

LUCERNA



THE ROMAN FINDS GROUP
NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 40, January 2011

Lucerna

Roman Finds Group
Newsletter 40

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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!

The address for e-mailed contributions is:

emma.durham@arch.ox.ac.uk

Contributions by post should be sent to:

Emma Durham, Institute of Archaeology
36 Beaumont Street, Oxford, OX1 2PG.

Editorial

Welcome to the 40th^h edition of Lucerna. In this edition we have an article on a flagon lid by Martin Dearne and several books reviews by Jenny Hall. Details of the spring meeting in London can be found on page 6 as well as the enclosed leaflet. This is an excellent chance to hear some of the best known finds specialists in Britain speak. As the RFG Committee has recently been expanded to help with the running of the group, short biographies of the members, both old and new, are given on page 7.

Emma Durham

A Flagon Lid from Enfield and a Note on the Type

The subject of this note was recovered in 1984 by the Enfield Archaeological Society during a small excavation within the settlement which developed along Ermine Street some 10 miles north of Londinium from c. AD 70 onwards (Dearne 2008) and has recently been assessed during a project to write up backlog excavations in the area. Although the note on the type may not take account of all (especially more recent) finds of such jug lids it is hoped that it may be of some interest.

The find is a flagon lid, a now D – shaped (3.35 x 2.95 cm), slightly plano-convex sectioned c. 0.5 – 1.0 mm thick plate with a gently concave incomplete leading edge turning up at slightly less than 90°, and traces of an incised marginal line. A duck is cast on to the back edge (with a circular dimple corresponding to it on the rear). The duck is probably stylised but also damaged, now appearing to have a blunted wedge shaped body with the end of the tail (which would have been pierced to hinge the lid) lost, a thick neck and corroded, undetailed head.

Originally a ‘truncated teardrop’ in shape and probably with a higher head and longer beak to the duck which may also have been decorated with rocker arm engraving (compare one from Aldborough: Eckroyd Smith 1852, Pl. XXV No. 14 = Bishop 1996, 10 No. 18), this would have formed the lid to a copper alloy jug and would have been hinged to a separately cast handle (see in general Tassinari (1975) especially 69f Nos. 180 – 2 and Pl. XXXV; den Boesterd (1956) 28 and Pl. XI Nos. 240 – 9; Eggers (1966) e.g. 96, 106 and Abb. 52.k; Webster (1995) 192ff No. 1; and Ellis (2000) 133 No. 235). Such hinged jug lids come in two types. One, as here, has a semi-circular to ‘truncated teardrop’ shape (and often a slight curvature from side to side) with an upwardly angled leading edge to fit a raised spout on the jug, while the other type is heart to trefoil shaped and flat.

The heart/trefoil shaped lids may be entirely plain (e.g. Ellis op. cit.), but frequently had some

form of riveted (and so usually as with the pre-Flavian examples at Usk (Webster op cit Nos. 3 – 5) lost) or cast knob for lifting the lid with the thumb when pouring. These knobs may be vertical bars (Atkinson 1942, 210 No. 12 (A255 – 6)) or more commonly dolphins (op. cit. A257 – 8; Webster op. cit. No. 2; Jones and Grealey 1974, 125 No. 24; Bushe Fox 1932, 83 = Pl. 14, 49; Hobley 1975, 38 No. 23) as on the continent (e.g. Neuss: Simpson 2000, Pl. 49.2), but only one or two such lids in Britain known to the author seem to have a duck terminal (Leicester: Buckley and Lucas 1987, 101 No. 12; ?The Lunt: Hobley 1971/3, 71 No. 16), though they again appear on the continent (e.g. Kaufmann-Heinimann 1977 Taf. 159 No. 252; ?and den Boesterd op cit Pl. XXI No. 245; note also the duck on a pyxis from Anthée (Faider-Feytmans 1979 Planche 86 No. 217)).

