LUCERNA

The Newsletter of
The Roman Finds Group

LUCERNA: THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ROMAN FINDS GROUP
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Editorial

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the foundation of the Roman Finds Group in 1987 by a group of dedicated specialists (Patrick Clay, Glynis Lloyd Morgan, Hilary Cool, Justine Bailey and Michael Dawson) who, after discussing the idea at a weekend conference at Knuston Hall, Northamptonshire, committed to the idea of establishing an organisation focussed on the study and dissemination of Roman small finds research. A meeting of interested parties followed at Leicester University in October that year where the 'Romano-British Small Finds Group', as it was then called, was born, followed by a day-school focussed on Personal Ornament in March 1988. A second day-school about extra-mural sites in London followed at the Museum of London in October 1988, and a third at Leeds University in February 1989 examining finds from northern *vici*. These beginnings are chronicled in the very first Roman Finds Group Newsletter (Issue 1, 2-3) that is openly available on the RFG website under the '*Lucerna* Newsletters' section.

Since then, the RFG has grown in popularity and output, building on these firm foundations to become a valuable forum for specialists and the public alike. As well as a dedicated website and twitter feed, RFG conferences are held twice a year (in spring and autumn), with members - the numbers of which continue to grow year-on-year - also able to take advantage of the plentiful resources available to them, including two issues a year of the society's newsletter *Lucerna*, and numerous datasheets. *Lucerna* itself, which started under the stewardship of Michael Dawson in 1989, recently reached its landmark 50th edition in January 2016 (see *Lucerna* 50, 6-8). The RFG's enduring legacy, however, has undoubtedly been the contribution that the group, and the community that surrounds it, has made (and continues to make) to our understanding of the Roman world and the people that lived and worked in it by studying the small objects they used as part of their lives.

To celebrate this special occasion the RFG is holding a jammed-packed two day conference at Salibury Museum on the 20th-21st October 2017 (details of which follow below). Tickets are already on sale to both members and non-members alike so why not send off for your tickets today. There will be cake afterall!

In the meantime you can make the most of all the latest features in this issue. In the following pages there is an article by Michael Marshall of MoLA who records and offers some interesting observations about the use and symbolism of some stained bone hairpins from London. There are also, of course, reviews of the latest RFG Spring Conference that took place in St Albans in April, and a series of shorter notes about female symbolism (Nina Crummy), a silver finger-ring (Frances McIntosh) and linchpins (James Gerrard) you may find interesting.

We all look forward to seeing you in October for the big birthday bash.

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Lucerna Editor

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The RFG Annual General Meeting

The Roman Finds Group Annual General Meeting was held on Friday 21st April 2017 at Verulamium Museum, St. Albans, where the existing Committee were re-elected for the following year. A list of the current Committee is provided below, following which is a report summarising their work over the course of the past year.

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Front cover image: Selection of figurative bone hairpins from London (not to scale). Left to right: MOL A2310, MOL 19112, 199BHS74[V-6]<21> © Museum of London. See pp. 6-10.

RFG Annual General Meeting Report 2016-2017

The last year saw the consolidation and continuation of recent initiatives and other new developments for RFG members. During the calendar year of 2016 our membership secretary, Angela Wardle, reports that membership numbers rose to 214, an increase of 18% - the highest level recorded since its foundation in 1987. During the first few months of 2017 membership has risen further (at the time of writing it stood at 220). As Jenny Hall's report shows, RFG now has a very solid financial base which is enabling us to deliver an increasing number of benefits to members.

Not only is our membership increasing, but we are getting more popular online too! Our twitter account, run by Nicola Hembrey, now has increased over the last twelve months from under a thousand to 1524, with several original tweets each week. Our website, also run by Nicola, was relaunched in October 2015, showing an increasing number of visits. It is in top position on Google for anyone searching for "Roman Finds", and on page one for "Roman Archaeology Conferences" searches. In January 2017 alone there were 1603 unique visitors, with an average of 1.5 visits per visitor, a total no. of visits 2429) and a total number of 6155 page views. The most visited pages, so far in 2017, are (unsurprisingly) the home page, the meetings page and downloads of *Lucerna* and Datasheets. An analysis of visits to the website in January shows how increasingly popular it is becoming.

The addition of new functionality to the site over time, including Members' Resources, the download of the out-of-print Manning publication, along with access to the full archive of 25 years of *Lucerna* and datasheets, make the site a valuable and interesting place for Members to visit. The forthcoming video area will extend this rich resource to the public and should increase the profile of the RFG still further. We are exceptionally grateful to Jon Sloper of Alacrify, who has provided his advice, development time and professional expertise free of charge for the past eight years.

The RFG 2016 spring meeting in York saw the public showing of the first short films about particular categories of Roman finds organised by Jenny Hall. 12 films are now available for viewing on our website (http://www.romanfindsgroup.org.uk/roman+finds+group+videos), where links and additional information about the objects depicted will shortly be added. The RFG is very grateful to have worked with the Centre for Interdisciplinary Artefact Studies at Newcastle University on this first set of films. We have completed a second tranche of 10 films, funded by the Roman Research Trust, and more are planned for the next financial year.

Last year's AGM was held in York during the April two-day conference in York, Finds from Roman York, Brigantia and Beyond, organised by Stephen Greep. The meeting was attended by 93 people (the highest number for a meeting outside London) organised jointly with the University of York and Yorkshire Museums Trust. Delegates heard 20 speakers including a keynote presentation by author, Lindsey Davis, with a reception and private viewing of the Roman Galleries at the Yorkshire Museum. A second two-day meeting in September, Town and Country in Southern Britain, was organised by Matt Fittock in conjunction with the University of Reading. With 80 delegates and a further 20 speakers this means that during the year 173 people heard 40 speakers on a wide range of topics concerning Roman material culture. Conferences in 2017 will be in St Albans and Salisbury with events in Canterbury and London planned for 2018. RFG members will continue to benefit from reduced entry fees to all our meetings.

Matt Fittock, assisted by Emily Blanchard, continued as editor of *Lucerna*, producing a further two meaty volumes (51 and 52) with the new full-colour cover, introduced the previous year. Each issue contained summaries of the biannual conferences. Matt would welcome offers and suggestions for articles and any other content.

Distributed along with *Lucerna* have been new additions to the RFG series of datasheets, edited by Gillian Dunn, on spindle whorls and weighing instruments with more in the pipeline. Gill is always looking for more volunteers and, with the film project underway, the detailed datasheets are an even more important component of what the RFG offers to Members.

During the last year RFG has awarded £1,000 in grants (assessed by Stephen Greep, Nicola Hembrey, Sally Worrell and Jenny Hall) for work on finds related projects including spindle whorls from Vindolanda, weighing equipment and Polden Hill brooches. A further £1,000 is available in the current year; criteria are to be found on the RFG web site. Alongside supporting research and publication of Roman Small Finds, these grants have contributed to the production of datasheets and presentations at RFG meetings.

Twenty-one members took advantage of a reduced cost, four year Instrumentum membership facilitated by Jenny Hall who was also instrumental in Members' recent opportunity to purchase a number of finds related books at a specially discounted rate from Archeopress (not to mention the book signing by Lindsey David in York with discounted copies of her new book Graveyard of the Hesperides).

During the year the committee met twice. Thanks, through the good offices of Sally Worrell, to the Institute of Archaeology, London for providing the venue. Minutes of the meetings will be placed on the website, so members can see everything we get up to!

Membership Benefits

The objectives of the RFG are to promote the study, research, publication, teaching and conservation of the material culture of Roman Britain. Membership of the RFG will entitle individuals to:

• Two copies of our Newsletter, *Lucerna*, each year.

• Access to our Roman finds datasheets.

• Full access to the website (www.romanfindsgroup.org.uk) and twitter feeds, including the members only section which includes access to recent copies of *Lucerna*. The website has been developed to include access to *Lucerna* and Datasheets and to include finds catalogues and other finds-related works which are currently out-of-print as pdfs.

• Reduced fees to our twice-yearly meetings, held in

the spring (typically a two day meeting) and autumn of each year.

• Free/reduced entrance to major finds-related exhibitions, where this can be negotiated.

• Discounts on finds-related books, or pre-publication offers, where these can be negotiated.

• Access to small grants to help with small finds research. These grants are available to individual, fully paid-up, members and will be awarded for applications seeking to support our objectives e.g. publication drawings and maps or travel to museums for object research. Special consideration is given to articles offered to *Lucerna*. £1,000 is available each year (reviewable). Details on how to apply are on our website (www.romanfindsgroup.org. uk).

• Access, through the website, to educational films promoting the importance of finds research. Specialists talk about identifying different materials and objects in a series of films that might ultimately be themed around the chapters of Artefacts in Roman Britain or Nina Crummy's object categories.

• Group payment for individual RFG members to Instrumentum, the European bi-annual magazine. Join through RFG to receive four years' worth of Instrumentum membership for three years payment. In addition the RFG will absorb the conversion fee in a bulk payment on your behalf. The cost for Instrumentum membership is currently 90 Euros for 4 years. Members will be notified by email, in *Lucerna* and on the website when the next renewal is due.

• Help us increase the Romano-British presence amongst a wider European small finds community e.g. by the provision of extra entries and links to objects in the Instrumentum/Artefacts website.

