University of Leicester
School of Archaeology & Ancient History

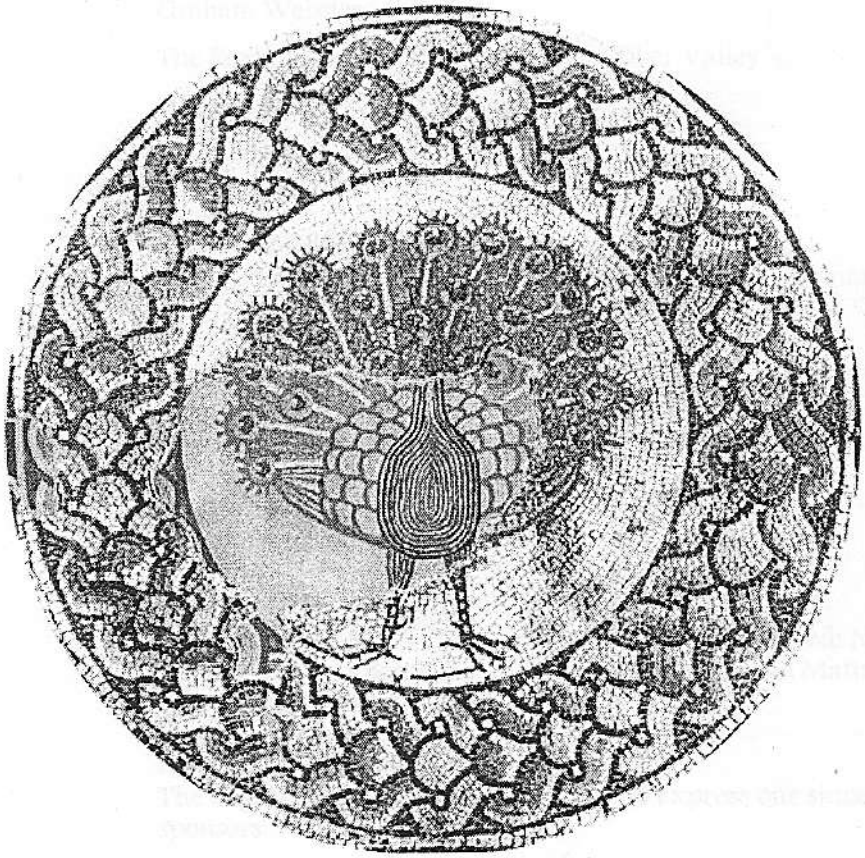
Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference

Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies

RAC•TRAC•2003

Roman Archaeology Conference & Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference

University of Leicester 3rd - 6th April 2003



Session Programmes & Abstracts

RAC & TRAC 2003

Session Programmes & Abstracts

Conference organization

The RAC/TRAC 2003 Organizing Committee comprised: Neil Christie, Hella Eckardt, Simon James, Caroline Mackey, David Mattingly, Judy Meade and Jeremy Taylor.

Acknowledgments

The Organizing Committee would like to express our sincere thanks to our sponsors:

Barbican Associates
British Academy
English Heritage
Jewry Wall Museum/Leicester City Museums
Journal of Roman Archaeology
Lord Mayor's Office, Leicester City Council
Oxbow Books
Vice-Chancellor, University of Leicester

Plenary lecture:

Beyond the Limes in Germany: An Abandoned Augustan Town and Germanic Settlements

Prof. Dr. Siegmar von Schnurbein, Director of the Römisch-Germanische Kommission des Deutschen Archaeolögischen Instituts

Until recently, the discussion on contacts between the Roman world and the Germanic tribes was focused on the abundant objects of Roman provenance in Northern and Central Germany. What these contacts in the vicinity of the Limes looked like and what influence the Roman world had on the Germanic tribes on the other side of the Limes was largely unknown.

As part of a research project a couple of excavations were carried out in the valley of the Lahn between Wetzlar and Giessen (Hessia), roughly 20 kilometres distant from the Limes. The biggest surprise was the discovery of a Roman town near Waldgirmes that was founded around 0 AD and abandoned 9 AD (defeat of Varus). At this place, the way the Romans built cities "from scratch" is clearly observable. Because of later building activities, such evidences of the founding period of a Roman town have survived only in traces at other places in the former provinces of Gallia and Germania. Therefore, the results achieved in Waldgirmes have exemplary character for the whole northwestern part of the Roman Empire.

Of equal importance is the question of the relationship of the Romans to the Germanic tribes. Archaeologically speaking, a Germanic colonization of this area between 50/30 BC and 100 AD cannot be confirmed, even though palynological evidence shows intense agricultural activity for this period. Only from the second century AD onwards (foundation of the Limes 100 AD) scattered settlements and burials are known in the Lahn district. Some of these contain Roman objects, but in quantity and quality this area cannot compare to the find situation in Thuringia or Lower Franconia - despite the closeness of the Roman Empire.

This begs several questions: for instance, to what extent can the finds be taken as historically representative? What are the reasons for the different proportions of objects of Roman provenance in the various Germanic regions?

RAC Sessions

Alternative narratives: towards a social archaeology of the Roman empire

Session organisers: Ray Laurence (Reading University) and Louise Revell (Southampton University)

This session sets out to formulate alternative approaches and possible narratives for the research and publication of Roman archaeology. In spite of much discussion, a preoccupation with the research agendas and historical narratives of Romanization and imperialism remain prominent if not dominant within our subject. Whilst not denying the importance of these issues, they have obscured the multi-vocality of the archaeological record and limited our interpretations.

In this session we offer alternative formulations which allow for the development of a social archaeology of the Roman empire. Explanations for variation will be sought which go beyond a binary opposition of roman-native to consider other factors such as the nature of style, regional cultures, identity etc., as well as other elements of cultural discourse. The emphasis will be upon how we can begin to consider the lives of the inhabitants of Roman empire as opposed to simply fitting their lives into a superstructure formulated with reference to a set of conflicting literary accounts.

Programme

9.30 Urban identities in ancient Beirut: narratives suggested by the changing character of the built environment. *Dominic Perring*
10.00 Material Matters: the social distribution of Roman material culture. *Hella Eckardt*
10.30 Exploring the epigraphic habit: three assemblages from the Tiber Valley *Louise Revell*
11.00 Coffee
11.30 A Life Course Approach to Roman Funerary Inscriptions. *Ray Laurence*
11.31 12.00 Beyond ethnicity: symbols of social identity from the fourth to sixth centuries in England. *Rebecca Gowland*
12.30 Discussion

Urban identities in ancient Beirut: narratives suggested by the changing character of the built environment, *Dominic Perring (Department of Archaeology, University of York)*

Recent archaeological work in Beirut permits the description of a chronology of architectural change. This illustrates the complex workings of a range of political, ideological, cultural, demographic and economic forces. This paper will focus on the evidence of domestic architecture and town-planning, using these sources to describe changing approaches to the representation of urban identities: from the pre-Hellenistic Iron Age down to the Arab conquest. Emphasis will be given to the impact of different stages of growth and contraction on the character of the urban environment. The ways in which the Augustan veteran colony was absorbed into the pre-existing city will be given particular attention. The archaeological sources are seen to complement, rather than challenge, models developed from historical evidence.

Material Matters: the social distribution of Roman material culture *Hella Eckardt (Department of Archaeology, University of Reading)*

The Roman period can be described as a 'world of objects', with many more (archaeologically visible) artefacts available to the provincial population than in the Iron Age or Anglo-Saxon period. The potential of this rich material for the understanding of social processes beyond the conceptual framework of Romanisation has however rarely been explored. In the past research has largely focused on topics such as chronology and the economy rather than on the social and cultural contexts in which these objects were used. In recent years, more emphasis has been

Christianity in Roman Britain

Session organizer: David Petts (Northumberland County Council)

It has been over twenty years since Charles Thomas published *Christianity in Roman Britain to AD500*, and it remains the first stop for serious study of the subject. However, in the last two decades new discoveries have been made and older finds have been re-considered or properly published. There has also been a major change in the wider study of the archaeology of religion, with a greater awareness of anthropological approaches to ritual and belief. Finally, there has been an increasing interest in the study of the late Roman transition, which has led to a re-centring of late Roman Christianity from an interesting but essentially ephemeral Oriental mystery cult to an important factor in the culture and politics of Late Antique Britain. This session will bring together discussion of new discoveries, wider explorations of particular aspects of Romano-British Christianity and syntheses placing the religion in its wider socio-cultural context.