By contrast ‘truncated teardrop’ lids, as here, seem to invariably have a cast thumb knob and invariably in the form of a duck (or what seems likely to be the skeumorph of one). The best preserved is that from Aldborough (above) which, along with two others (Verulamium: Goodburn 1984, 51 No. 175; and Cirencester: McWhirr *et al* 1982 Microfiche Fig. 55 No. 55), might even be, allowing for post casting work and damage, from the same workshop as the Enfield example. Rather more common though are slightly larger lids, all closely similar to each other, which are more rounded at the back with a less upturned, narrower leading edge and in which the thumb knobs are not obviously zoomorphic but strongly suggest the simplified copying of the duck thumb knob (e.g. Birrens: Robertson (1975), 112 No. 64 = Fig. 36 No. 1; Colchester: Crummy 1992, 156f No. 545; Cranbourne Chase: Pitt-Rivers 1887, Pl. XXI No. 1; Margidunum: Todd 1969, 90 No. 8; Chester: Thompson 1976, 190 No. 10; Pentre: Webster 1989a, 64ff No. 4; probably Caersws: Webster 1989b, 66 No. 38; and on the continent e.g. den Boesterd op cit No. 249 and Simpson op. cit., Pl. 15 No. 4 (noting another from Saalburg)).

Heart/trefoil lids are found in Britain as early as pre-Flavian times (cf. Usk above) and the

'truncated teardrop' examples with ?skeumorph duck thumb knobs from Birrens, Pentre and Caersws belong to the first and second centuries so it is likely that both the jug types they derive from were in use in Britain through the early Roman period at least. As to the use of a recognisable duck for the thumb knob dating is sparse. The heart/trefoil lid with one from Leicester is early to mid second century, and, if correctly interpreted, the Lunt example is of AD 64 -75, but, as far as the author is aware, 'truncated teardrop' lids with recognisable duck thumb knobs have only come from late Roman contexts (Verulamium (Goodburn op. cit.) c. 360/370 and the present example from a context probably to be dated to the 270s). However, this is presumably only due to so few having been recovered from dateable deposits in Britain and it must be likely that both recognisable and ?skeumorph duck thumb knobs were in use – particularly on 'truncated teardrop' lids but also on some heart/trefoil shaped lids – throughout the Roman period, and that the difference between the two may well have had more to do with quality of workmanship than chronology.

Martin J. Dearne



The Flagon Lid (1:1)

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RFG DATASHEETS

We have got off to a slow start with the production of datasheets so this is a plea to all members to share their expertise and knowledge and contribute a datasheet (or two)! It could be on a particular find type, an industry or present ongoing research - all will be a valuable resource to students, people just starting off in their finds careers and curators alike.

Gill Dunn is co-ordinating this so please contact her at the address below if you are willing to write a datasheet.

Gill Dunn
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Roman Finds Group Website Re-launched

We have recently updated the RFG website, which now contains information for those seeking out the group for the first time, and details on how to join us, as well as much information for current members of the group, in the form of news, updates, and details of meetings and other conferences, exhibitions or books, as well as links to other websites of interest - all of the current information that may fall between editions of Lucerna.

Do let us know what you think about it and what else you might like to see online, and feel free to send along details of forthcoming events that you wish to see advertised; contact nicola.hembrey@english-heritage.org.uk

Find us at www.romanfinds.org.uk

RFG Spring Meeting

Life in Roman Britain – every object tells a story

Museum of London in collaboration with the Roman Finds Group

The Weston Theatre, Museum of London
Saturday March 19th

10.30am	Registration
11.00am	Life in Roman Britain Lindsay Allason-Jones, University of Newcastle
11.30am	Domestic life in Roman London Angela Wardle, Museum of London Archaeology
12.00pm	Lighting & heating Hella Eckardt, University of Reading
12.30-2.00	LUNCH
2.00pm	Medicine & hygiene Ralph Jackson, British Museum
2.30pm	Health in Roman London Rebecca Redfern, Centre for Human Bioarchaeology, Museum of London
3.00pm	Funerary rites Hilary Cool, Barbican Associates
3.30 – 4.00	TEA
4.00	Military life Mike Bishop, Roman military specialist
4.30	Writing & communication Roger Tomlin, Wolfson College Oxford
5.00	Roman London – the next story to tell Jenny Hall, Museum of London
5.30	CLOSE

During the lunchtime recess, there will be the opportunity to see displays or view poster sessions. If anyone has anything they would like to display at this time, please contact Jenny Hall (jhall@museumoflondon.org.uk)

Ticket price:

RFG members £9; non-members £12 (Inclusive of afternoon tea)

Applications with a stamped self-addressed envelope to:

Jenny Hall
Department of Archaeological Collections
Museum of London
150 London Wall
London. EC2Y 5HN

Membership

Please remember that membership is due in October. Many thanks to those who have already paid. 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).