Follow the Roman Finds Group Online

Twitter (https://twitter.com/romanfindsgrp)

Our Roman Finds Group Twitter feed continues to go from strength to strength. We regularly post photographs, news items and links that may interest people with a passion for Roman objects, as well as sharing up-to-date information on the group. We post live-tweets from our conferences under the hashtags #rfg2017 #rfg2016 #rfg2015 etc., so that people from across the world can attend 'virtually'. We recently welcomed our 1646th follower! Do join us! @ RomanFindsGrp.

Website (www.romanfindsgroup.org.uk)

All of our tweets also appear in a scrolling feed on every page of our recently-revamped website www. romanfindsgroup.org.uk, which contains more infor-mation, as well as some beautiful images. Our new website is now fully operational and has been designed to work well on mobile phones, tablets and on desktop browsers. All Members of the Roman Finds Group may log into the new website and view extra resources that are exclusive to Members of RFG. These include the latest four editions of *Lucerna*, the collection of Roman Finds Group Datasheets, and a link to allow Members

to download a facsimile of Manning's 1985 *Catalogue of the Romano-British Iron Tools, Fittings and Weapons in the British Museum,* a cornerstone of Roman small finds study, and now out of print. As Jenny Hall wrote in *Lucerna* 48, we have ambitions for this to become the central source for Roman finds; we are working to scan and host out-of-print finds catalogues, and to compile and maintain a detailed bibliography. Watch this space too for news on our forthcoming programme of short films on Roman finds!

Nicola Hembrey, RFG Communications Secretary

RFG Grants

A series of small grants are available from the Roman Finds Group to all fully paid-up members. The annual grant cycle will run from January 1st. Applications may be made at any time, but they will be reviewed and assessed on 1st April, 1st September and 1st December. The RFG has a target annual grant fund of £1,000, although this will be reviewed each year in light of available funds and demand.

Grants will be awarded against any area of the Group's objectives (to promote the study, research, publication, teaching and conservation of the material culture of Roman Britain) but applications must be very clear as to which of these objectives are being applied.

There is no specific application form, but the following details are essential:

• Name, address and institution (where applicable) including email address.

• Date of application – we will normally provide assessments and awards of applications within a six week period.

• Amount requested, other grants applied for and total amount of project. It will not be normal for RFG to fund an individual project to 100%.

• Details of the project and how it will meet the objectives of the Roman Finds Group.

• If it is a project leading to a publication, where is the intended publication? Priority will be given to contributions for *Lucerna*.

• Confirmation of RFG membership and year of joining (will be checked!).

• A short citation from at least one referee (who does not need to be a member of RFG).

All applications will be evaluated by a sub-group of three members of the RFG Committee. The committee reserves the right to seek further referee opinion and further information where it feels appropriate. The decision of the grant application 'subcommittee' (Stephen Greep, Nicola Hembrey and Sally Worrell) will be final.

Applications should be sent to the chairman of the grants sub-group, Stephen Greep (sjgreep@gmail.com).

RFG Datasheets

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 an update for ongoing research. They are 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 interested in writing a datasheet.

Gill Dunn, Publications Co-ordinator
Grosvenor Museum
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Chester, Cheshire, CH1 2DD
gill.dunn@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Notes for Contributors

Contributions to *Lucerna* from members and non-members are always welcome. Whether you're an undergraduate or graduate student, seasoned academic or hobbyist, the Roman Finds Group is keen to publish new and continuing research on Roman material culture to help inform others of ongoing work and forge valuable links between fellow members with skills, knowledge and expertise in the same field. As well as fuller research articles, we would be particularly interested to hear about any old or new discoveries anyone is happy to share, as well as any mystery objects that need identifying. On the other hand, perhaps you're part way through your research and looking for a way to present some preliminary results or a short summary outlining your ongoing studies? Whatever the case, please don't hesitate - we would be delighted to hear from you!

If you wish to participate, all contributions should be sent as attachments via e-mail to Matthew Fittock (*Lucerna* Editor) at m.g.fittock@pgr.reading.ac.uk. Submissions must be word-processed on Microsoft Word or an equivalent. The main article should include text only, with the paper title and author's name at the beginning and a full bibliography followed by contact details at the end, with no images but full reference to figures. The document should be single spaced with a full return in between each paragraph. All images should be provided as individual TIFF files at a minimum of 300 dpi, and all line-art as individual TIFF files at 1200 dpi, with captions in a separate document. Images in colour will appear in black and white in print and colour online. Tables must also be provided in a separate Microsoft Excel file with appropriate captions. There is no strict word limit but longer articles should be no more than 5000 words, excluding the bibliography. Submissions can be made at any time during the year: no later than the end of November for a January release and the end of June for the July edition, but please contact the editor in advance if you wish to discuss scheduling.

Submissions can be made by post to: Matthew Fittock, Department of Archaeology, University of Reading, Whiteknights Box 227, Reading, Berkshire, RG6 6AB. Articles and images should ideally be provided on CD-ROM in the aforementioned formats but please get in touch if this is a problem.

Roman Finds Group
30th Anniversary Meeting

New Research on Finds
from South and South-Western Britain
20th-21st October 2017
Salisbury Museum

This year the Roman Finds Group is 30 years old. To celebrate, we've organised our 2017 Autumn Meeting in Salisbury, where there will be a special reception. It will be a two-day conference from lunchtime on Friday 20th October until late afternoon on Saturday 21st October and is to be held in the Lecture Theatre, Salisbury Museum (www.salisburymuseum.org.uk). The meeting is being organised jointly by Stephen Greep and Jörn Schuster. RFG are grateful for the support given to arrangements for the meeting by Salisbury Museum.

There are five sessions of papers, with nineteen illustrated talks, on various aspects of finds from British sites concentrating on recent work in south and south-western Britain. There will be one session concentrating on brooches, led by Justine Bayley, in memory of Sarnia Butcher.

Please note that numbers will be restricted so you are advised to book early. This is particularly important for the reserved accommodation (see below) which will be allocated on a first come first served basis! The cost of the meeting is the same as for both the York and Reading meetings last year: £40 for fully paid up RFG members, £30 for students, £48 non-members and a £25 day rate (students £20).

Included in the price is access to all conference sessions, finds and poster viewings, teas and coffees as in the programme, free access to the Museum, private viewing of the Wessex Gallery and the Terry Pratchett Exhibition on the Friday evening after the Museum has closed to the public, RFG 30th Anniversary drinks reception held at Sarum College, and subsidised pre-conference guided tour to Salisbury Cathedral.

There is space adjacent to the lecture room for finds display and discussion during tea/coffee breaks. If you wish to bring along finds and/or a poster display please indicate on the application form or contact Stephen Greep separately. There will also be space for the sale of books etc.

It is a 10 minute walk from the railway station to the Museum (The Kings House, 65 The Close, Salisbury SP1 2EN). Please note that there is no parking at the Museum. There are two trains an hour from London Waterloo. Parking in the Close is £6 per day but spaces are limited. There are NCP car parks a 10 minute walk away in New Street and Crane Street. The closest carparks apart from the Cathedral's are Brown St and Millstream. There are four park and rides: www.salisburyreds.co.uk/parkride/ For those staying at Sarum College there are some directions for parking on their website. There should be parking available at the College in the evening for anyone staying but not a lot of spaces for extras.

We have arranged a RFG-only guided tour around Salisbury Cathedral immediately prior to the start of the meeting. This will take place from 11.00 and will last approximately one hour. There is a small (subsidised)

cost of £5, and the tour will operate subject to demand. If you wish to attend please indicate on booking form. Access to galleries and roof through narrow spiral staircases with some uneven steps requires a certain level of fitness!

Following the private viewing at the Salisbury Museum there will be a special reception to celebrate our 30th Anniversary. Taking place at Sarum College, there will be wine and soft drinks and some cake, together with a short presentation on RFG, past, present and future. There is no charge for this special event, but you must indicate on your application form that you are going to attend so we get the catering right!

We have arranged a meal at Prezzo, which is just a short walk from the Museum (52 High St, Salisbury SP1 2PF). We have reserved seats and there should be room for everyone. You will have to pre-order (via RFG) but pay on the night. The cost is £20, which includes a three-course meal, some wine and a small gratuity. You will be required to pre-order, but there will be something for everyone!

We have reserved a number of rooms at Sarum College (www.sarum.ac.uk/bed-and-breakfast). These are £69 per night bed and breakfast. Sarum College is very close to Salisbury Museum. These rooms are available on a first come basis – please indicate on your meeting application form. You pay locally, please don't send any money for your room with the application form.

Any questions about the meeting should be made to Stephen Greep (sjgreep@gmail.com) or Jörn Schuster (j.schuster@smallfinds.org.uk).

The list of papers includes:

Alyson Tanner
Salisbury: finds from three local sites in the Pitt Rivers Collection at Salisbury Museum.

Sophie Hawke
What a Relief: an assessment of the Romano-British relief fragment found in Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire

Dr Eleanor Ghey
Recent Research on Coin Hoards from the South-West

Dr Justine Bayley
Sarnia Butcher: Brooches

Anna Tyacke
A Cornish Brooch type

Sally Worrell
Mapping Polden Hill brooches: new evidence from the PAS brooches recorded in the South-west.

Dr Justine Bayley
The brooches from Nor'Nour.