Programme

9.00 What do we know about Christianity in Roman Britain?, *Ken Dark*
9.30 Women and Christianity in Roman Britain, *Dorothy Watts*
10.00 Christianity and the Late Roman Army in Britain, *David Petts*
10.30 The fate of pagan temples in Southern Britain, *Alex Smith*
11.00 tea
11.20 Painted Decoration of the Mausolea in the Poundbury Cemetery, *Christopher Sparey-Green*
11.50 Early Churches in Britain and their Gallic Origins, *Michael J Jones*
12.20 Christianity and the transition from Roman to Saxon in the north-west Midlands, *Keith Matthews*
12.50 Discussion

What do we know about Christianity in Roman Britain?, *Kenneth Dark (Research Centre for Late Antique & Byzantine Studies, University of Reading)*

Christianity in Roman Britain has left a particularly sparse written record, rendering archaeology our principal source of information for the Romano-British Church. Archaeologists have usually attempted to study the Christian population of Roman Britain through the presence of artefacts bearing Christian symbols or inscriptions, the identification of church buildings and the search for specifically Christian cemeteries. Yet all of these potential sources of evidence are fraught with problems and some of the most serious of these difficulties have seldom even been discussed. A critical assessment of Romano-British data (and comparative evidence) will be used to suggest that none of these sources provides, at present, a reliable indication of the distribution, development and social or demographic composition of the Romano-British Christian population. Consequently, even the most basic issues concerning Romano-British Christianity remain open to a wide range of possible interpretations.

Christianity and the Late Roman Army in Britain

David Petts (Archaeology Section, Northumberland County Council, Morpeth)

Previous scholars who have made a study of Christianity in Roman Britain have noted a failure of the army to take up the new religion. This separated the army from other elements of Romano-British society, where it has long been recognised that the new religion had had some impact. However, a combination of new discoveries and re-assessments of earlier discoveries have begun to challenge this perception. The evidence is particularly strong for the forces stationed along Hadrian's Wall and the northern frontier. There is also evidence for Christianity amongst the less archaeological visible *comitatenses* stationed in the lowland areas of Britain. As well as contributing to the increasingly complex views we have of the late Roman army in Britain, it also has implications for exploring the late Roman/early medieval transition, particularly in Northern Britain.

Christianity in Roman Britain

Session organizer: David Petts (Northumberland County Council)

It has been over twenty years since Charles Thomas published *Christianity in Roman Britain to AD500*, and it remains the first stop for serious study of the subject. However, in the last two decades new discoveries have been made and older finds have been re-considered or properly published. There has also been a major change in the wider study of the archaeology of religion, with a greater awareness of anthropological approaches to ritual and belief. Finally, there has been an increasing interest in the study of the late Roman transition, which has led to a re-centring of late Roman Christianity from an interesting but essentially ephemeral Oriental mystery cult to an important factor in the culture and politics of Late Antique Britain. This session will bring together discussion of new discoveries, wider explorations of particular aspects of Romano-British Christianity and syntheses placing the religion in its wider socio-cultural context.

Programme

9.00 What do we know about Christianity in Roman Britain?, *Ken Dark*
9.30 Women and Christianity in Roman Britain, *Dorothy Watts*
10.00 Christianity and the Late Roman Army in Britain, *David Petts*
10.30 The fate of pagan temples in Southern Britain, *Alex Smith*
11.00 tea
11.20 Painted Decoration of the Mausolea in the Poundbury Cemetery, *Christopher Sparey-Green*
11.50 Early Churches in Britain and their Gallic Origins, *Michael J Jones*
12.20 Christianity and the transition from Roman to Saxon in the north-west Midlands, *Keith Matthews*
12.50 Discussion

What do we know about Christianity in Roman Britain?, *Kenneth Dark (Research Centre for Late Antique & Byzantine Studies, University of Reading)*

Christianity in Roman Britain has left a particularly sparse written record, rendering archaeology our principal source of information for the Romano-British Church. Archaeologists have usually attempted to study the Christian population of Roman Britain through the presence of artefacts bearing Christian symbols or inscriptions, the identification of church buildings and the search for specifically Christian cemeteries. Yet all of these potential sources of evidence are fraught with problems and some of the most serious of these difficulties have seldom even been discussed. A critical assessment of Romano-British data (and comparative evidence) will be used to suggest that none of these sources provides, at present, a reliable indication of the distribution, development and social or demographic composition of the Romano-British Christian population. Consequently, even the most basic issues concerning Romano-British Christianity remain open to a wide range of possible interpretations.

Christianity and the Late Roman Army in Britain

David Petts (Archaeology Section, Northumberland County Council, Morpeth)

Previous scholars who have made a study of Christianity in Roman Britain have noted a failure of the army to take up the new religion. This separated the army from other elements of Romano-British society, where it has long been recognised that the new religion had had some impact. However, a combination of new discoveries and re-assessments of earlier discoveries have begun to challenge this perception. The evidence is particularly strong for the forces stationed along Hadrian's Wall and the northern frontier. There is also evidence for Christianity amongst the less archaeological visible *comitatenses* stationed in the lowland areas of Britain. As well as contributing to the increasingly complex views we have of the late Roman army in Britain, it also has implications for exploring the late Roman/early medieval transition, particularly in Northern Britain.

Women and Christianity in Roman Britain

Dorothy Watts

This paper gives a brief account of the rise and decline in influence of women in the Christian church before identifying some Christian women in Roman Britain, and suggesting others. Because of the restrictions of the evidence - literary, epigraphical and prosopographical - only women from the upper classes can be identified by name.

The Painted Decoration of the Mausolea in the Poundbury Cemetery: Context and Comparanda, *Christopher Sparey-Green (Canterbury Archaeological Trust)*

Further research on the fragmentary painted plaster from two mausolea allows more of the decorative scheme to be reconstructed while unpublished details of the buildings, their construction and dating will allow a more precise history of their use and their fate in the post-Roman period. Comparison with continental funerary paintings and mosaics, particularly those in Christian contexts, may provide more specific identifications for some of the very fragmentary remains of wall and ceiling paintings in Mausoleum R8 and allow more precise reconstruction of the scheme of internal decoration. The wide range of finds, many not published, from the periods of construction, use and disuse of this and other mausolea on the site also provide more specific details of their dating, the nature of activities within the buildings and their significance to the sub-Roman settlement that succeeded the cemetery and incorporated at least the more significant mausolea into its building scheme.

The fate of pagan temples in southern Britain during the late Roman period

Alex Smith (Oxford Archaeology)

This paper will seek to explore the fate of temples in southern Britain during the late Roman period, with particular emphasis upon those sites in the south-east of the country which have received relatively little synthetic academic study compared to the well known examples further to the west. It would seem that temples were integral parts of their social, political and economic environment, and the consequences of this with regard to their construction, use and decline will be examined. In particular, the effect of specific imperial policies upon temple use in parts of late Roman Britain will be assessed, to determine whether they were primarily influenced by these polices, or by the more generic political and economic stresses of the late empire, in the same way as certain other aspects of Romanised architectural expression. Distinctions will be made between the decline of the sanctuary buildings themselves and that of religious activity carried out at the sites, for in some cases it seems that the cults continued even after the physical structure of the temples went into terminal decline.

Christianity & the transition from Roman to Saxon in the north-west Midlands

Keith Matthews (Chester Archaeology)

Historical accounts of the late and sub-Roman periods in Cheshire have long been dominated by assumptions about Christianity, often based on placenames and dubious landscape evidence. However, recent excavations at the Roman amphitheatre in Chester have begun to reinterpret the late Roman sequence and are beginning to suggest that the monument played an important role in the transition between the legionary fortress and the developing Middle Saxon town. The ruins of the structure now seem to have been the focus of activity from the fourth to seventh centuries and later, culminating in the construction of a church that became one of Late Saxon Chester's two Minster churches.