Meet the Committee

President: Roy Friendship-Taylor, Toad Hall, 86 Main Road, Hackleton, Northants. NN7 2AD
Tel: 01604 870312. e-mail: roy@friendship-taylor.freemove.co.uk

Minutes and General Secretary and Website

Manager: Nicola Hembry, English Heritage, Centre for Archaeology, Fort Cumberland, Eastney, Portsmouth, PO4 9LD. e-mail: nicola.hembry@english-heritage.org.uk

Starting as an archaeologist for Surrey County Council, I have been Finds Specialist for English Heritage since 1999, with a particular interest in Roman artefact research, developing ideas on what assemblages can reveal about the gender, ethnicity, interests and social structure of their owners, as well as the infra-structure of a site. I teach archaeology to a collective of home-schooled students. Recent work also includes Project Management of the Later Silbury project, focusing on the Roman settlement opposite Silbury Hill.

Treasurer: Jenny Hall, Museum of London, 150 London Wall, London EC2Y 5HN. Tel: 0207 814 5739.
e-mail: jhall@museumoflondon.org.uk

As Senior Roman Curator at the Museum of London I am responsible for the interpretation and content of the Roman London Gallery and am particularly interested in how to present the Romans to a visiting museum public of all ages whether it be the archaeological structural remains or interesting excavated objects.

Membership Secretary: Angela Wardle, 1 Stebbing Farm, Fishers Green, Stevenage, Herts. SG1 2JB. Tel: (work) 0207 566 9322.
e-mail: awardle@molas.org.uk

I have a background in field archaeology and finds research, which includes a PhD in the study of Roman music. I have worked as a finds

specialist for Museum of London Archaeology, in its various guises, for the last twenty years, specialising in artefacts of the Roman period and have contributed to many MoLA publications.

Meetings Co-ordinator: Chris Lydamore, Harlow Museum, Passmores House, Third Avenue, Harlow, CM18 6YL, Tel 01279 454959. e-mail: chris.lydamore@harlow.gov.uk

Publications Co-ordinators: Gillian Dunn, Chester Archaeological Service, 27 Grosvenor Street, Chester CH1 2DD. e-mail: gill.dunn@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

After starting my finds career at the Department of Urban Archaeology at the Museum of London in the early 1980s, I moved on to Winchester to take up the post of Finds Officer, and then on to Chester in 1991. My main task at the moment is writing up some of the Roman finds from our excavations at Chester's amphitheatre, in partnership with English Heritage. I am also a visiting lecturer at Chester University and help to organise and run their annual training excavation. Wearing my editor's hat I took on the role of publications co-ordinator in order to produce a series of finds datasheets, written by members of the group to share their expertise and knowledge.

Newsletter Editor: Emma Durham, Institute of Archaeology, 36 Beaumont Street, Oxford, OX1 2PG.
e-mail: emma.durham@arch.ox.ac.uk

My first jobs were working as a Finds Officer for several units in southern England. In 2001 I became a Research Assistant at the Institute of Archaeology in Oxford, then in 2006 embarked upon a PhD at the University of Reading on metal figurines in Roman Britain. Having just completed my studies I now hope to continue working with finds.

Committee members:

Justine Bayley,
e-mail: mail@justine-bayley.co.uk

I worked as an archaeological scientist for English Heritage for many years, developing Roman interests that include evidence for crafts and industries such as metal- and glass-working, and the composition and methods of manufacture of metal objects, in particular brooches and enamels. I have published many research papers and contributions to excavation reports, and am continuing my work as a freelance researcher and consultant. I jointly edit the journal *Historical Metallurgy*, and for most of 2011 will be working part time for the Portable Antiquities Scheme, temporarily covering part of the Prehistoric and Roman National Advisor's work.