Louise Tunnard
How the Wessex Gallery was won

Dr Bruce Eagles
Penannular brooches in post-Roman Wessex

Rachael Seager-Smith
Finds from the Roman cemeteries at Amesbury Down

Dr Stephen Greep
More Regionality? Weapon terminal 'spoons' from Frocester Court, Gloucestershire and needle cases from Lankhills, Winchester, Hampshire

Dr David Roberts
The Roman villa in the Deverills

Richard Henry, Dr Ruth Pelling and Dr Michael Grant
The Pewsey hoard of late Roman vessels: wrapping, contents and time of deposition

Dr Mike Bishop
Lance, javelin, and spear:
untangling the weaponry of Roman auxiliary cavalry

Owen Humphries
Artefacts at work: the tools from Roman London

Dr Miles Russell
The 'Face' of Roman Britain: establishing identity and context for Romano-British portrait sculpture

Tatiana Ivleva
Glass adornments event horizon?:
in search for the origins of Roman-period glass bangles in southern Britain

The full conference schedule is available on the RFG website: www.romanfindsgroup.org.uk/meetings.

Spring Conference 2018 Call For Papers

Rediscovering Richborough
23rd-24th March 2018
Richborough, Kent

The Roman site at Richborough has been of significant interest to archaeologists since the excavations by J.P. Bushe-Fox in the 1920s – 1930s. It is often considered as the location of the AD43 invasion, and the place which marked the end of the Roman administration of the province in the early 5th century. The archaeology there represents the c.367 years of Roman occupation, as well as some prehistoric, and post-Roman activity.

However, it is a site that is often cited, but rarely researched. This has been due to the difficulty of accessing the collection, and the long-standing interpretations which arose from the excavation reports. Thanks to an English Heritage project to redisplay the site, and funding for a PhD to study the small finds, there is now a great opportunity to rethink the site as well as the context in which it sits.

This day and a half conference aims to present the beginning of the work into the collections, display what the collection has in store for potential researchers, and investigate the context of Richborough in south-east Britain and across the English Channel.

This is a call for papers 20 minutes in length, with a section for shorter papers of 15 minutes. Suggested topics for the sessions are: Cross Channel Connections, The Saxon Shore, Roman Kent, Late Roman Britain, Roman Military Objects, Roman Invasion of Britain

If you are interested in submitting a paper then let the organiser Philip Smither (pws7@kent.ac.uk) know.

Stained Bone Hairpins from Roman London

Michael Marshall

Introduction

Several examples of Roman bone hairpins from London seem to have been deliberately stained over the whole, or part, of their surface. This interesting phenomenon is not unique to the city and Roman bone objects in a variety of colours have previously been recorded elsewhere (e.g. Crummy 1983, 20–1; Greep 1983, 48; see also Gostenčnik 2014). However, convincing examples are sufficiently rare to be noteworthy and the group published here includes the first examples of late Roman stained bone hairpins that I am aware of. Black and white publishing offers obvious challenges to the discussion of such issues, but colour images of the pins published here can be viewed in the digital version of this edition of *Lucerna*, available via the Roman Finds Group website or via an online Museum of London 'collections in focus' catalogue (Davis *et al.* 2015).

Archival details in the text and captions below refer to bone hairpins held by the Museum of London or by MOLA. They are cited as follows: older finds are cited by their accession number, prefixed here by MOL to indicate that they are in the Museum core collection, while finds from more modern excavations are cited in the following format (sitecode[context number]<accession number>).

Identifying deliberately stained bone objects

Coloured bone objects are mentioned intermittently in the archaeological literature and a brief survey of the topic is provided by MacGregor (1985, 67–70), including description of different methods of staining or dying bone, such as soaking it in a liquid with metal filings or applying various vegetable dyes. It should be stressed, however, that much of the considerable variation seen in archaeological bone artefacts is not deliberate and processes such as burning or post-depositional staining from the burial environment can also change their colour (see O'Connor 1999, 1898–1899; Gostenčnik 2014). Bone artefacts without deliberate colouration are typically white, cream, brown or black after burial but proximity to corroding metal can stain them other colours, most frequently green. Conversely, if objects were originally stained, they may have lost colour due to post-depositional leeching.

For these reasons it can be difficult to identify deliberately stained objects with confidence or to determine their true prevalence amongst bone finds from Roman Britain. Certain examples are rare, even in London where more than 1000 Roman bone pins have been examined as part of a recent volunteer-led digitisation project (see Marshall 2013; Rangel de Lima 2014; Rangel de Lima in prep; Davis *et al.* 2015). The five pins presented here are, I think, the most compelling examples but there are a number of other possible candidates some of which are mentioned in the text below and can be viewed elsewhere (Davis *et al.* 2015). While their green and dark brown/black colours could

be the result of natural/accidental processes, here they are argued to be deliberate, on the basis of strength of colour and either selective or very even distribution of colour across the surface of the pin. Such arguments are further bolstered by recurrent patterns in the type/form and colouring of these objects. However, in the case of nos. 3–5, natural staining cannot be entirely ruled out.

Two pins with deliberately stained heads

The most conclusive evidence for deliberate staining comes from two pins of Crummy type 3 (1979, 161; 1983, 21–2; *cf.* Greep 1983, 349–561, type B1) with very dark brown globular heads and shanks that are a much paler white/cream colour (fig. 1; nos. 1 and 2). The neat divide between dark head and light shaft leaves little doubt that these are deliberately stained on only part of their surface area. Type 3 pins are fairly long lived, from the 2nd to 4th century but these are both probably late Roman examples.

No. 1 comes from a 4th-century AD Roman stone robbing trench associated with the high-status building complex on the south banks of the River Thames at Winchester Palace, Southwark (sitecode WP83; Frances

Fig. 1: Type 3 Roman bone hairpins with deliberately stained dark brown heads (not to scale). No. 1 from Winchester Palace (WP83[639]<1714>; length 54.8+mm); No. 2 from Cannon Street Station (LYD88[2056]<407>; length 85.6mm) © Museum of London.

Pritchard in Yule 2005, 146, <S23>). It is not entirely clear if this find ought to be associated with building 13 on the site, or with the subsequent late-4th-century activity after it had been demolished. The building may have had a military/administrative role (Yule 2005, 62–3, fig. 47). No. 2 comes from a deposit of uncertain character from an unpublished excavation at Cannon Street Station (sitecode LYD88) on the north bank of the Thames. This context, [2056], is certainly of late Roman date, however, and has produced an important group of contemporary finds which includes other Crummy type 3 bone pins, later-3rd- or 4th-century type 4 and type 6 bone pins (1983, 22–5) and a jet pin with a facetted cuboid head (see Allason-Jones 1996, 40–2), as well as a dolphin-shaped copper-alloy handle probably from a razor of a 3rd–4th-century type (see Garbsch 1975, 81, fig. 7; Boon 1991, 29, fig 4b; Eckardt & Crummy 2008; 34–5, fig 8.d). The Cannon Street area also provides evidence for late Roman buildings of some status (see Marsden 1975; Brigham & Woodger 2001).

Evenly-stained pins

Nos. 3–5 have even staining over the whole surface (fig. 2). No. 2 is a Crummy type 6 pin with a simple reel head (1979, 162; 1983, 24–5, fig 22, no. 420; see also Greep 1983, 326, fig. 84, type B2.1) and a very even dark brown colour across almost its entire surface. This pin is amongst the group of late Roman finds from the context at Cannon Street mentioned above.

Pins stained dark brown are not particularly uncommon and in many cases this staining will be post-depositional. However, in addition to its contextual association with no. 2, several factors support the interpretation of no. 3 as being deliberately stained. Other pins from the context appear in a variety of colours, from cream to

Fig. 2: Three evenly stained pins (not to scale). No. 3 a dark brown type 6 pin from Cannon Street Station (LYD88[2056]<1001>; length 70.2mm); No. 4 a green type 6 pin from 124 Wood Street (ABS86[5127]<61>; length 36.9+mm); No. 5 a green type 1 pin from 24-26 Minories (MNR12[435]<27>; length 66+mm) © Museum of London.

light brown, but the colour of no. 3 is notably darker and more even than the rest. This dark colour does not extend onto the surface of a recent break part way down the shaft, indicating that the colour has not permeated throughout the bone. More compelling still is the fact that this surface colour appears to have been partly worn off on the tip, perhaps as a result of use-wear after it was coloured.

No. 4 is another Crummy type 6 pin, from 124 Wood Street (fig. 2; no. 4.). It is similar in style but it is coloured green. In this case the colour is less strong and continues over an old break surface. It is possible that this pin was stained after deposition due to proximity to a corroding copper-alloy object. However, such staining is often more tightly localised to the area nearest the metal (e.g. Gostenčnik 2014, 624, Abb. 6) as was probably the case on a type 3 pin from Southwark (4STS82[599]<66>), for example, which has a seemingly random green patch part way down the shaft. Another reel-headed type 6 bone pin of the same sort from around Bishopsgate has similar and semi-convincing green staining (ETA89[10023]<1335>) over most of its surface but in that case the colour is patchier, perhaps due to post-depositional abrasion of the surface. The fact that this example and no. 4 are of the same form as one another and as brown evenly-stained pin, no.3, is perhaps also significant, perhaps representing indicators of a single contemporary fashion or even products of the same workshop.