A broader model will be developed, outlining the processes by which a quiet and materially almost invisible late Roman Christianity structured the transition from Roman to Mercian control, avoiding the traumatic break in traditions seen in eastern England.

Early Churches in Britain and their Gallic origins?

Michael J Jones (City of Lincoln Archaeologist)

This paper will investigate the immediate sources of the building types used for the earliest Christian churches in Britain. In particular, it will explore the ways in which architectural ideas might have been transmitted to Britain, notably by examining the evidence from the NW provinces, with which Britain had close links in terms of other aspects of its material culture.

Early Roman Towns in Hispania Tarraconensis

Session organizer: Simon Keay (University of Southampton)

Chair: Sarah Scott (University of Leicester). Discussant: Martin Millett (University of Cambridge)

This session draws upon new archaeological evidence from the towns of Emporiae, Carthago Nova, El Tolmo de Minateda, Labitolosa (and other towns of the Pre-Pyrenees), Segobriga and Bracara Augusta to focus upon continuity from Iron-Age to Roman between the late 3rd century BC and the late 1st century AD. Hispania Citerior Tarraconensis was one of Rome's most culturally heterogeneous provinces, and these towns have been chosen as case studies to highlight differences in early urban development across the province. Speakers will be using their case studies to address several issues, such as the cultural context of the urban foundations, the importance of Italic and Roman influence in their layout and display, the significance of religion and ritual in their organization, the role of elites and patrons in the development of towns, the relationship of towns to their surrounding countryside, the emergence of Roman towns as central foci of regional settlement patterns and the role of the town in the broader political and administrative structure of Hispania Tarraconensis.

Programme

2.00 Cultural and urban variety in Tarraconensis, *S. Keay*
2.20 New Archaeological Research at the Roman town of Emporiae (Empúries), *M. Santos*
2.45 From *Qart Hadash* to the *Colonia Urbs Iulia Nova Karthago, S. Ramallo*
3.10 The Iberian and Roman settlement of El Tolmo de Minateda (Albacete), *L. Abad*
3.35 Short questions
3.40 Tea Break
4.05 Recent excavations at Segobriga, *M. Almagro*
4.30 From Iberian agglomeration to Roman municipium: the example of the small towns of Aragón, *P. Sillieres*
4.55 Recent Excavations at Bracara Augusta (Braga), *M. Martins*
5.20 Short Questions
5.25 M. Millett
5.45 Discussion

Introduction: Cultural and urban variety in Tarraconensis

Simon Keay, Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton

The session is introduced by a paper that reviews the evidence for the broader cultural context of the early Roman towns of Hispania Citerior Tarraconensis. In the first instance, it reviews contrasting regional Iron-Age settlement traditions and their social contexts. It then goes on to briefly look at the relationship between these, the sequence of conquest in the 2nd and 1st centuries BC, the advent of Roman towns, and the spread of urban status across the province down to the later 1st century AD. The paper then concludes by underlining the heterogeneity of early Roman towns within the province, and exploring the social, political and cultural frameworks that might explain it.

New Archaeological Research at the Roman town of Emporiae (Empúries)

Marta Santos Retolaza, Museu d'Arqueologia de Catalunya-Empúries

The Roman town of Emporiae is one of the most important examples of the first urban foundations along the Mediterranean coast of Hispania Tarraconensis. It is also a distinctive centre, whose development was conditioned by several circumstances. In the first instance, there is the issue of the long settlement continuity in the region, and recent excavations in the region of Empúries have shown that this is to be sought in the late Bronze and early Iron Ages. There is little doubt that the creation of the Phocaean commercial enclave in the 6th century BC and the evolution of the Greek town of Emporion in subsequent centuries determined the cultural context of the new Roman foundation. Nevertheless, the Roman town that was established adjacent to the earlier Greek nucleus betrays strong evidence of Italic influence, both in terms of its layout and in the architecture of its earliest buildings. The abandonment of the Roman town in the 3rd century AD and the lack of subsequent occupation has ensured the survival of these earlier phases.

However, only a small part of its surface area has been explored. Various research projects have yielded important new discoveries in recent years. The archaeological excavations in the forum (1992-1999) have been particualrly important, fully uncovering all the buildings and enabling the development of the town to be re-assessed. Of similar importance has been the geophysical survey of unexcavated sectors of the town, as well as the excavations in insula 30, which was begun in 2000 and revealed the public baths of the town.

From *Qart Hadash* to the *Colonia Urbs Iulia Nova Karthago*

Sebastián Ramallo Asensio (Universidad de Murcia)

Mineral wealth, a natural port and a key strategic location on west Mediterranean maritime routes favoured the early development of *Nova Karthago* and determined its layout. From the 2nd century BC, it was converted into a preferred destination for a large contingent of italic immigrants who monopolized mineral exploitation and co-existed with a large population of Semitic, east Mediterranean and Iberian origins. This cosmopolitan character is reflected in the co-existence and syncretism of various cults. From the 2nd century BC, a halo of industrial installations developed around the mineral installations, incorporating important technological advances, building techniques, pictorial and mosaic decoration that had originally developed in Italy. Some of these settlements developed into *villae* at the beginning of the 1st century AD, with their number increasing on account of the centuriation of the territory that took place when the juridical status of the town was changed. The concession of colonial status determined a profound urban transformation, involving the construction of a new wall, road-network and the incorporation of buildings destined for the development of the town's functions as capital of the largest *conventus iuridicus* in Hispania. At the same time there was also a multiplication of spaces used for elite self-representation. Inscriptions and statue pedestals of the leading members of the local elite (Iunii, Cornelii, Postumii) alternate with those dedicated to the emperor and the closest members of his family.

The Iberian and Roman settlement of El Tolmo de Minateda (Albacete)

Lorenzo Abad Casal (Universidad de Alicante)

El Tolmo de Minateda (Hellín, Albacete, Spain), dominates a cross-roads along the route which connected Carthago Nova with the interior of the country. The important pre-Roman town was transformed into a municipium, probably the Ilunum referred to by Ptolemy. A monumental inscription dating to 9 BC, and dedicated to the emperor Augustus, has enabled Lucius Domitius Ahenobarbus to be identified as governor of the province at this time. Moreover, it has also been possible to identify the first duumvirs of the town, Q. Fulvius Quetus and G. Grattius Grattianus, both of who belonged to distinguished families that originated in the Mediterranean coast of Spain. This process of romanization is also attested in the known cemeteries. It seems that with the passage of time, the town lost its vitality while its rural hinterland became more active. It only regained its importance in the Visigothic period in the context of the Byzantine reconquest of the Roman empire in the western Mediterranean.

Recent excavations at Segobriga, *J. M. Abascal, Martin Almagro-Gorbea y Rosario Carrillo (Universidad de Alicante, Universidad Complutense de Madrid)*

Segobriga was the most important Roman town in the eastern Meseta. Its originated as a Celtiberian oppidum, and inherited the role of Contrebia Carbica, capital of the Carrpetani, which was destroyed during the Sertorian War. The town was capital of a district dedicated to the mining of lapis specularis and since it lay at an important crossroads, it attracted a small group of Italian immigrants who were integrated into the local elite at an early period. In about 14 BC, Segobriga became a municipium and the focus of a large territorium which it inherited from Contrebia Carbica. This was accompanied by a re-modelling of its topography, with the construction of monumental terraces in the Hellenistic-Italic tradition. The hill on which the town lay was surrounded by a wall, outside of which were constructed a theatre and amphitheatre. Within the area enclosed by the wall were built a monumental forum and basilica; while a cella dedicated to the cult of the emperor and his family lay adjacent to the cardo maximus. Inscriptions discovered in the forum indicate that this building activity was associated with individuals closly associated with Augustus and Tiberius. The urban development of Segobriga seems to have come to an end under Vespasian and Titus, even though the town subsequently remained an important centre of mining and economic activity in the Meseta.