Evan Chapman,
e-mail: Evan.Chapman@museumwales.ac.uk

Curatorial Officer, National Museum of Wales
I came to Cardiff to go to University and haven't managed to escape yet, not that I've tried very hard. In 1990 I got a six month contract in the Department of Archaeology and Numismatics of the National Museum of Wales and have remained there ever since. On the increasingly rare occasion that other work don't get in the way, I work on Roman small finds, in particular copper alloy objects. My principal areas of research are brooches and military equipment

Stephen Greep, e-mail: sjgreep@gmail.com

My interests cover all areas of Roman small finds and particularly objects manufactured in bone, antler and ivory (subject of my PhD completed in 1983), where my interests cover all periods. I am also interested in Roman ceramics on which I have written several large reports. I have a publication list of nearly 100 papers and contributions to excavation reports. Previously I worked at the Verulamium Museum, and Tyne and Wear Museums Service. Recently (well last

18 years), I worked in Health Service Management, last 13 as Chief Executive of large hospital Trusts. This enabled me to retire early and return to archaeological interests/matters (amongst other things).

Ellen Swift, e-mail: E.V.Swift@kent.ac.uk

I am currently Senior Lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Kent. I have wide interests in artefact studies, the late and post-Roman transition in the West, late Roman dress, and Roman and late antique art. In addition to other teaching, at Kent I teach an undergraduate module on the identification and interpretation of Roman and Medieval Artefacts and contribute to an M.A. level module in artefact studies.

Sally Worrell, e-mail: s.worrell@ucl.ac.uk

Books books books books books books books books books books

Cosmetic Sets of Late Iron Age and Roman Britain by Ralph Jackson.

2010. London: British Museum Research Publication 181 (224p., 11 pl., 25 fig.)

I remember that when a cosmetic grinder was first brought into the Museum of London for identification over twenty years ago, we would have been scratching our heads as to what it was except that Ralph Jackson had then recently published his first catalogue on cosmetic grinders (*Britannia* XVI, 1985, 165-192). How good, then, that Ralph has now produced the definitive work demonstrating how his original article has enabled the recognition of these intriguing little implements. In 1985, he recorded some 77 mortars and 22 pestles. In the new catalogue, he has recorded 418 mortars and 207 pestles – quite an impressive increase!

The volume is divided into themes looking at all aspects of their manufacture and distribution. There is also a visual typology of some 15 sub-types ranging from bovid-headed mortars with end loops to large central looped pestles with inlaid enamel. Histograms show the variation of length and height of the mortars and grinders while some examples of complete sets show that they were manufactured with matching elements of decoration.

Cosmetic grinders were cast from moulds, enabling numerous copies to be produced but no two examples are identical. Ralph Jackson goes on to show, however, that casting was only the start of the process. Most of the decoration was applied by cold-working after casting. A lead-alloy 'model', rather than a mould as such, from Skipton Street in Southwark would have been used for manufacturing one particular type of mortar, but it only produced the basic shape with the rest fashioned by hand. Ralph Jackson concludes that, with such diverse styles and

forms, they must have varied from being small and 'inexpensive' to being larger and 'higher status' examples. Indeed, he feels that the decoration seems to 'characterise, protect and empower the individual'. Choosing a particular one would have been important.

The wear patterns on both pestles and mortars show that they were used to crush and grind pigments. Although no residues have yet been found nor do any literary sources survive that describe their use, they were obviously part of a body beautiful process. They could have been bought as sets with manicure implements – an example of which has been found in London. The volume gives a useful visual demonstration of how a replica grinder could be used with pigments in order to produce mineral powders. There is also a very useful overview of how cosmetic ingredients were prepared and used elsewhere in the Roman Empire. The evidence is, therefore, strong for them being used for the preparation and application of powdered mineral cosmetics, mostly as eye and face colourings in the same way as we would buy beauty preparations today.