The final example discussed here (fig. 2; no. 5) is another green evenly-stained pin recently published from an excavation in the eastern cemetery of Roman London at 24–26 Minories (Marshall in Lerz 2017, D10–11, online fig 11, <S4>). Given its find spot and the fact that it is near complete it could be a disturbed grave good. It belongs to Crummy type 1 (1979, 159–60; 1983, 20; see Greep 1983, 325, fig. 83 type A2.1), an early Roman form, but was found residual in a post-Roman deposit. While this example is probably significantly earlier in date than the other London finds discussed above, it seems to be more typical of the evidence noted elsewhere in Roman Britain. Crummy lists nine green-stained early Roman pins of her types 1 and 2 from Colchester and cites parallels from York and Rochester (Crummy 1983, 20–1.) Examples from London do not appear to have been very common but there are others with less definitive traces of green colour such as a type 1 pin fragments from Rangoon Street/Crutched Friars (RAG82[1533]<296>) and type 1 and type 2 fragments from Whittington Avenue (WIV88[388]<34> and WIV88[593]<684>).

Imitation, symbolism or just a splash of colour?

This small group of pins provides evidence for a minor yet interesting facet of Roman fashion. Given the scarcity of contemporary iconographic sources, the full complexity of the hairstyles worn in London and their social meanings (Bartman 2001 for a general discussion) cannot now be recovered, but aspects of hairdressing practice and different fashions and strategies for expressing identity can be explored through variations in the number, size and character of the associated pins (e.g. Cool 2000).

Hairpins from the city exhibit a great deal of variety in material and style. Bone pins might be suspected to be amongst the cheapest but even these vary, from simple undecorated examples to very finely carved figurative

pieces which may have been relatively expensive (see Johns 1996; Hall & Wardle 2005; Rangel de Lima 2014 and in prep). Somewhere along this spectrum lie a number of figurative pins which are much cruder in execution (fig. 3). While some might be regarded as deliberately stylised, reflecting less-traditionally classical tastes, many are probably equivalents/imitations of the finely carved pins, only made by less-accomplished craftspeople and/or possessed by less-wealthy women. Despite more limited means, such individuals were clearly interested in having pins that were, at least superficially, similar to those worn by their wealthier neighbours. Might our stained hairpins be a related phenomenon then; cheap bone imitations of more expensive materials?

Crummy has previously suggested that green or red stained examples might be attempting to imitate the colour of more expensive copper-alloy pins (1983, 20) some of which represent direct typological equivalents of the early bone forms (Cool 1990, 169–70, fig. 12.7, group 24 and 156-7, fig 4.10 group 5; Cool type 4 represents the closest parallel to the Crummy 6 pins but without the swelling shanks typical of most carved bone examples). This is a plausible suggestion and, if true, might in itself provide some interesting information about variation amongst metal pins. While copper-alloys are not truly red, this colour might represent an attempt to imitate red/pinkish alloys, such as those with very high copper content, rather than the yellow of brass. If green tones are seeking to emulate metal then their prototypes must have been allowed, or encouraged, to form a green patina rather than being preserved as polished shining metal. Other techniques such as tinning (Bayley & Butcher 2004, 43) were also frequently used to alter/manipulate the colour of metal dress accessories.

The black or dark brown staining of nos. 1–3 cannot readily be interpreted as imitating metal but another possibility is that some represent an attempt to mimic the late Roman fashion for darkly-coloured black stone

Fig. 3. Selection of figurative bone hairpins from London illustrating variation in the style and quality of carving (not to scale). Left to right: MOL A2310, MOL 19112, 199BHS74[V-6]<21> and PNS01[1865]<505> © Museum of London.

jewellery; nos. 2 and 3 from Cannon Street come from the same context as a jet pin. It is tempting to go so far as to see thepins with stained heads, nos. 1 and 2, as inspired by a highly-specific fashion; a distinctive group of composite pins with pale bone shafts and black jet heads, whose distribution is strongly concentrated in the north-east of England. These are of contemporary late 3rd/4th-century date and some have globular heads, as nos. 1 and 2, or else disc/reel-shaped heads like evenly stained nos. 3 and 4 (Allason-Jones, 1996, 44–5, nos. 277 and 380; *cf.* Greep 1983, 367–9, fig. 98, type B10.2). Nos. 1 and 2 may be the product of a local craftsperson trying to replicate jet-headed pins, observed during travel to the north east or when worn by a visitor to London from that area. As jet would have been imported from other areas, such as the Yorkshire coast around Whitby (Allason-Jones 1996; Eckardt 2014, 109–22), an enterprising Londoner wanting to make similar pins locally may have made do with a pot of dye/stain.

From across a room a dark-stained bone head protruding from a bun may have looked much like a jet one, and a green-stained bone pin might not have been easily distinguishable from a patinated bronze pin. However, on closer examination they will certainly have been less convincing; imitating the colour of more expensive materials will not have lent bone pins their more tactile properties, such as weight or texture. These may not have been apparent to passers-by in the street but would have been obvious to the wearer, or their hairdresser, who would have been in no doubt about their lack of 'authenticity' when they were handled.

A stained imitation of a jet pin would also have been lacked the distinctive electrostatic properties of the original material and, perhaps, would not be considered to exhibit its magical or amuletic efficacy (Allason-Jones 1996, 15-17). However, here we might wonder about how far this situation differs from that of non-jet black stone materials which also seem to have been widely used for jewellery. These materials may still have had symbolic connotations on the basis of their colour, although jet seems to have been particularly preferred for certain amulets (see Eckardt 2014, 123–6 for a discussion of related issues of materiality). While colours may have derived significance from direct connections to particular substances or objects it is clear that their cultural connotations and symbolic meanings could then apply in other contexts (Keane 2005 for the indexical and iconic aspects of the semiotics of material things; Bradley 2011 for case studies on colour and meaning in the Roman world). Berg (2002, 40) argues that the green colour of emeralds, for example, was an important part of their popularity in female jewellery, because their colour provided an iconic link with "vegetal growth, fertility and prosperity". Whether they were always explicitly envisaged in these terms or not, certain colours of hairpins, may therefore have had been embedded with meaning comparable to that of figurative hairpins whose iconography is often quite explicitly concerned with similar issues such as protection, fertility etc. (e.g. hand pins for which see Bíró 2006; Eckardt 2014, 153–76). In both cases, the symbolism of pins may have been more important than the cost of the material or the quality of carving.

Whether they were intended to effectively masquerade as specific materials, or specific styles of pins, or reflect a more general aesthetic or symbolic interest in particular colours, these stained bone pins were a cost-effective

way in which some Roman women manipulated colour as part of their personal adornment. As a decorative strategy, staining a bone pin offers an alternative to the decorative shaping of the pins head, requiring less effort, and arguably less skill, on behalf of the craftsperson. It may even be significant that all of the pins discussed here are of relatively simple forms. However, the two techniques will also have differed in their visual impact/ effect. Colour could perhaps be appreciated at greater distance than fine carving and where hairpins sat within the hair (rather than serving as a hair-dressing tool; see Stephens 2008), it is their colour that will have allowed the wearer to complement, the colour of her own hair, or to contrast with it. For example, green or brown hairpins might stand out more clearly against blond hair than naturally-coloured or bleached bone which, conversely, might have had more visual impact against dark hair.

As an alternative to choosing pins in different materials for their natural colours it was possible to alter this facet of their materiality. Given colour's aesthetic and symbolic significance it is not surprising that evidence for its manipulation is not just restricted to the cheapest materials. Ways of varying the overall colour of metal hairpins have been noted above and pin heads in contrasting colours can also be observed in more expensive materials, e.g. bone pins with jet (above) or gold heads (see Bartus 2008) and metal pins with glass heads (Cool 1990, 165-6, fig 10.1–3, group 16). Taken alongside the stained pins discussed here, such evidence underlines the importance of colour within female adornment and the need to keep this factor in mind during future studies of Roman female hairstyles and associated paraphernalia.

Acknowledgements

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Roman Finds Group Spring Conference:
Verulamium and the Romano-British Southeast

Verulamium Museum, Friday 21st April 2017

Introduction

Verulamium Museum was this time the host for the RFG Spring Conference that this year concentrated on the Roman settlement and its surrounds. A variety of papers were on show throughout a fascinating day that covered everything from the Sandridge Hoard to settlement and connectivity in the Isle of Wight. The event was organised by Barbara Birley in conjunction with all the staff at Verulamium Museum, to whom we send great thanks. For those of you who were unable to attend, the following article provides reviews of the many different papers that were presented throughout three sessions that day. Thanks also goes to all those who wrote reviews and provided images for them. Our next conference celebrating 30 years of the Roman Finds Group will take place at Salisbury Museum on the 20th and 21st October 2017. See pages 4-5 for details.

Session One - Verulamium and Surrounds

Verulamium Revealed:
Recent geophysical surveys of the Roman town
Kris Lockyear

In 2013, a project funded by the AHRC's Connected Communities scheme, was initiated to train local volunteers in magnetometry survey and to investigate a selection of Iron Age and Roman sites in Hertfordshire, including Verulamium. The group completed the survey of Verulamium Park by the end of funding in early 2014. In the summer of 2015 the group got permission also to do the area of the town within the Gorhambury Estate. This survey continued in the summer of 2016. The group has also been able to borrow a ground-penetrating radar (from SEAHA) and a earth resistance meter (from UCL) to complement the magnetometry results. A total of 86 days of survey, involving 330Km of walking, has been done.