From Iberian agglomeration to Roman *municipium*: the example of the small towns of Aragón, *A. Magallon, M. Navarro, C. Rico, C. Saenz and P. Sillières (Centre Ausonius, Université de Bordeaux)*

In the region of the pre-Pyrenees, Roman authority was imposed solely through the creation of new urban centres. Amongst the known examples of the south side of the Pyrenees, which will surely increase with time – especially in Aragón - the best example is without doubt that of Labitolosa, thanks to the excavations that have taken place on the site since 1991. This Ilergetan settlement, established on the Cerro del Calvario (La Puebla del Castro, Huesca) in the course of the first half of the 1st century BC to control the Cinca and Esera valleys, developed rapidly during the Augustan period. However, its large public buildings were not constructed until the second half of the 1st century AD, notably its two bath suites and its curia. The latter building contained an extraordinary collection of inscriptions, which provide exceptional documentation about the elites from this small Pyrenaean town which became a latin municipium under the Flavians.

Recent Excavations at Bracara Augusta (Braga)

Manuela Martins(Universidade do Minho, Braga, Portugal)

This paper will focus upon the foundation and development of Bracara Augusta (Braga) in northern Portugal. It will draw upon the data provided by the urban rescue excavations undertaken since 1976 by the Unit of Archaeology of the Universidade do Minho. The importance of Bracara Augusta as an administrative, religious, economic, and cultural centre will be emphasised, and will be followed by a consideration of the planning and layout of the town. Indeed, the field of public and domestic architecture represents one of its major contributions to our understanding of the archaeology of the Roman towns of north-western Iberia. Finally, attention will be directed towards gauging the influence of the town on the changing patterns of regional settlement, as a way of analyzing the relationship between Bracara Augusta and its surrounding countyside.

Pax Romana? Violence and conflict in the Roman world

Session organisers: Simon James (University of Leicester) and Andrew Gardner (UCL)

Discussant: Greg Woolf (University of St Andrews)

Roman archaeologists in Britain and elsewhere rarely discuss the violent side of empire, at least outside the context of the gladiatorial arena. This seems extraordinary, since the empire was created and maintained largely by the threat or the application of violence, not only in war but through internal repression. The present session has a simple aim: to put conflict and violence back into the vocabulary of archaeological narratives of the Roman empire. For some years, a number of ancient historians have been addressing many aspects of the violence of the Roman world. The much-vaunted *pax Romana* established at best an absence of war, not an eradication of strife.

Elsewhere, notably among prehistorians, there is growing awareness that, for decades, there has been a widespread and unwarranted tendency for archaeologists to 'pacify the past'. There is also now an increasing willingness to confront evidence that the past was often more brutal than we would like to think - and at the same time to place this violence more fully in its social context, rather than confining it to the somewhat abstract field of military history. Nevertheless, dominant archaeological narratives of the history of the Roman provinces continue to emphasise how civil societies developed and functioned. Even the largely separate community of military archaeologists generally continue to concentrate on the less unpalatable aspects of the imperial armies, such as the organization of units and frontiers. It seems high time, then, for archaeologists to confront the 'pacification of the Roman past'. The papers in this session will explore both documentary evidence and material approaches to this fundamental but neglected face of the Roman world.

Programme

9.00 Introduction: The Violence of the Roman Era, *Simon James*
9.30 Violence and identity in the Roman world: boundaries of brutality, *Andrew Gardner*
10.00 Performing and Representing Warfare on the Frontier, *Peter Wells*
10.30 Coffee
11.00 War, Peace, and everything in between: the frequency, scale and nature of armed conflict under the Principate, *Adrian Goldsworthy*
11.30 Meeting at Philippi: the contribution of a battlefield archaeology to understanding late Republican warfare, *John & Patricia Carman*
12.00 'How could somebody do that to another human being?' Material culture and the generation of violent behaviour. *Ian Haynes*
12.30 Comment *by Greg Woolf*, and general discussion

Introduction: The Violence of the Roman Era

Simon James (University of Leicester)

This introductory paper will review the range of evidence regarding the extent, nature and meaning of violence in the Roman world. It will be argued that violence was by no means banished to the frontiers, nor confined to the judicial system and the arena as, to judge by much archaeological writing particularly, seems to be widely assumed. It was a much more significant factor in life, social structure and ideology in the 'peaceful core' of the empire than is commonly allowed for. As the succeeding papers will explore, consideration of violence is essential to understanding the nature and articulation of identity in Roman times, not only for soldiers on the frontiers but for all groups living within and beyond the empire.

Violence and identity in the Roman world: boundaries of brutality

Andrew Gardner (Institute of Archaeology, University College London)

Social identities, and the boundaries established between them, were created and expressed in a wide range of ways in the Roman world. Material culture was clearly an important part of such processes. However, rather than looking at objects as static markers of identity, as archaeologists are wont to do, it is important to attempt to consider the role of material things in practices - in patterns of action through which people claim, or submit to, a particular categorization. This

means trying to embed our understanding of artefacts in broader 'ways of doing things', for it is these, rather than the artefacts themselves, that convey meaning in social interaction.

One such pattern of action or behaviour is violence, and there is ample evidence from the Roman world for violence being an important aspect of social differentiation. The most obvious case is the marking out of soldiers from others, but violent behaviour is also important in the construction of class and gender identities, as well as ethnic stereotypes. This, at least, is the picture Roman writers constructed from their own particular perspective, and the task of this paper is to integrate these within an archaeology of violence in the Roman world that also builds upon material evidence for physical and psychological coercion from contexts across the empire.

Performing and Representing Warfare on the Frontier

Peter Wells (University of Minnesota)

While Roman texts attest to frequent and brutal warfare between Roman armies and native peoples, modern representations - in museum exhibitions, popular books, and television programs - tend to emphasize civil life in the conquered provinces and commercial relations across the frontier. Archaeological evidence on both sides of the Rhine-Danube frontier enables us to examine how peoples within and beyond the Roman provinces experienced and represented the violence that created their world. Burials and deposits east of the Rhine and north of the Danube indicate a martial mindset, with military preparedness a clearly emphasized value. Within the conquered lands west of the Rhine and south of the Danube, however, military equipment was rarely part of funerary rituals. Pictorial representations show results of war, but not warfare itself. Thus, after the conquest of Gaul, we can discern in the material evidence two different understandings of warfare. In the Roman world, representations tended to disguise the fact that large-scale violence lay behind the political and cultural circumstances in the new provinces, while peoples beyond the frontier celebrated their weapons as signs of their determination to resist the imperial army.

War, Peace, and everything in between: the frequency, scale and nature of armed conflict under the Principate. *Adrian Goldsworthy.*

The army maintained by the Roman emperors was large and extremely expensive, but what did it do? For many decades the answer to this question has usually been assumed to be 'almost anything other than fighting'. Large scale conflicts with foreign opponents or major internal rebellions were comparatively rare events in the first two centuries AD, especially in comparison with the almost annual war-making of the Republic. It is widely assumed that many Roman soldiers, especially legionaries, would at most take part in a single major campaign during their twenty-five years in the army. Military service appears to have consisted almost exclusively of 'peaceful' routine and involvement in administration, construction, industry and the like.

Yet although major wars were undoubtedly uncommon events, we should be very careful before assuming that the Roman Empire was rarely disturbed by warfare and violence. The aim of this paper is to examine the evidence for small scale conflict both within the provinces and on the frontiers. This needs to be considered in the context of what is known about patterns of warfare – and especially raiding - in a region before the Romans arrived and the question of whether we should ever assume that ancient societies were truly pacific. The paper will suggest that combat may actually have been a reasonably common experience for many Roman soldiers, though it was far more likely to occur in the context of a skirmish that a great pitched battle. It will also try to examine the relationship between the frequent, small scale conflict and the occasional major wars, and look at the impact of both on the participants and the wider population.

Finally it will suggest that too modern a concept of the difference between war and peace can easily cloud our view of the Ancient World, and examine alternative approaches to understanding our evidence.

Meeting at Philippi: the contribution of a battlefield archaeology to understanding late Republican warfare, *John & Patricia Carman (co-Directors, 'Bloody Meadows' Project and c/o Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge)*

The warfare of the Roman world is usually filtered to us through an understanding derived from military studies. These studies in turn derive from a tradition intended to serve the needs of contemporary soldiers. Much is made in particular of Roman methods of fighting and the interpretation of military encounters based upon a later appreciation of what matters: usually, success in battle contingent upon appropriate use of resources and terrain. Such studies

emphasise the importance of battle and of tactics, applying a conventional model consisting of linked elements. These can be designated as: linear narrative, functionalist interpretation, and the maintenance of a distinction between the 'ritual' and the 'real'.