Ralph Jackson has been able to identify some distinctive groupings with a division between end-looped and centre-looped types. A series of maps show the geographical distribution of the types with a distinction made between excavated and casual finds. The grinders range in date from the 1st century BC until the 4th century AD, but peaked in popularity in the 1st to 3rd centuries AD. There is a great variety in size, form and decoration. For example, the animal head as a decorated terminal was a favoured motif in Eastern Britain.

These distinctive toilet implements reflect a British social practice which originated in the Iron Age. Their distribution is almost exclusively within Britain with concentrations in the towns in the south-east and in the small

towns of Norfolk and Suffolk. This leads one to question why they are only found here and why did the practice continue rather than adopting other empire-wide beauty preparation methods.

The report is, therefore, everything you need to know or even covers things you might not think you need to know! The rest of the volume is a catalogue of all the recorded examples arranged alphabetically by location. It is good to see a detailed catalogue entry for each example – catalogues are not easy to get published these days. With good clear photographs and a useful visual guide to the typology that runs to 20 figures, it makes one think that perhaps each one is so different or has sufficient variations that we certainly could not expect Ralph to produce a typology for a Roman Finds Group fact sheet!

However, with any published catalogue, it is inevitable that more continue to be identified. No sooner than I had read the new publication and saw that London now had 13 examples, than three more grinders and two pestles have been excavated from a site in Moorgate in the City. So, all I can say is that we look forward to Ralph producing an updated version in a few years time!

Jenny Hall
Museum of London

Secrets of the Gardens: Archaeologists Unearth the Lives of Roman Londoners at Draper's Gardens by Jonathan Butler & Victoria Ridgeway.

2009. Pre-Construct Archaeology (80pp + DVD)
ISBN 978-0956305411. £9.95

RFG members may remember the temporary display at the Museum of London or attended the RFG meeting at the British Museum where James Gerrard from pre-Construct Archaeology described the amazing bronze vessel hoard that had been placed down a well in 4th-century Roman London. As a response to the public interest and at the behest of the developers with

the Drapers Company, Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) has now produced a popular interim booklet about the excavations on the site at Drapers Gardens.

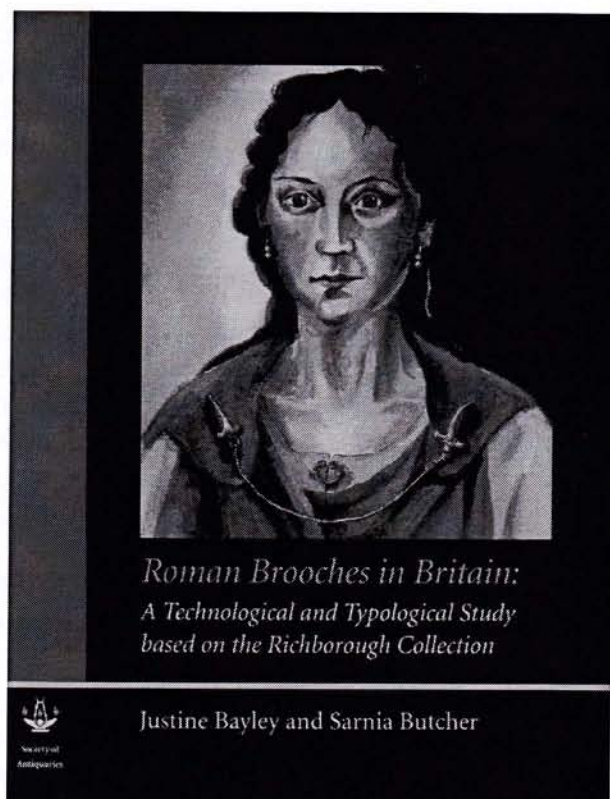
This site had a wide variety of unusual structures and the surviving organic materials made the site exceptional. The booklet details the history of the site, beginning with a corduroy trackway which was first laid out in about AD62, just after the Boudiccan revolt. This development of the area is earlier than was previously thought. Shortly after, a palisade fence was constructed cutting through the trackway, which survived in some places up to about 2m – hopefully, the post-excavation research will provide an explanation for this defensive measure. There then followed a period of intense building and industrialisation with the excavation of a near complete street, while the Walbrook stream itself was constantly being controlled, revetted and contained in wide manmade ditches that were crossed by plank bridges spaced alongside the road, allowing access to the roadside buildings and workshops.