Some examples of the sites and features investigated were discussed including the Temple in Insula XVI where all three survey techniques had been used. A sinuous ditch on the Gorhambury Estate seemed to follow the 30 foot contour line, suggesting that it was possibly the line of an aqueduct bringing water to the public buildings along Watling Street, and possibly providing an indication of the location of the public baths. Elsewhere the survey had revealed town houses of various sizes and industrial areas including a series of pottery kilns. It was suggested that a level of zoning could be seen within Verulamium: public buildings; large houses; small houses; industrial areas; and relatively empty areas. The work of the group meant that the current GIS of Verulamium was now in need of updating both in terms of content and of the accuracy of the locations of some buildings and features.

How Hertfordshire joined the Roman Empire
Isobel Thompson

It was suggested that, as least as far as Hertfordshire is concerned, AD 43 was the year of invasion, not 'conquest'. In Hertfordshire the process of transition from 'late Iron Age' to being part of the Roman Empire was a long one that can be seen to begin in the mid first century BC and last until the Flavian period. Evidence for this, in relation to Verulamium, could be found in the St Albans Urban Archaeological Database, collated in the mid-1990s to establish a sound knowledge base for archaeological advice within the planning system.

There was enough data for the first century AD to show that Verulamium persisted as a high-status late Iron Age central focus, probably with a client king, until after that king's burial c.AD 55. A reign overlapping the foundation of Londinium in AD 48. An indication of the importance of Verulamium is given by the fact that the route of Watling Street brought the Roman road to it, indeed there was some reason to believe that Watling Street was actually built west to east. The character of Verulamium's layout, settlement and burial customs before AD 60 could be seen as a mix of the insular and the continental, but not 'Roman'.

To an extent the same could be said of Londinium in its pre-Boudican phase: a brand-new frontier town populated by immigrants. Detailed stratigraphy in Londinium and Southwark at this period, showing individual building plots could be redeveloped more than once before AD 60, makes for an interesting comparison with the client king's power base at Verulamium and the rest of Hertfordshire. The first 'Roman' layout of Verulanium, and Londinium, could be seen as post-Boudican. Verulamium was a Roman Town by the start of Flavian period.

The Sandridge Hoard
David Thorold

The Sandridge Hoard (fig. 4), found in 2012, consists of 159 gold solidii. Prior to its discovery only one gold Roman coin had been found at Verulamium. The hoard had been scattered by ploughing with coins being found on the surface to 20cm down. The coins were generally in good condition and dated to the late fourth and early fifth century, the latest coin in the hoard was dated 405-408. Most, 136, had the reverse type of emperor plus standards and captured barbarian; 17 two emperors seated; and 6 Constantinople seated. Five emperors were represented: Gratian (1); Valentinian II (11); Theodosius (7); Arcadius (43); Honorius (97). Most of the coins, 119, were minted in Milan, with only seven from mints in the Eastern Empire.

It is the largest hoard consisting solely of solidii to be found in Britain, only Hoxne has more. The typical number of solidii in a hoard is two! An idea of the

Fig. 4. Close up of the Sandridge Hoard.
Courtesy of David Thorold.

value represented by the Sandridge Hoard was given by comparison with the Frome hoard. The 52,000 coins in Frome hoard were the equivalent of 6½ gold coins, so the Sandridge hoard could be seen as something like the equivalent of 24 Frome Hoards.

Finds from Sacred Places in the Landscape around the Romano-British town at Baldock, Hertfordshire
Gill Burleigh

The talk suggested that a sacred landscape could be defined around Baldock by the presence not only of temples, shrines, elite burials, hoards, and boundary dykes, but also of natural features, such as springs, rivers and dry valleys, some of which appear to be associated with cultic activities.

Certain, or likely, cult sites cited included: Pegsdon where 127 gold coins, AD 80-81, an Iron Age mirror group and a second century enamelled platebrooch (fig. 5) had been found; Wellbury where a spring head shrine had produced hundreds of coins as well as disc brooches; Mill Way Pirton where hundreds of coins and a votive axe had been found; Oughton Head; Hinxworth Temple; and Ashwell End where the Romano-British temple treasure hoard had been found in 2002.

A notable aspect of these sacred places and the rituals associated with them seemed to be continuity

Fig. 5. A second century enamelled plate-brooch from Pegsdon, Shillington, Beds. displaying a crested owl catch-plate, perhaps connected with Minerva.
Photograph by C. Jane Read.
© North Hertfordshire Museum.

from earlier periods, the veneration of prehistoric monuments and artefacts, perhaps connected with ancestor worship.

Evan Chapman

Session Two - The Romano-British Southeast

'The Wight Stuff':
Assessing the potential of late Iron Age and Roman period PAS data from the Isle of Wight
Stephanie Smith

Steph's paper considered the array of Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) finds from the Isle of Wight and asked what it can tell us about settlement on the Roman isle of Vectis. Contrary to the 19th and 20th century, as well as some Roman (Suetonius) views that the Isle of Wight was nothing more than a geographical and cultural backwater, the 4600 Iron Age and Roman objects recorded as HER records (140 Iron Age, 449 Roman), single find spots (89 Iron Age, 309 Roman) and (51 Iron Age, 140 Roman) now present an intriguing picture of settlement and industry on the island.

Building on recent work on coin loss (Walton 2011) and metal detecting practice and biases (Robbins 2012) that highlight the high quality of the island's PAS data, Steph showed that coins (349 IA, 3,314 Roman) and brooches (64 IA, 326 Roman) are the most numerous objects on Wight, followed by harness equipment and various items of personal adornment. The distribution of these finds at sites like Arreton, Newchurch and Havenstreet supplements areas of Wight (e.g. the west) previously underrepresented in other records and highlights the benefits of combining all available datasets to get a better picture of multi-period activity over time.

Coins from Wight now total 2378, with the representation of 'exotic' mints from AD306-402 alluding to more direct or indirect contact with the Mediterranean. Coins, pottery, building materials, steelyard weights, items of adornment and toilet equipment suggest a focal point of Roman-British activity at Shalfleet C, while some coin hoards add to the possibility of a military presence on the island. Brooches include earlier La Tene 1 styles, later surpassed by La Tene III Nauheim derivatives and Colchester one-piece types, as well as Rosette and Langton Down types, enamelled plate brooches, zoomorphic forms like horse and riders, birds, horses, insects, fish, dolphins, a leopard (at Shalfleet), a rare plate brooch from Newport that may have military connections (see *Lucerna* 50, 22-3), and a patera-shaped brooch from Newchurch – a site with large brooch concentrations, along with Shalfleet, Newport and Bowcombe.

Overall the study not only emphasised that PAS finds should always be carefully analysed so as not to misinterpret modern recording as ancient activity, but also that it can be combined with new data to highlight previously overlooked patterns of Iron Age and Roman activity and interconnectivity. The paper, and the temporal patterns it reveals, are part of a wider PhD project examining settlement and connectivity in the English Channel from 1000 BC to 500 AD.

The beginning of the end of Roman Britain – Probably...? But the end? Probably not... the story of a Byzantine Coin
Simon West

In an intriguing paper Simon West offered a new perspective on the wider significance of a Byzantine coin found at Colney Heath in St. Albans (fig. 6). Discovered by metal detectorists in March 2012 on a site with few other archaeological features other than a possible Bronze Age gully and a small collection of 6 Roman, 2 medieval and 4 post-medieval finds, the significance of the coin - a Follis of Justinian I – locally is unclear. Field evaluations revealed few Roman features and only one parallel coin has been recorded in the Hertfordshire area. However, Simon considered that it might have wider implications that help us better understand the impact that the Arabian Empire had on late and post-Roman economies, politics and trade in Britain.

A subsequent project spatially and chronologically recording what turned out to be 93 such coins (26 with contextual information) shows a distribution across the country; mostly in South Yorkshire. Chronologically there are some earlier coins (mostly minted in AD 518-641 AD) from burials at Sutton Hoo, Prittlewell and Wheelhampstead that may be Medietterranean imports (Phase 1), but none thereafter (Phase 2) until circa AD 800. Simon speculates the gap reflects the impact that Arab invasions had on eastern-based trade, but that coin reintroduction in Britain might be the result of Vikings trading slaves with Constantinople. This, he says, could affect how we understand the 'end of Roman Britain' but more work on other PAS and HER coins and linked Byzantine objects is needed.

Fig. 6. Close up of the Byzantine coin from Colney Heath, St. Albans. Courtesy of Simon West.

A New Spin on Roman Slingshot from Britain
John H. Reid

John's paper provided a detailed and informative new assessment about the design and use of the Roman slingshot in Britain: an effective, deadly, hand-held projectile weapon consisting of a supported strap that fired clay, stone or, more lethally, lead bullets. Who slingers were is unclear – they may have been auxiliaries from the Beleric Islands or the Middle East - but the weapon was used quite widely in the Roman army.

The first part of the paper explained how slingshots worked by demonstrating how they were fired and its effectiveness. It was shown that firing techniques included direct lobs that could reach up to 300 metres, and flatter direct attacks ranging up to 100 metres, that smaller bullets were more deadly than larger ones, and

Fig. 7. A group of clay sling bullets from Windridge Farm. Courtesy of John Reid.

that lead bullets were more damage inflicting than clay, with the power to penetrate even thick, modern ballistic gel.