If there are two distinctive approaches archaeology can make to the study of any particular phenomenon, it lies in its simultaneous disciplinary focus upon *materiality* and the *long-term*. In applying these to the study of battlesites in the past it becomes possible to construct alternative readings of Roman warfare which challenge our expectations and help to reveal the fundamental difference of the Roman age from our own. A study of the site of the two battles of Philippi (42BC) – located in modern Greece – will be used to illustrate the contribution a specifically archaeological approach can make to understanding internecine warfare in late Republican Roman times.

'How could somebody do that to another human being?' Material culture and the generation of violent behaviour, ***Ian Haynes (Birkbeck College, University of London)***

In a comment on the army's role in the bloody suppression of the North African revolt of AD 238, Brent Shaw (1983) suggests that the soldiers were able to respond so violently because they were members of a 'total institution'. This term, developed by Goffman (for the analysis of asylums in the modern world, has been co-opted for use in diverse sociological studies. Isolated from wider society, Shaw's argument follows, it was altogether easier for soldiers to inflict brutality upon civilians. This paper investigates the 'total institution' model afresh from an archaeological perspective. In doing so it also examines the belief that in certain settings the built environment may serve to generate violent behaviours.

Reference

Shaw, B., 1983 'Soldiers and Society: The Army in Numidia', *Opus* II 133-57, esp. 144-9

Roman Landscapes I: Mining and Quarrying Landscapes in the Roman Empire

Session organizer & Chair: David Mattingly (University of Leicester)

This session will attempt to move the archaeological study of Roman mining and quarrying beyond technology into the realm of social organisation and political control. The mobilisation of labour, its movement and location, and the nature and impact of imperial control will be the key themes examined. Case study areas will focus on three well-explored instances of imperial-directed mining and quarrying in Egypt, Jordan and Spain.

The programme breaks down into three pairs of paired papers, each dealing with a specific regional case study approached from the perspective of different types of evidence. We seek to set the mining/quarrying operations from Egypt (Maxfield), Spain (Orejas and Sanchez Palencia) and Jordan (Mattingly) in their full landscape context and to assess the evidence for scale and imperial direction/involvement in the various processes of mining and smelting, quarrying, transporting, supplying, etc. We shall also explore the additional insights on life in these heavily controlled extractive regions derived from archaeobotanical work (van der Veen), ancient historical sources (Hirt) and geochemical pollution studies (Grattan).

Programme

9.00 Introduction to the session, *David Mattingly*

Egypt

9.05 Imperial Enterprise in Egypt's Eastern Desert, *Valerie Maxfield*

9.35 Feeding the Quarries in Roman Egypt, *Marijke van der Veen*

10.05 Questions/discussion

Spain

10.10 The Mining Zones of the Western Iberian Peninsula: a Research and Heritage Management Project, *Almudena Orejas and Javier Sánchez-Palencia (Madrid)*

10.40 Coffee

11.10 Roman Mining in Spain – Issues of Ownership, Administration and Social Impact, *Alfred Hirt (University of Oxford)*

11.40 Questions/discussion

Jordan

11.45 Roman copper mining at Phaino (Wadi Faynan, Jordan), *David Mattingly (Leicester)*

12.15 "Death ... more desirable than life"? The Environmental Impact of Copper Mining and Smelting in Wadi Faynan, *John Grattan (Aberystwyth)*

12.45 Questions/discussion

12.50 Respondent (*David Bird*): Summing up

Imperial Enterprise in Egypt's Eastern Desert

Valerie Maxfield (Department of Archaeology, University of Exeter)

The desert area which lies to the east of the Nile Valley is dominated by the Red Sea Mountains – a rugged, hyper-arid region, incapable of supporting agriculture but rich in mineral resources, both metallic and non-metallic. Extensive, large-scale exploitation of these resources is largely limited to the Roman period, producing a relict industrial landscape, little scarred by subsequent development and yielding an unsurpassed range of evidence – both written (inscriptions and *ostraca*) and archaeological. This paper will explore the nature and organisation of this landscape, the quarries, the associated settlements and the extensive infrastructure required to supported them. Particular attention will be paid to the stone quarries, notably Mons Claudianus and Mons Porphyrites, where the evidence points to imperial involvement in both the running of the quarries and the use of their products.

Feeding the Quarries of Roman Egypt

Marijke van der Veen (School of Archaeology & Ancient History, University of Leicester)

The monumental ambition and grandeur of the Roman emperors, enhanced by the use of prestigious stone from far-flung parts of their empire, gave rise to exploitative industries in these regions, and the creation of distinct organizational features to control the recruitment of specialist

labour and, in some instances, the creation of special settlements and supply systems. One of the key issues in the development and success of such early industries is the question of how the specialised workforce acquired its food. Did they continue to produce their own food, were they paid in kind, or did they purchase it from others? The Roman quarry settlements in the Eastern Desert of Egypt offer a rare opportunity to study this issue in detail. The sites in question are clearly the result of Roman imperialism, in being primarily concerned with the extraction of granite and porphyry for imperial building projects in Rome, while the extreme aridity in the Eastern Desert has ensured the excellent preservation of the food remains discarded by the inhabitants of these sites. This allows not only a detailed reconstruction of the logistics of the food supply, but also, through the study of food, an assessment of the quality of life experienced at these sites. Most importantly, the sites are almost unique for the simultaneous survival of the archaeological remains of the settlements, the biological remains of food, and documents concerned with their supply, offering us a rare opportunity to compare these very different sources of evidence and learn from them.

The Mining Zones of the Western Iberian Peninsula: a Research and Heritage Management Project, *Almudena Orejas and F.-Javier Sánchez-Palencia (Departamento de Arqueología e Historia Antigua, Instituto de Historia, CSIC, Madrid)*

The end of the conquest of the Iberian Peninsula under Augustus marked the beginning of the Roman provincial dominion over the *Asturia* and *Gallaecia* regions (province *Hispania Citerior*). From the Augustan - Tiberian period the gold deposits of these territories were strongly and systematically exploited. The Roman *fiscus* paid special attention to these resources because of the needs of gold in order to coin regularly *aurei*.

In the early 3rd century these mines were abandoned and they have not been exploited again. Fossilised vestiges of ancient works and the hydraulic infrastructure are now visible in landscape, as testimony of the historical process that produced them. The Archaeological Zone of Las Medulas (León) is an excellent and representative example. It has been inscribed on the World Heritage List since 1997 on the basis of four criteria and for its values as "an outstanding example of innovative Roman technology, in which all the elements of the ancient landscape, both industrial and domestic, have survived to an exceptional degree".

The research project developed in this area has produced significant results for our understanding of the ancient mining works and techniques, pre-Roman and Roman settlement and the evolution of this particular landscape through history until today. A main objective has been the treatment of this zone as a cultural and natural landscape and the creation of tools and programs for its protection, knowledge and dissemination.

Roman Imperial Mining Administration in North-Western Spain, 2nd century AD

Alfred Hirt (Institute of Archaeology, University of Oxford)

The presence of the Roman Army and imperial administrative personnel is attested only for a small number of Spanish mining zones, such as the Duerna Valley in north-western Spain, Trêsminas and Aljustrel in Portugal and a few mining areas around Castulo and Sevilla in southern Spain. The epigraphic and literary evidence available, however, provides enough information to re-consider the role of the *procuratores metallorum* in the Iberian mining 'industry'.

The aim of this paper is (1) to trace and re-assess the procuratorial career of the imperial freedman Aurelius Saturninus and his role in the imperial mining administration of north-western Spain in the late 2nd century AD; (2) to outline the functions and/or technical expertise of *procuratores metallorum* and provincial procurators in Asturia-Callaecia; and (3) to compare the evidence from the Iberian Peninsula with other Roman mining zones such as Dacia, Moesia superior or Dalmatia in order to pinpoint similarities and differences in the functions and competences of mining procurators and their place within the imperial administration of different provinces. With the assessment of the procuratorial role in the imperial mining 'business', the role of the Roman army in the mining zones of north-western Spain and other imperial mines throughout the Roman Empire will have to be addressed as well.