Such themes as 'Diet & environment' and 'Literacy & writing' demonstrate the wealth of the artefactual material found on the site. What follows is the story of the vessel hoard, its constituent parts, how it was deposited and then the later history of the site including that of the Drapers Hall and Gardens. The story of the hoard is also accompanied by a double-spread cartoon, a novel way of showing how it was possibly deposited, but I do wonder whether it really added anything to the text. Otherwise, the book is interspersed with a wide variety of coloured images of some of the artefacts and/or comparative material, illustrations and a good reconstruction of the site, which also appears on the cover superimposed on today's street scene.

The booklet is a good introduction to a very complex site and is a taster to some of the amazing objects found there. The booklet is accompanied by a DVD that consists of an interesting film of the excavations, first commissioned by the Drapers Company, which helps to explain the complex archaeology of the

site. We can only wait with anticipation for the completion of the all the detailed post-excavation work and the full publication of the site.

Jenny Hall
Museum of London



Roman brooches reprint?

Justine Bayley and Sarnia Butcher's book, *Roman Brooches in Britain: a technological and typological study based on the Richborough Collection* was published by the Society of Antiquaries of London in 2004 but is now out of print. However, it would be possible for it to be made available again in a print-on-demand edition if there was sufficient initial interest to cover the costs of setting this up. Only about 20 initial purchases would be needed, but after that it would remain available for future buyers.

If you would like to buy a copy please email Justine Bayley (mail@justine-bayley.co.uk).

This expression of interest will not be treated as a firm order until the price of the print-on-demand edition is known and you have agreed to purchase a copy at that price.

Artefacts in Roman Britain - Their Purpose and Use, edited by Lindsay Allason-Jones

Contributors: Lindsay Allason-Jones, Richard Brickstock, Nina Crummy, W. H. Manning, Sian Rees, M. C. Bishop, R. S. O. Tomlin, Quita Mould, Hella Eckhardt, Ellen Swift, Ralph Jackson, Joanna Bird, and Hilary Cool
Available January 2011. Cambridge University Press (80 illus., 3 tables) ISBN: 9780521860123

Roman Britain has given us an enormous number of artefacts. Yet few books available today deal with its whole material culture as represented by these artefacts. This introduction, aimed primarily at students and general readers, begins by explaining the process of identifying objects of any period or material.

A series of themed chapters, written by experts in their particular area of interest, then discusses artefacts from the point of view of their use. The contributors' premise is that every object was designed for a particular purpose, which may have been to satisfy a general need or the specific need of an individual. If the latter, the maker, the owner and the end user may have been one and the same person; if the former, the manufacturer had to provide objects that others would wish to purchase or exchange. Understanding this reveals a fascinating picture of life in Roman Britain.

Artisanat et économie du fer en France méditerranéenne de l'Antiquité au début du Moyen Age - une approche interdisciplinaire by Gaspard Pagès.

2010. Editions Monique Mergoïl (317 p., 244).
53 € + 7 € postage
(ISBN: 978 2 35518 0132).

The author proposes a wide time span insight of iron's craft industry and economy along the French Mediterranean shores, through the archaeological study of ancient iron artefacts. This study integrates an archeometrical approach, combining metallographic and petrographic methods specifically adapted to the analysis of antique metal manufactured objects.

A holistic approach has been considered for the artefacts and its context, incorporating the new studies of twelve significant metallurgical sites with their particular topics –i.e. pilot archaeological site- to precise, already existing bibliographical inventories.

An exhaustive documentation of the new locations has been achieved both through the archaeological data obtained and rigorous description of the installations. Around 28000 metallurgical materials counting objects and

slags have been adequately inventoried, and 169 of them have been subjected to the archaeometric study.