The next part reviewed sling-bullet typology in Britain. This built on Stephen Greep's 1987 typological and chronological work, showing that clay (fig. 7) and lead bullets come in various shapes and that clay bullets have been found on some first century sites in Britain and Scotland. Lead bullets meanwhile, come in two types: lemon and acorn – many of which are from sites along Hadrian's Wall. As mass-produced objects intended for single use, lead bullets could be repeatedly made in one mould, with one ingot producing about 1400 bullets. Different bullet shapes may equate to different purposes and different combinations of range and accuracy. Various shapes also produced different noises as they flew through the air. Those with holes were much higher pitched, meaning that their noise probably played an important psychological factor on the battlefield.

All of this was contextualised by analysing the large scatter of 600 shots from Burnswark Hill – the site of an early conflict between two Roman forts and a hillfort in the first century, before the slingshot was commonly used as a weapon in Britain, although its use is evidenced on some early Continental sites. The typological scatters indicate that different techniques were used to fire shots during this siege or battle, while other fittings found with the shots point towards early military rather than civilian activities like hunting (as the third century deposit of sling bullets from Vindolanda suggests).

Matthew Fittock

Session Three - Small Finds, Short Papers

Priestly Regalia in Roman Southeast Britain. Biographies of Use and Depositional Practices
Alessandra Esposito

Alessandra gave us an interesting overview of the research she is carrying out within the scope of her doctoral studies at King's College London. She is trying to consider priestly regalia more from a performative angle rather than concentrating on typology and iconography alone. The aim is to reconstruct the biography of individual objects by understanding their use and the way they were combined with other items, forming sets which can provide screenshots of

Fig. 8. Samian dish from the Isle of Harty, given to the Clayton Collection by his neighbours the Ridleys. Courtesy of Frances McIntosh.

ritual depositional practices in the region. The material mainly comprises 19th- and early 20th-century finds, but also includes recent discoveries like those from West Stow. That assemblage was initially found during metal detecting, but the finds were mapped and a subsequent excavation showed that the deposition had likely been concealed by stones. Some of the objects were found in a vessel, while others lay outside it, and Alessandra suggests that this is deliberate, and the study of these combinations might inform our understanding of regional and cult-related differences in depositional practices. An interesting observation was that headdresses often lack decorated elements, which might indicate an ephemeral use of the plaques, deliberate breaking or modification, maybe due to differing cult requirements over time.

Putting faces to names
Frances McIntosh

Frances' interest in the Clayton collection goes back to her PhD-research at Newcastle for which she now also has curatorial responsibility in her role as EH curator at Corbridge. Her short presentation was an appeal for help in identifying donors mentioned in Clayton's correspondence, finding out why they were sending material to Clayton and whether he was sending them

material in exchange. Some of the material Frances mentioned includes coins sent from a Miss Caull, burnt wheat from the Roman fort at Castlecary and two samian dishes from the Isle of Harty (fig. 8). If you can help or are aware of material donated by Clayton to your institution, Frances would like to hear from you (frances.mcintosh@english-heritage.org.uk).

Grave goods and ritual deposition from
The Goodmans Care Home and Epsom College sites,
Ewell, Surrey
Chris Faine

In his talk, Chris presented preliminary results from the 2015 investigations of two adjacent sites, which uncovered features dating from the Late Bronze Age to Saxon periods. Of most interest is a series of Roman inhumations (with associated goods) and a number large quarry pits. From these a total of 53 individual humans and over 70 animal burials – mostly dog but including seven partial pigs and four foetal horses – along with 80 small finds and 59 coins were recovered. The assemblage consisted of a wide variety of material types and objects, and interestingly there is not much variation in the proportions for the various functional categories from different parts of the sites. One feature initially considered to be a shaft, containing a skeleton found together with a knife, is now thought to be a well, and many of the pits in the other part of the site are now presumed to be granaries. It will be interesting to learn more about the relationship between the different elements of the two sites once the analysis is completed.

Jörn Schuster

Fig. 9. Chris surrounded by finds in storage. Courtesy of Chris Faine.

Can You Help?

Linchpins and a Silver Finger-ring

Please Send Me Your Linchpins!
James Gerrard

Linchpins were used to secure cart wheels to their axles. As such they were an absolutely critical part of any wheeled vehicle. Archaeological interest has largely been confined to the highly decorated Late Iron Age and Early Roman examples but I've become interested in the rather plain and dull iron linchpins. Prof Bill Manning long ago divided these into two type: Type 1, with a crescent head and Type 2, with a spatulate head.

I'm currently researching the distribution and context of these finds. So far I have more than 250 individual examples. If any members have iron linchpins lurking in their archives, reports or databases I'd love to hear from them. Please email me on james.gerrard@ newcastle.ac.uk and, if possible, include a 6 figure NGR for your site, a site name, the type of site, the type of linchpin (see fig. 10), the kind of context it was found in and a date for the object or its phase.

A new old resource on Roman ironwork now available.

The Cluster for Interdisciplinary Artefact Studies at Newcastle University has recently made the 1976 *Catalogue of the Romano-British Ironwork in the Museum of Antiquities of Newcastle upon Tyne* available as a pdf on its website http://research.ncl.ac.uk/cias/resources/.

CIAS are grateful to Prof W. Manning for permission to make the volume available. We hope that it will continue to be of use to finds researchers and specialists interested in Romano-British ironwork.

Silver Finger-ring - Guiraud Type 5b. Corbridge
Frances McIntosh

We have recently discovered this piece (fig. 11) in the collection here at Corbridge and would appreciate any thoughts from members. Guiraud says that 82% of her examples of this type were in gold or silver, so ours fits with that. However she does not offer any dating for the form other than a slight peak in the 3rd century, and I wondered if there were any more up-to-date studies which might help.

Also, we are keen to work out what the scene is. We think it is two birds facing outwards with a possible vessel (or globe) in the centre. Do people agree?

Please do drop me a line with any thoughts, we would be most grateful.
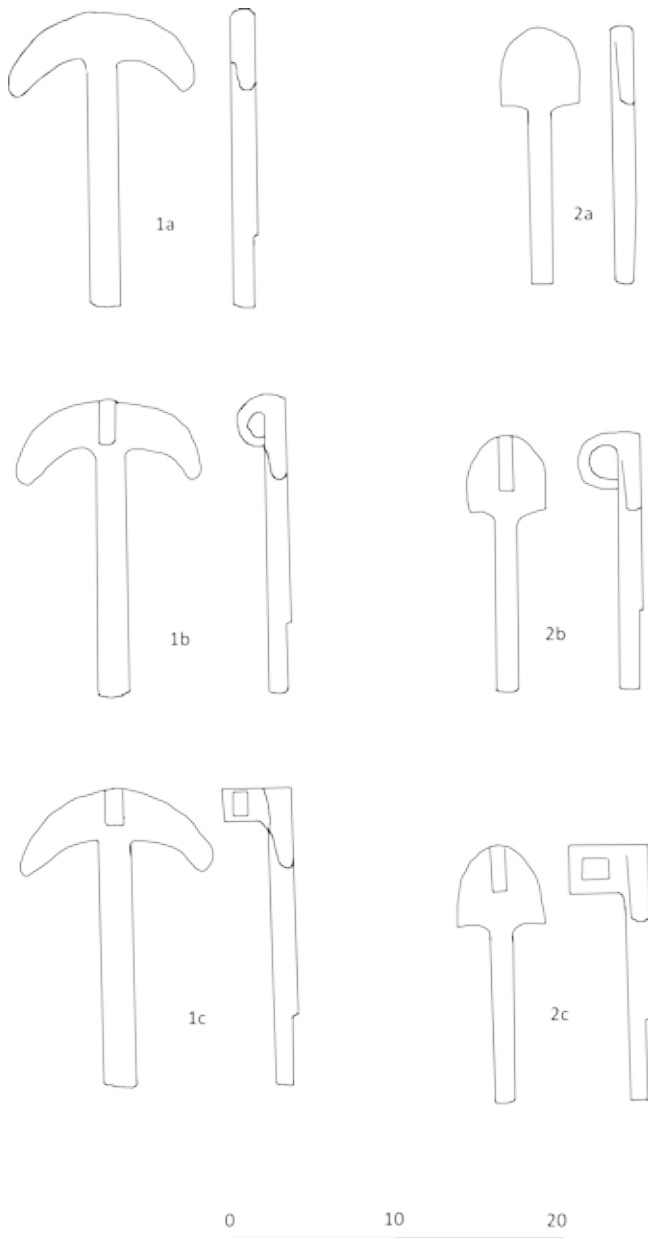
Frances.mcintosh@english-heritage.org.uk.

Fig. 10. Linchpin types.

Fig. 11. The finger-ring from Corbridge.

Female Symbolism
Nina Crummy

Martin Dearne, in his note on a harness mount with grooved cross on the central oval boss, suggested that this variation called into question the female symbolism of the more usual form with a single groove (*Lucerna 52*, 9).

Martin is no doubt innocent of any patriarchal attempt to suppress female imagery along the same lines as those examined in an interesting article in *The Guardian* a couple of years ago about the absence of the vulva on classical statuary. This can still be found at https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/apr/13/absent-female-genitals-art-repeated.   Nevertheless, his suggestion needs to be refuted, and the short bibliography below provides an introduction to the representation of the female pudendum on horse harness, and its apotropaic value.

ninacrummy@yahoo.com

Bibliography

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Nicolay, J. 2007. *Armed Batavians. Use and significance of weaponry and horse gear from non-military contexts in the Rhine delta*, Amsterdam, University Press.