Roman Copper Mining at Phaino (Wadi Faynan, Jordan)

David Mattingly (School of Archaeology & Ancient History, University of Leicester)

The Wadi Faynan Landscape Archaeology project (1996-2001) has conducted a diachronic survey of an important valley in the Jordanian pre-desert zone, abutting the east side of the Wadi Araba rift valley. Well-preserved activity sites, settlements and field systems have been recorded, including

an especially rich suite of neolithic to bronze-iron age sites, the latter linked to early evidence of copper mining and smelting. However, the peak mining activity appears to relate to the Roman period, when Phaino was almost certainly an imperial operation.

This paper will describe the physical evidence of the Roman mining activity – including not only the mines and smelting sites, but also the evidence of field-systems and settlement sites that can be associated with it. Just as with the Egyptian and Spanish examples, the mining activity attests to a significant level of organisation (logistics, labour, food supply, security) and a very large scale of operation. Some documentary evidence relating to Christian martyrs supplements the archaeological evidence, though a key argument here is that we need to be cautious in drawing conclusions about the nature of the labour force from the Christian sources alone. The socio-economic consequences of this sort of operation were evidently profound, but, as John Grattan's paper will demonstrate, the environmental impacts of this huge mining enterprise are still with us today.

"Death … more desirable than life"? The Environmental Impact of Copper Mining and Smelting in Wadi Faynan, ***John Grattan. (Inst. of Geog. & Earth Sciences, University of Wales, Aberystwyth)***

The citation in the title comes from the closing sentence of Agatharchides description of the life endured in the mines of Arabia in the 2nd century BC. This paper presents the result of research, which seeks to test that statement.

A multi disciplinary research programme has explored the pollution impacts of ancient mining and smelting and measured its persistence into the modern environment. The results of this research challenges the casual description of Khirbet Faynan as a ruined Roman city, rather it should be interpreted as a huge ruined smelting complex. Sediments laid down from the Bronze Age to the Byzantine period suggest toxic pollution on a scale typical of that endured recently in Romania, Poland etc. These ancient sediments suggest smelting practices that can only be described as dirty and dangerous.

What of the Roman inhabitants, the workers and administrators? Analysis of the bone chemical content of many individuals excavated from the south cemetery suggest direct exposure to potentially lethal doses of copper, lead and cadmium. The bones of these individuals contained more pollutants than modern studies of modern metal workers in Silesia, and one individual's bones had more lead, copper and cadmium than any previous reported study ancient or modern!

Time has not diluted or dissipated the metals in this arid environment; modern Bedouin, animals, insects and plants are all exposed to significant metal pollution. The floors of Bedouin tents in Wadi Faynan are seen to contain dangerously high levels of lead and copper, as do foodstuffs made at the hearths. Mammals and invertebrates are also shown to contain dangerously high levels of metal in their bone. These studies have implications for the management and interpretation of the pollution legacies of ancient empires.

Roman Landscapes II: Full coffers, empty spaces: the archaeology of rural production

Session organizer: Lin Foxhall (University of Leicester)

This session will focus on the significance of Roman occupation for provincial rural landscapes, especially (though not necessarily exclusively) in terms of agricultural exploitation and production. Key issues will include the social and political links between countrysides and population centres, local traditions and Roman types of exploitation, 'Roman' modifications of and interactions with provincial countrysides. Methodological issues, e.g. the impact of archaeological geophysical survey, remote sensing applications, GIS, etc., their application to Roman landscapes, and their contribution to our understanding of provincial countrysides, are also relevant to this session.

Programme

14:00 Introduction: *L. Foxhall*
14:05 South Picenum survey, *M. Pasquinucci/ Menchelli*
14:35 Parochial peasants? Rural communities in central Britain, *J. Taylor*
15:05 Archaeology, Remote Sensing and GIS: A New Approach to the Analysis of a Roman landscape in the Homs Region, Syria, P. Newson
15:35 Tea
16:00 Productive landscapes and rural communities in hellenistic Sardinia, *P. van Dommelen*
16:30 Roman landscapes in southern Calabria (Bova Marina), *L. Foxhall*
17:00 Romans and production at Metaponto, *M. Robbins*
17:30 Discussion

Abstracts for this session will be available at the conference

Roman Pottery Studies, Present And Future: A Session In Memory Of Graham Webster

Session organisers: Colin Wallace and Robert Perrin, for the Study Group for Roman Pottery (www.sgrp.org)

Chair: Paul Bidwell

Graham Webster, who died recently, was one of those who were instrumental in the modern development of the contribution that Roman pottery studies makes to Romano-British archaeology. A founding member of the Study Group for Roman Pottery, he would have been pleased with the recent arrival of important corpus-works like the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection. But as a Romano-British archaeologist of some standing, rather than just a pottery specialist, he would have insisted on such items being seen (and used) as means to an end rather than ends in themselves. Drawing on some of the many areas of research and on the localities that have featured in his wide-ranging published work, the Study Group presents a forward-looking selection of recent work on the *archaeological interpretation* of Roman pottery in Graham's memory.

Programme

1400 Introduction: '..his open attitude and endless search for new ideas..', *Maggi Darling (Lincoln)*
1415 Wroxeter: After Webster, after Barker, *Jane Evans (University of Birmingham)*
1445 Pottery supply to rural sites in North Wales and Cumbria, *Jerry Evans (Barbican Research Associates)*
1515 Samian Pottery in Britain and North-West Europe, *Steven Willis (University of Durham)*
1545 tea break
1605 The historical significance of 'legionary ware' in Britain, *Vivien G Swan (University of Durham)*
1635 Pottery supply to Town and Country: the urban/rural divide explored, *Nick Cooper (University of Leicester Archaeological Services)*
1705 Cornucopia or Pandora: pottery studies in the Roman Eastern Mediterranean, *Jeroen Poblome (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)*
1735 Discussion, *led by Rob Perrin (English Heritage)*

Wroxeter: After Webster, after Barker

Jane Evans (University of Birmingham)

The deaths of both Graham Webster (1913-2001) and Philip Barker (1920-2001) mark the end of an important era of research into the archaeology of the Roman city at Wroxeter. The publications based on their major excavations form a springboard for future studies of the settlement. More recent fieldwork at Wroxeter and, more particularly, in its hinterland has put these results in context and indicated how much more information there is to be tapped from the archaeological resource at Wroxeter. The development of recording methods and new scientific techniques allow outstanding questions to be addressed, and new questions to be identified. This coincides with the current initiative to produce a West Midlands Regional Research Framework, providing an opportunity to reassess Wroxeter's place in the research strategy for the region. This paper will focus on the evidence provided by material culture, in particular pottery, and consider how the foundations laid by Webster and Barker are being built on.

Pottery supply to rural sites in North Wales and Cumbria

Jerry Evans (Barbican Research Associates)

Whilst there are many similarities between rural pottery assemblages in these two areas, there are also some subtle differences. In both areas pottery usage was low and appears to have been adopted principally in the 2nd century AD. However, the utilisation of pottery in Cumbria seems to have continued into the later 4th century, whereas it seems to have ceased earlier in North Wales. Furthermore, potting technology and manufacture appear to have been absorbed effectively into the local culture in Cumbria, but in North Wales this was not the case and as a

result nearly all ceramics used on rural sites were imported into the region, or made at regional centres.

Another contrast is that although Black-Burnished 1 and samian were similarly available in both regions, in Wales these wares form the vast majority of most assemblages, whereas in Cumbria a much wider range of fabrics are used. It seems likely that this reflects the almost-exclusive use of BB1 for cooking vessels in North Wales (and samian for status display) and very little interest in any other Roman ceramics. In marked contrast the wider range of fabrics found on Cumbrian sites suggests that ceramics were used there for more than just cooking, and that they may not have been chiefly used for cooking at all.

Functional analysis and the levels of fine wares from sites in both areas suggest that some sites, morphologically little distinguished from the rest, were of higher status. The presence of other material goods tends to confirm this. Overall, this paper suggests that there is rather more potential in the apparently unpromising assemblages from these 'Highland zone' sites than is often assumed.

