekend, beginning on the Friday evening with a reception and an introductory lecture by David Breeze. The main part of the conference will be held in the Customs House Theatre at Mill Dam, South Shields. Its main focus will be on the structural history of the Wall as a whole, and not on individual sites. There will be contributions by speakers from Germany and Austria on the Roman frontiers of mainland Europe to provide comparisons, but all the other speakers will be scholars active in the study of the Wall.

Friday 3rd November consists of a reception at South Shields Town Hall, by kind invitation of the Mayor of South Tyneside, followed by an Introductory Lecture given by Professor David Breeze. On the Saturday and Sunday there will be fourteen papers, with ample time allowed for

questions and discussion. The main themes will be: the building of the Wall; the history of the Wall; comparisons with other European frontiers the significance of small finds and ceramics; new potentials in the study of the Wall; how Hadrian's Wall and other frontiers worked. The following have agreed to speak at the conference: Lindsay Allason-Jones, Paul Austen, Paul Bidwell, Jim Crow, Richard Hingley, Nick Hodgson, Sonja Jilek, Rachel Newman, John Poulter, David Shotter, Vivien Swan, Andreas Thiel, Tony Wilmott, and David Woolliscroft.

The cost varies: £60 for non-members, £45 for members and £30 for full-time students. A conference dinner has been arranged at the Casa Rosa, Fowler Street, South Shields, for the Saturday night. This will cost £20 for a 3-course meal, including wine. The restaurant was built as an Edwardian dance hall and is well-known for the survival of its original sumptuous decoration. Booking is essential and the cost should be included in the payment for Conference fees. A wide range of accommodation is available in South Shields, ranging through various grades of hotels to high-quality bed and breakfast. Those booking to attend will be sent a price-list and reservations can be made on their behalf by the conference organisers. Deposit of 10% payable in addition to other conference fees. For more information contact The Secretary at The Arbeia Society, Arbeia Roman Fort, Baring Street, South Shield NE33 3BB, tel 0191 4544093, email liz.elliott@twmuseums.org.uk. The cost is varied.

**Archaeology of Mendip and its environs
Bishop's Palace, Wells
11th – 12th November 2006**

This two-day conference, held at the medieval Bishop's Palace in the beautiful cathedral city of Wells, has as its focus the archaeology of the Mendip Hills and its environs. Around twenty speakers will present the results of new research and new ideas about the rich archaeological sequence of the region, a sequence that stretches back half a million years. Speakers, including Roger Jacobi, Malcolm Todd and Michael Costen, will consider the evidence for Prehistoric, Roman,

Medieval and Post-Medieval activity in this upland limestone landscape and the surrounding lowlands. For more information contact Dr Jodie Lewis at Department of Applied Sciences, Geography and Archaeology, University of Worcester, Henwick Grove, Worcester WR2 6AJ, tel 01905 855182, email jodie.lewis@worc.ac.uk. The cost is £35/£25 concessions.

The Roman period in Wales & South West Britain
18th November 2006

A tribute to the work of Aileen Fox 1907-2005. The Devon Archaeological Society offers this up-to-date review of one of the areas which most engaged Aileen Fox's interest in an affectionate tribute to her memory. Speakers will include John Allan, Richard Brewer, Mark Corney, Peter Gathercole, Heather James, William Manning, Valerie Maxfield, Henrietta Quinnell, Charles Thomas, Malcolm Todd. Register by 4th November. For more information contact Mrs Jill Cobley at Brookdene, Metcombe, Ottery St Mary EX11 1RU, email jill@cobley1.fsbusiness.co.uk, web www.ex.ac.uk/das/. The cost is £19/17 members.

TAG 2006: X-TAG
University of Exeter
15th – 17th December 2006

Theoretical Archaeology Group (TAG) 2006 Conference is to be held at the Department of Archaeology, University of Exeter. This year we are looking for current students of archaeology to submit papers for the X-Factor Plenary Session addressing the future of archaeological theory. Session proposals by 30th June, papers by 30th September. Organised by Carl Knappett and Howard Williams. For more information contact the organisers at X-TAG, Department of Archaeology, Laver Building, North Park Road, Streatham Campus, University of Exeter, Exeter EX4 4QE, email tag@exeter.ac.uk, web www.sogaer.ex.ac.uk/archaeology/TAG2006.shtml.

Colloque international CRAFTS 2007
Artisanat et Société dans les Provinces Romaines
University of Zurich (Switzerland), 28th February – 3rd March 2007

Les dernières décennies ont été marquées, dans toute l'Europe, par de nombreuses découvertes archéologiques relatives à l'artisanat romain. Elles ont souvent fait l'objet d'études propres, mais il manque une analyse de l'artisanat romain dans son ensemble, incluant des problématiques d'ordre social et économique. Ce colloque international se propose de présenter et de discuter, dans un contexte élargi, les synthèses régionales fondées sur une mise en commun des données élaborées dans le cadre du projet international « Structures, rôle économique et social de l'artisanat d'époque romaine en Italie et dans les provinces occidentales de l'Empire » (CRAFTS).

On évitera donc, dans ce colloque, l'énumération de séries d'exemples, pour se concentrer sur une représentation des différents aspects de l'artisanat romain dans son ensemble. Outre les exposés généraux et les communications orales sur les domaines de travail des groupes de recherche régionaux, présentés par les intervenantes et intervenants invités, une place est également réservée à d'autres contributions consacrées à la recherche sur l'artisanat, et en particulier aux thèmes « *Continuité et rupture de la production artisanale au passage de la Tène finale à l'époque romaine et de l'Antiquité tardive au Haut Moyen Age* » ainsi que « *Aperçu des différents groupes de matériaux compte tenu notamment des aspects technologiques* ». Les organisateurs invitent les chercheurs à proposer des communications orales aussi bien que des posters.

Vous trouverez de plus amples informations (frais d'inscription, programme provisoire, excursion etc.) sur le site www.prehist.unizh.ch.

Si vous êtes intéressé(e) au colloque, veuillez vous inscrire jusqu'au **31. 3. 2006** auprès du bureau d'organisation, au moyen du bulletin d'inscription ci-joint. Si possible, nous préférons une inscription par courrier électronique.

Pour des raisons financières, nous enverrons des informations ultérieures uniquement aux personnes inscrites.

RAC/TRAC 2007
Roman Archaeology Conference &
Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference
29th March – 1st April 2007

UCL and Birkbeck College, University of London in association with

the British Museum
the Museum of London
and the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies

Sessions currently planned:

Death as a process: funerals in the Roman World (John Pearce & Jake Weekes)
Roman Thrace (Ian Haynes)
From Prehistory to Protohistory – the transition from Iron Age to Roman Britain (Fraser Hunter)
Creating Ethnicities in the Roman World (Andrew Gardner & Kathryn Lomas)
Romans and Other Peoples: Within and Beyond the Frontiers (Peter S. Wells)
The Emergence of Roman Identities: Italy 300 BC- AD 100 (Edward Herring & Kathryn Lomas)
Understanding the Romano-British Countryside (Pete Wilson)
The Army in Judaea / Palaestina (Gwyn Davies)
Revisiting the economy (Kris Lockyear & Dave Wythe)
Recent work on Roman Britain (Tony Wilmott)
Phenomenology of the Sacred (TRAC session) (Andrew Green)

For more information, please visit the conference website at:

www.ucl.ac.uk/RAC/index.htm

Postal enquiries can be sent to:

RAC/TRAC 07, Institute of Archaeology, 31-34 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PY, UK

RAC email: rac07@ucl.ac.uk

TRAC email: trac07@ucl.ac.uk