Oldenstein, J. 1976. 'Zur Ausrüstung römischer Auxiliareinheiten. Studien zu Beschlägen und Zierat an der Ausrüstung der römischen Auxiliareinheiten des obergermanisch-raetischen Limesgebietes aus dem zweiten und dritten Jahrhundert n. Chr.', *Berichte der Römisch-Germanischen Kommission* 57, 49–284.

Recent Publications

Roman Frontier Studies 2009. Proceedings of the XXI International Congress of Roman Frontier Studies (Limes Congress) held at Newcastle upon Tyne in August 2009
N. Hodgson, P. Bidwell & J.Schachtmann (eds). Archaeopress Roman Archaeology 25, 2017, xxii+726 pages; illustrated throughout in colour/black & white (fig. 12).

Paperback edition; ISBN 9781784915902. £90.00. **Special offer: £60.00 (RRP £90) + FREE worldwide shipping until 31/08/2017.**

Hardback edition; ISBN 9781784916312. £120.00. **Special offer: £90.00 (RRP £120) + FREE worldwide shipping until 31/08/2017.**

PDF edition; ISBN 9781784915919.
From £16.00 (+VAT if applicable)

The XXI International Congress of Roman Frontier studies was hosted by Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums
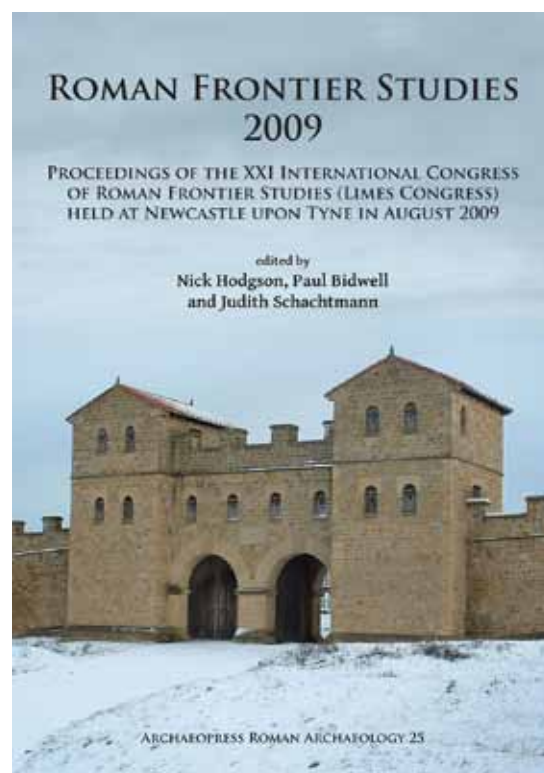

Fig. 12. Cover of Roman Frontier Studies 2009.

in Newcastle upon Tyne (Great Britain) in 2009, 60 years after the first Limeskongress organised in that city by Eric Birley in 1949.

Sixty years on, delegates could reflect on how the Congress has grown and changed over six decades and could be heartened at the presence of so many young scholars and a variety of topics and avenues of research into the army and frontiers of the Roman empire that would not have been considered in 1949.

Papers are organised into the same thematic sessions as in the actual conference: Women and Families in the Roman Army; Roman Roads; The Roman Frontier in Wales; The Eastern and North African Frontiers; Smaller Structures: towers and fortlets; Recognising Differences in Lifestyles through Material Culture; Barbaricum; Britain; Roman Frontiers in a Globalised World; Civil Settlements; Death and Commemoration; Danubian and Balkan Provinces; Camps; Logistics and Supply; The Germanies and Augustan and Tiberian Germany; Spain; Frontier Fleets.

This wide-ranging collection of papers enriches the study of Roman frontiers in all their aspects.

Romano-Celtic Mask Puzzle Padlocks: A study in their Design, Technology and Security
J. Slocum & D. Sonneveld, 2017, 144 pages; highly illustrated in full colour throughout (fig. 13).

Hardback edition; ISBN 9781784915643. £45.00. **Special offer: £35.00 (RRP £45) + FREE worldwide shipping until 31/08/2017.**

PDF edition; ISBN 9781784915650.
From £16.00 (+VAT if applicable).

This book presents a little-known and ingenious artefact of the Roman world: a small puzzle padlock
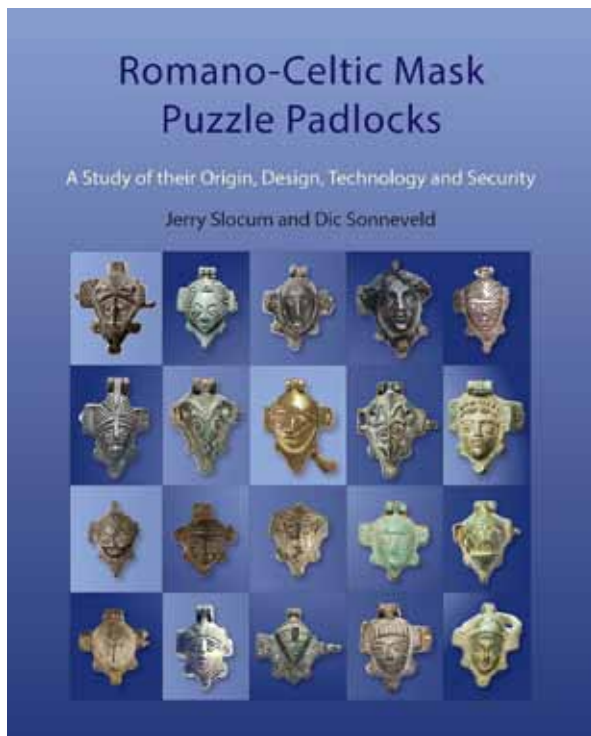
Fig. 13. Cover of Romano-Celtic Mask Puzzle Padlocks. A Study in their Design, Technology and Security.

whose font plate bears a face or 'mask' of 'Celtic' style. The padlocks were designed to secure small bags or pouches and their distribution extended across Europe with the majority found in the Danubian region and in the vicinity of Aquileia.

The authors examine the cultural context, the origins and uses of the padlocks, and provide detailed solutions to the puzzle mechanisms. The publication provides a fully-illustrated catalog of the known 156 examples, categorises their types according to construction and style, and explores the technicalities of the subject by the process of constructing replica mask puzzle padlocks.

Special offer discounts applicable to RFG members only. If interested, please email an enquiry to info@archaeopress.com.

Book Update

The Mildenhall Treasure:
Late Roman Silver Plate from East Anglia
Richard Hobbs

This is to let you know that the Research Publication on the Mildenhall treasure is now freely available as a downloadable PDF on the BM website: http://www.britishmuseum.org/pdf/200_Mildenhall.pdf.

Paper copies can still be purchased (http://www.britishmuseumshoponline.org/invt/cmc92005).

Online Resources

American Numismatic Society (ANS)
Online Coins of the Roman Empire (OCRE)

The American Numismatic Society (ANS) is pleased to announce a new interface for Online Coins of the Roman Empire (OCRE) [http://numismatics.org/ocre], which allows non-specialists, hobbyists, collectors, archaeologists, and others to browse Roman Imperial coins by image for free online. People can compare the coins in their collections or those coins recovered from archaeological excavations against diagnostic specimens in OCRE. The interface works on any device, from computers to tablets to smart phones.

OCRE's "Identify a Coin" tool is one of the most complete depictions of numismatic Imperial portraiture online, and the ANS hopes that it will also prove itself a useful art historical tool to trace the development of Roman portraiture from the Augustan period through the Soldier Emperors to the Tetrarchy until the end of the Roman Empire.

Conferences and Events

Culver Archaeological Project
26th June-5th August 2017
9am to 5pm weekdays, 10am to 5pm weekends
East Sussex Bridge Farm, Barcombe Mills Road,
Barcombe, East Sussex, BN8 5BX

The Project has been excavating at Bridge Farm, Wellingham, East Sussex since the summer of 2013. Prior to this, geophysical surveys were undertaken to trace the course of a Roman road in the area. This lead to the discovery of a previously unknown Romano/British riverside settlement. The project invites volunteers to assist with excavations and finds processing and runs a four-week archaeology course for students from Canterbury Christchurch University, and for anybody else who would like to learn more about archaeological techniques and methodology. For further details please visit http://www.culverproject.co.uk, application forms and other information is available in the 'Volunteering' and 'Courses' sections of the website.

Plumpton Roman Villa Excavation
26th June-5th August 2017: 9.30am to 5pm
Plumpton Roman Villa, Plumpton College,
Ditchling Road, Lewes, BN7 3AE

A research and training excavation directed by Dr. David Rudling will resume in 2017 on the site of the Roman Villa at Plumpton, near Lewes, Sussex. The Villa, which is one of the winged-corridor type, lies just to the north of the South Downs and a short distance to the south of the Greensand Way (an important east-west Roman road). Six training courses will be held over the course of the summer season and each course will provide a 'hands-on' and theory introduction to archaeological excavation, sessions to include: basic surveying and geophysics, excavation methods, written records, planning and section drawing, photography, environmental archaeology, finds processing and health and safety.