Samian Pottery in Britain and North-West Europe

Steven Willis (University of Durham)

The well-known *Festschrift* for Graham Webster, published in 1981 and concerned with themes in Roman pottery research, contained an admirable and substantive paper by Geoff Marsh principally examining the supply and consumption of samian (*terra sigillata*) within Roman London. In the latter part of his contribution, Marsh used the evidence from London and elsewhere in Britain to discern broader trends in the archaeology of this key material. The paper has proved highly influential.

Now, over twenty-one years since its appearance, it is apt to revisit the work to re-examine some of its conclusions and some of the 'received impressions' arising from it. This re-examination is particularly timely as it can be instituted with the results to hand of the recent English Heritage-funded Samian Project, which has examined trends in the chronology and distribution of this ware in Britain.. This project has helped to verify some of Marsh's key conclusions using a robust data-set, while other aspects identified in his paper are clarified using the new information. The subject has moved on and some of the suggestions contained in the 1981 essay are overturned by the new research, while fresh dimensions in the study of the distribution are highlighted in the present paper. The opportunity is also taken to correct some of the 'received impressions' which seem to have arisen from perhaps partial readings and re-tellings of Marsh's work over the years.

Attention to samian evidence is woven throughout the body of Graham's writings, where he can be seen to have used it as a central tool for understanding the period. The present paper is the occasion to stress that samian research is very much alive and can play a vital contributory role in the exploration of the archaeology of the Roman era in the 21st century, doubtless in a manner in which Graham would have approved.

The historical significance of 'legionary ware' in Britain

Vivien G Swan (University of Durham)

Red-slipped tablewares in exotic forms, and other unusual fine wares sometimes manufactured with them, are often discussed, in both Britain and on the Continent, under the general, though imprecise term, 'legionary wares'. Such products are now known to have been manufactured at, or near all three British legionary fortresses – Caerleon, Chester (Holt) and York – as well as at several smaller military establishments in the province. The chronology of these British wares will be discussed, together with connections with similar related pottery made by, or for the military in other frontier provinces, and a historical context will be suggested for their introduction to *Britannia*, using both epigraphic and other types of evidence.

Pottery supply to Town and Country: the urban / rural divide explored

Nick Cooper (University of Leicester Archaeological Services)

This paper aims to demonstrate that the quantified study of pottery assemblages has an important contribution to make to studying the impact of Rome on the frontier province of *Britannia*. The wider academic community has overlooked the potential of pottery and other finds data to chart this process of change in a nuanced way and it is important that the 'finds' community communicate their ideas to a wider audience through synthesis of a largely untapped resource. As the most ubiquitous artefact type, and the one least affected by factors of preservation, recycling

and retrieval, pottery should present itself as potentially the best quantified index of broad economic and social change. Pottery assemblages (alongside other finds) therefore have the potential to characterise a site and its inhabitants in a far more unique way than relying on structural evidence alone. Synthesis of assemblage data from large numbers of sites should then help to establish 'expected patterns' of supply and use, against which new sites can be compared, thus painting a higher-resolution picture of this process of change.

This study, in contrast to Jerry Evans', focuses on sites in the south of the province, in particular urban centres such as Cirencester and Leicester and rural sites in the East Midlands. Despite being within the Romanized 'Lowland' zone, assemblages show a huge variation and clear patterns emerge both temporally and across the range of perceived site types. By simplifying assemblage data into local, regional or imported sources of supply, a distinct division between urban and rural sites emerges, particularly in relation to the proportion of imports represented. The temporal pattern broadly matches our existing understanding of changing production: the Early Roman period typified by close commercial links with the Continent and local production geared towards specific urban and military markets, and the later Roman period witnessing a decline in commercial contact with the Continent and the rural nucleation of production into large scale industries with wide distribution networks such as Oxfordshire and the Lower Nene Valley. However, it appears that the heavy dependence on imported fine and specialist wares which was seen as fundamental to the Early Roman picture originally painted by Mike Fulford, is essentially an urban phenomenon whilst throughout time, rural areas are largely dependent on locally-produced ceramics, including saturation by regional suppliers in the late period at 'local' sites. This encourages us to question to what extent the majority of rural dwellers were ever involved in the economic or social life of their civitas capitals and to consider the factors dictating their adoption or adaptation of a 'Romanized' material culture generally. If the concept of competitive emulation underpinning the process of Romanization does not have the explanatory power then we need to consider whether alternative explanations encompassed within the idea of a 'creolized' material culture have more relevance.

Cornucopia or Pandora: pottery studies in the Roman Eastern Mediterranean

Jeroen Poblome (Sagalassos Archaeological Research Project, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)

For any archaeological survey or excavation project in the eastern Mediterranean under Roman rule, the study of its pottery presents serious challenges. Not only is the amount and the variety of the recovered material amazing, requiring a wide technological and methodological expertise in ceramic studies, but also the tradition of research is not at all straightforward.

Ceramic studies have suffered compared to the more representational aspects of contemporary culture, such as urbanisation, architecture and sculpture, and still some fundamental ceramological aspects remain neglected. Yet recently the field is finding its own balance and rhythm, as a result of the work of knowledgeable scholars and well-defined research projects. This paper aims to look back in order to define trends and long-lived aspects of research and, at the same time, open some perspectives on how broken pottery might start to provide important insights on the ups and downs of the Roman East.

The Roman Landscapes of the Middle Tiber Valley

Session organizers: Helen Patterson (British School at Rome) & Rob Witcher (The British School at Rome/University of Southampton)

The British School at Rome's Tiber Valley Project is a major collaborative research initiative with the objective of mapping the impact of the City of Rome on southern Etruria and the Sabina Tiberina from 1000 BC to AD 1300. The research area comprises one of the most intensively studied areas of the Mediterranean and the project draws upon a wealth of published evidence as well as a comprehensive restudy of the material from John Ward Perkins' South Etruria Survey and a series of new fieldwork projects.

The original project objectives were presented at RAC in 1997. This session will present the results of the subsequent five years' work. This will include chronological overviews focussing specifically on the Roman period, followed by a range of thematic contributions. As well as disseminating results, the session hopes to stimulate wider debate about Rome and its hinterland as well as exploring the use of field survey data for writing regional histories.

Programme

9.00 Introduction *Helen Patterson (The British School at Rome)*
9.20 Creating a Hinterland: Roman Settlement & Economy in the Middle Tiber Valley, *Rob Witcher (The British School at Rome/University of Southampton)*
9.50 The Late Antique Landscape of the Middle Tiber Valley, *Helen Patterson (The British School at Rome)*
10.20 Discussion
10.40 Coffee
11.10 Urban Survey in the Tiber Valley – Some Comparisons, *Simon Keay (University of Southampton) & Martin Millett (University of Cambridge)*
11.40 Roads and Communications in the Tiber Valley, *Ray Laurence (University of Reading)*
12.10 From the Workshops: The Complex Dynamics of the Tiber Valley Brick Industry, *Shawn Graham*
12.40 Discussion

Session Introduction

Helen Patterson (The British School at Rome)

The British School at Rome's Tiber Valley Project is a major collaborative research initiative with the objective of mapping the impact of the City of Rome on southern Etruria and the Sabina Tiberina from 1000 BC to AD 1300. The research area comprises one of the most intensively studied areas of the Mediterranean and the project draws upon a wealth of published evidence as well as a comprehensive restudy of the material from John Ward Perkins' South Etruria survey and a series of new fieldwork projects.

The original project objectives were presented at RAC in 1997. This session will present the results of the subsequent five years' work. This will include chronological overviews focussing specifically on the Roman period, followed by a range of thematic contributions. As well as disseminating results, the session hopes to stimulate wider debate about Rome and its hinterland as well as exploring the use of field survey data for writing regional histories.