This work is structured according to the three major activities emerging from the iron bloomery process: The production of the metal (direct reduction of the ore), the manufacture of the objects (forging) and the trade of ferrous artefacts in a semi-finished form (circulation of semi-products). Thus, through the evolution of these three economical activities, it is possible to highlight the choices and the behaviour which were adopted for the same exercise from the Antiquity commercial systems to the Carolingian reform, to finally contribute to a better knowledge of the society between the Roman period and the beginning of the Middle Ages in the South of Gaul.

conferences conferences conferences conferences conferences conferences

Seeing Red: International conference on new economic and social perspectives on Gallo-Roman sigillata 1st - 3rd April 2011, University of Reading

The conference aims to capture the new research on samian stimulated by the publication of Brian Hartley's and Brenda Dickinson's *Names on terra sigillata*. Speakers from a wide range of European countries, from the Atlantic to the Black Sea, and the Baltic to the Mediterranean, will give papers on the following themes: production centres (history, location and technology); consumption and distribution; onomastics and iconography. Cost: £250 (full residential); £100 (full non-residential); £50 (day rate). See website for details,

http://www.reading.ac.uk/archaeology/research/arch_sigillata.aspx or contact Jenni Eaton at sigillata@reading.ac.uk.

TRAC 14th-17th April 2011

To be held at Newcastle University.
<http://conferences.ncl.ac.uk/TRAC2011>

Neighbours and Successors of Rome

The Association for the History of Glass is running a conference over two days (19-20th May 2011) at King's Manor, University of York, which builds upon a very successful two day meeting held in 2006 on Glass of the Roman Empire. This is your opportunity to hear from

international speakers about new work on the traditions of glass production and use in Europe and the Middle East in the later first millennium AD.

From the fifth century AD glass production and consumption throughout what was the western and eastern Roman Empire appears to decline, although this may have been more a change in emphasis, due to economic and political influences. The main themes of the conference are glass use in the East and West during the Late Antique period (4th centuries to 8th centuries), the different production traditions in the two geographic regions, and the apparent fragmentation of the glass industry in the West in comparison with that in the Byzantine and Sassanian Empires. It is hoped the papers presented will establish any commonality or linking between the two cultural and geographic regions.

Cost £90 (one day £60), reduced student fee. Further details, including the draft conference programme are available at <http://www.historyofglass.org.uk/meetings.html>. The programme will be updated as further offers of oral and poster presentations are confirmed.

Email or write to Justine Bayley, Howcroft, High Street, Harmondsworth UB7 0AQ (AHG@justine-bayley.co.uk) to offer a paper or register for the conference. Abstract deadline: 28 February 2011. It is intended the refereed proceedings of this conference will be published in an edited volume.

XVIIth International Congress on Ancient Bronzes 21st-25th May 2011 Izmir, Turkey

The theme for the conference is 'The Art of Bronzes in Anatolia and the Eastern Mediterranean from Protogeometric to Early

Byzantine Periods (10th century BC to 7th century AD)

http://www.associazioneaiar.it/ancient_bronzes_izmir2011.htm

RGS-IBG Annual International Conference 31st August – 2nd September, Royal Geographical Society, London

Although aimed at geographers, some of the sessions at this conference may be of interest to members of the group, in particular Geographies of Collections. The organisers would be pleased to receive submissions for papers from researchers engaged in a wide variety of 'collections' including fine art, natural history, cartographic, photographic, ethnographic, archaeological, and digital. We are particularly interested in papers which address the issues of place, space and imagination in the accumulation and deployment of collections, and in papers which have a historico-geographical focus. Topics might include:

- * Collections and imaginative geographies
- * The languages of collections
- * Materialities of collections
- * Spaces of collections
- * Collections and networks
- * Collected objects and knowledge production
- * The fluidity of collections
- * Collections and agency

Those interested in participating in the session should contact Caroline Cornish (Caroline.Cornish.2009@live.rhul.ac.uk). The deadline for submission of abstracts is 11 February 2011

Conference details: www.rgs.org/AC2011