This course is suitable for beginners, those with limited experience, A Level archaeology students, people thinking of studying archaeology at university, and undergraduates. All participants will be encouraged to start (or continue) a BAJR Skills Passport. We are also offering one-day Saturday taster sessions and there are volunteer opportunities available for experienced excavators. Fee details: £175 per week excavation training, £40.00 Archaeology Taster Day,

£5 per day volunteering (conditions apply). For further information, please visit http://www.sussexarchaeology.org or email info@sussexarchaeology.co.uk

Londinium: The Roman City guided walk
28th July 2017: 10.30am to 1pm
All Hallows Tower Church,
Byward Street, London, EC3R 5BJ

Beginning in the Crypt Museum of All Hallows by the Tower and taking in some of the best-preserved stretches of Roman city wall, this guided walk includes the sites of the Forum, Basilica and Fort, as well as a visit to the Amphitheatre remains under Guildhall Art Gallery, before ending at the Museum of London. The walk costs £8.00 per person and is likely to take between 2½-3 hours. No need to book in advance. For further information, email parish@ahbtt.org.uk.

Recycling and the Ancient Economy Conference
22nd-23rd September 2017
Old Library, All Souls College, Oxford

Registration for the Recycling and the Ancient Economy conference is now open. The recycling of materials and objects was extensive in the past, but is rarely embedded into models of the economy; even more rarely is any attempt made to assess the scale of recycling, perhaps because it frequently operated in de-regulated, liminal spaces. Yet recent developments, particularly 'big data' approaches, and high-resolution analytical chemistry, are increasingly offering the means to reconstruct, and even to quantify, recycling.

This conference, which focuses principally on the Roman Imperial and Late Antique world, will develop and integrate methodological approaches, and begin to adapt our models of the ancient economy to accommodate the significant role of recycling. Crucially, it will investigate recycling during times of economic prosperity as well as 'crisis'.

By fostering discussion between participants with a range of specialisms, this conference and landmark publication will enrich our understanding of the ancient economy, and provide a useful contrast with the global systems in operation today. Most importantly, they will set the agenda for integrated, quantitative studies of past recycling practice.

For more information visit http://oxrep.classics.ox.ac.uk/pages/recycling_and_the_ancient_economy/.

2017 MANCENT Conference:
Rivers, Roman Harbours and the Roman Army
23rd September 2017
Manchester

Following on from last year's successful conference in co-operation with MANCENT, we are continuing the series of conferences on the Roman Military.

The idea is to explore how the Roman army is was using rivers for their own needs, of particular interest is the questions of the presence of harbours in the vicinity of Roman forts. Some of the themes of interest may be: how common are permanent harbour installations such as stone or wooden quays or breakwaters? What is the evidence for ship sheds or shipyards close to Roman sites? How do you recognise a chandler's shop in the archaeological material? Should we be looking for nothing more sophisticated than a sandy bend in the river that might allow small river boats to be run ashore at night? How common are riverside warehouses? How do you differentiate between civilian and military use in harbour facilities?

In the last 10 years, a lot of research has been conducted on Roman trade and harbour installations, both in Britain and especially abroad from Ostia to the large research project on the Rhine harbours and anchorages.

For more information visit http://mancent.org.uk/?page_id=722.

Planning and Archaeology
30th September 2017: 10am to 5pm
Committee Room 1, County Hall
Colliton Park, Dorchester

Learn about the latest discoveries in development-related archaeology in Dorset at an event at County Hall in Dorchester organised by Dorset County Council's Historic Environment team.

Presentations are a mixture of the latest news from long-term projects and exciting new work, and include: Archaeological discoveries on new water mains from Salisbury to Corfe Mullen, and Sturminster Marshall to Culpeppers Dish (Peter Cox, AC archaeology); New light on Dorchester's Roman defences from recent work in the Borough Gardens (Peter Bellamy, Terrain Archaeology); Abbey House, Shaftesbury (Peter Cox, AC archaeology); Evidence of Wareham's medieval past from excavations at Pound Lane, Wareham (Jon Milward, Bournemouth Archaeology); Archaeology in large-scale, long-term quarry projects: Woodsford Quarry and Hurn Court Quarry (Andrew Weale and Richard Tabor, Thames Valley Archaeological Services SW); Archaeological evaluations at Parmiter Drive and Cuthbury Gardens, Wimborne Minster (Damian De Rosa, Wessex Archaeology); Dorchester Prison (Richard Greatorex, Cotswold Archaeology); A medieval manorial site at Putton Lane, Chickerell (Clare Randall, Context One Archaeological Services).

The event starts at 10am and is due to finish at 5pm. Tickets are £10 which includes tea/coffee. Book your place in advance and pay on the day. Our dayschools are always well attended and numbers are limited - without a booking you may be disappointed. A buffet lunch is also available at a cost of £6 but must be booked in advance.

For booking and more information please visit https://news.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/archaeological-events/events/dayschool-archaeology-and-planning-2/.

Committee for Archaeology in Gloucestershire
21st October 2017: 10am to 5pm
The Guildhall, Gloucester

The theme of the conference is The Historic Landscape of Gloucestershire: Prehistoric to Industrial. The programme is: Dr Keith Ray "Offa's Dyke in Gloucestershire"; Dr Tom Moore of University of Durham "Becoming the Dobunni: the Middle and

Late Iron Age in Gloucestershire"; Prof Tim Darvill of University of Bournemouth "Abbey Home Farm, Cirencester - one land: many landscapes"; Neil Holbrook of Cotswold Archaeology "The countryside of Roman Gloucestershire"; Prof Jennifer Tann "Walking into the picture: the woollen industry through contemporary artists' eyes"; Jon Hoyle of Gloucestershire County Council "Hidden Landscapes in the Forest of Dean"; Prof Christopher Dyer of University of Leicester "New light on the medieval Gloucestershire landscape; using field work and documents"; Steve Crowther and Amanda Adams of Historic England "From bomb dump to rubbish dump? The legacy of twentieth-century military infrastructure in and around Gloucestershire"

Tickets cost £15 including tea/coffee and booking is essential. A booking form can be found on the BGAS website (http://www.bgas.org.uk/index.html).

South Yorkshire Archaeology Day
18th November 2017: 10am-4.30pm
The Showroom Cinema, Sheffield

The annual all-day conference on recent archaeological work in South Yorkshire will be held at the Showroom Cinema in Sheffield. Commercial, academic and community archaeologists will present the results of fieldwork and research in the area. As usual, a wide variety of periods and projects will be covered.

Admission: £15/£7.50 non-waged (includes tea and coffee)

Further details will be available on the website (https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/planning-development/planning-conservation-environment/south-yorkshire-archaeology-service/south-yorkshire-archaeology-day) from September. To be added to the mailing list for the event please contact syorks.archservice@sheffield.gov.uk.

28th Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference (TRAC)/Roman Archaeology Conference (RAC) 2018
12th-14th April 2018
Edinburgh University, Edinburgh

The School of History, Classics and Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh is pleased to host the 2018 Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference. The conference will run alongside the Roman Archaeology Conference (RAC) and it will take place from Thursday 12th to Saturday 14th of April (please note the change of dates from the previous RAC announcement). A plenary lecture will take place on the evening of the 12th and the conference will be followed by an excursion to the Antonine Wall on the 15th.

The University of Edinburgh has a long tradition of study of the Classical world, from the University's foundation in 1582 to the vibrant School of History, Classics and Archaeology today. Roman archaeology is a particular strength of the School, and staff from Classics and Archaeology work closely together in this field. Edinburgh now boasts one of the largest concentrations of Roman archaeologists and historians in the UK. Furthermore, the School supports a growing and active number of PhD students working on Roman

and Late Antique archaeological research with projects spreading from material culture to architecture and landscape archaeology. Additionally, we are fortunate to enjoy close contacts with colleagues from Historic Environment Scotland and the National Museum of Scotland, and we are grateful to them for their assistance in the organization of RAC/TRAC 2018.

A TRAC Call for Papers will follow in August 2017. We invite all submissions that critically engage with aspects of current theory and practice in Roman archaeology and scholarship. A RAC call for papers will follow with a deadline of 8th September 2017.

For further information about TRAC 2018 visit http://trac.org.uk/events/conferences/trac-2018/.

Any questions about RAC can be directed to the Organizing Committee at rac2018@ed.ac.uk.

19th International Congress of Classical Archaeology
22nd-26th May 2018
Cologne/Bonn

Paper proposals are invited for the AIAC 2018 Panel 3.15 on 'Villas, peasant agriculture, and the Roman rural economy', organized by Annalisa Marzano, University of Reading and sponsored by the 'Structural Determinants of Economic Performance in the Roman World' research network.

This panel proposes to investigate if and how villas and small and medium farms were part of two productive and distributive systems which supported each other (e.g., by giving access to agricultural processing facilities; by growing complementary crops). In the villa category, special discussion will be devoted to imperial estates and how these played a role in influencing the market's demand, with possible trickle down effects on large and small agricultural estates. The main focus of the panel is Roman Italy, but proposals for papers that investigate this phenomenon also in provincial territories are encouraged.

Submission proposals from early career researchers are particularly welcome. Deadline for submissions: 31st August 2017.

See http://www.aiac2018.de/programme/sektionen/ for information on the submission procedure.

Retrospect and Prospect: 50 Years of Britannia
4 November 2017: 10am to 6pm (free)
Woburn Suite (Room G22/26),
Senate House, London, WC1E

This year's Roman Society Day Conference will celebrate 50 years of the journal Britannia. The conference will explore the highlights of the last 50 years of Romano-British archaeology, with an emphasis not just on excavation and discovery but also inscriptions and artefacts. Speakers will also consider future research priorities and present current thinking in a range of fields including osteology and zooarchaeology. For further information, or to reserve a place: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/retrospect-and-prospect-50-years-of-britannia-tickets-34098336041.