Creating a Hinterland: Roman Settlement & Economy in the Middle Tiber Valley

Rob Witcher (The British School at Rome/University of Southampton)

This paper will present some of the core preliminary results of the Tiber valley project. Drawing on the work of a large team of specialists and scholars, it will focus upon the period from 500BC to AD100, that is, from the earliest imperial expansion of Rome to the High Empire. In particular, it will concentrate on rural settlement and changing landscape organization. Fundamental to this study are the findings of a complete reanalysis of the South Etruria survey material and archives. In relation to the rise of Rome, these results suggest the need for significant reconsideration of the original survey synthesis (Potter 1979)

and of the many models built upon it. For example, the early impact of Roman imperialism appears to have been far more disruptive than previously believed.

The results of the survey's restudy have been integrated with data from both published and new fieldwork from the broader middle Tiber valley region. This provides a comprehensive database with which to explore the means through which this region was created as the hinterland of Rome. If the initial establishment of Roman control coincided with great dislocation of settlement, the following centuries witnessed a series of social pressures and economic opportunities which pushed the area into an unstable cycle of growth and decline. A peak of settlement numbers during the early imperial period, combined with the results of studies presented in other papers in this session, demonstrates an unprecedented level of landscape exploitation and economic development which could only have been achieved through this area's status as Rome's immediate hinterland. As such, transformation of settlement in the middle Tiber valley also has the potential to inform us about aspects of the City of Rome itself.

Reference

Potter, T. (1979) *The Changing Landscape of South Etruria.* London: Elek.

The Middle Tiber Valley in Late Antiquity

Helen Patterson (The British School at Rome)

This paper follows on directly from previous contribution. It outlines the changes in the hinterland of Rome and relationships between the two banks of the Tiber, making use of the ceramic restudy results from the South Etruria survey, the Farfa survey and the broader Tiber valley project to explore developments in the Late Antique and Early Medieval periods.

Urban Survey in the Tiber Valley – Some Comparisons, *Simon Keay (University of Southampton) and Martin Millett (University of Cambridge)*

Since 1997 the Tiber Valley Towns project has undertaken extensive survey at the following sites - Falerii Novi, Falerii Veteres (Vignale), Portus, Capena, Seripola, Baccanas, Forum Cassii and Otricoli. We have deployed geophysical and topographic survey methods to assess the topography and development of the sites. The sites range from large urban landscapes to small roadside settlements and from the archaic period to the late imperial. As the fieldwork reaches its final stage we are beginning to consider the comparisons that can be made. This paper will present a first attempt at this wider analysis, presenting survey results and debating them within a broader context.

Roads and Communications in the Tiber Valley, *Ray Laurence (University of Reading), Josie Browning (University of Reading), Stuart Black (University of Reading)*

The cost of the building of paved sections of roads was in the region of 21-24 sesterces per paved foot (Duncan-Jones 1982: 157-8), whether the road was to be built from scratch or was to substantially repaired. Hence roads were a major element of state expenditure at a cost per mile of in the region of 110,000 sesterces (*CIL* IX.6075). The roads in the Tiber Valley include those built and maintained by the state, e.g. the Via Flaminia, others built and maintained by local towns and those built for private purposes. It was observed at an early stage of the project that the selection of materials for paving varied from limestone, to basalts with large leucite crystals through to basalts that were compact. The use and selection of material seemed to vary according to local geology and was tested in 2002 by the sampling of certain key points on the Via Amerina and the Via Flaminia in the middle Tiber Valley. These materials were found to be often not from local sources. The paper will report on these findings and offer a tentative model of the supply of paving materials to the state for the construction of public roads in the Tiber Valley, comparison will also be made with roads paved by local cities, such as Falerii Novi.

Reference

Duncan-Jones, R. (1982) *The Economy of the Roman Empire.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

From the Workshops: The Complex Dynamics of the Tiber Valley Brick Industry

Shawn Graham

'Brick' and 'Dynamics' are two words which, on the face of it, do not go well together. In fact, the study of Roman brick – and more usually, of the stamps sometimes carried on them

– is largely seen to be a 'done' subject. However, when the central Italian brick industry is reconsidered in the light of a simple question, 'where are the sources of clay used in the industry?' it becomes clear that the subject is not 'done' at all. This paper presents the results of an archaeometric study of brick and tile from the Tiber Valley, localising those sources. The web of relationships discovered are analysed using the techniques of social networks analysis and Complexity Theory. Because these relationships change through time they are dynamic; brick therefore can be used as an indicator of the changing social and physical networks which tied the hinterland to Rome. These different patterns suggest particular methods of land-tenure, which in turn allows us to explore the sources of social power. The complex dynamics of how these sources of power change over time may point to the conscious manipulation of social and physical networks in the industry.

What's new in Roman Britain: General

Contributions from PPG16 archaeology, public funding and the voluntary sector

Session Organizer & Chair: Tony Wilmott (English Heritage)

New information on Roman Britain continues to be recovered at a startling rate. This session will examine a wide range of recent archaeological projects throughout Britain. Projects will be selected which cover most parts of Britain, and several different topics within Romano-British archaeology. Emphasis will be upon those projects which have been initiated through development led, and PPG16 related work.

Programme

9.00 Introduction, *Tony Wilmott*
9.05 Characterising the Romano-British Landscape: A case study from Northamptonshire, *Stephen Young*
9.35 King Street and Earlier Roman Northern Military Supply, *Jeremy Evans*
10.05 The Gwynedd Roman Fort Environs Project, *David Hopewell*
10.35 Coffee
11.00 Recent Work on Rural Sites in West Yorkshire, *Ian Roberts*
11.30 'Roman Southampton', or should that be *Clausentum*?, *Andy Russel*
12.00 Beyond Trench Warfare: the archaeology of Roman Inveresk, *Mike Bishop*
12.30 Discussion

Characterising the Romano-British Landscape: A case study from Northants.

Stephen Young, (Local People: Local Past/University College Northampton)

This paper will outline the theoretical framework and interim findings of a survey into the evolution of the Romano-British rural landscape associated with the headwaters of the River Nene, Northamptonshire.

"Local people: local past" is a Heritage Lottery Funded scheme which promotes public awareness and involvement in non invasive surveys of the archaeological remains in the rural environment. The aims of the project are to establish the nature, extent and survival of the remaining evidence for the Romano-British period in the area to the south east of the Roman Small town of Bannaventa. The data is mainly derived from intensive field walking and geophysical surveys of potential Roman settlements.

I intend to explore the archaeological worth of utilising material recovered from the plough horizon in constructing a hypothetical model of settlement formation and landscape development. The basic issues associated with distribution patterns, settlement classification, chronological development, social organisation, and the possibility of regional diversity will also be addressed.

In the context of current Romano-British research agendas the methodological approach adopted here is surely worthy of greater consideration.

King Street and Earlier Roman Northern Military Supply

Jeremy Evans, (Evans/Ratkai Partnership)

The aim of this paper is twofold. It is intended to look at the nature and purpose of the series of sites along the Roman road King Street which runs from Little Chester, Derby to Lancaster which have been the subject of PPG16 inspired fieldwork. Running on from this it is proposed that aspects of the supply to these sites, coupled with evidence which has emerged since the important discussion by Bidwell of the supply of wine to Hadrian's Wall, can be used to suggest the delineation of five military supply zones in the north in the2nd-earlier 3rd centuries.

The Gwynedd Roman Fort Environs Project

David Hopewell (Gwynedd Archaeological Trust)

In the course of conducting geophysical surveys of Roman forts and their environs, primarily for management and scheduling purposes, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust has added significantly to our knowledge of the Roman forts of Gwynedd.

An almost complete plan of the pre or very early Flavian fort at Llanfor has been produced demonstrating that it was a short-lived, single-phase construction. The small square auxiliary fort of Caer Llugwy has been shown to be a contraction of a larger rectangular fort, presumably reflecting the reductions in the garrisons at the end of the first and beginning of the second century. Surveys at Pennal, Caer Gai and Canovium revealed a wide range of extra-mural development including *vici* in the form of ribbon development along the major roads from the forts. The project has helped to set the forts in a wider landscape context and has demonstrated the value of continued research into Roman fort environs.

Recent work on rural sites in West Yorkshire.

Ian Roberts (WYAS Archaeology)

Prior to the implementation of PPG 16 there had been only three open area rural excavations of note in West Yorkshire. Consequently, perceptions of the rural landscape in between established Roman sites relied heavily upon the interpretation of unexcavated cropmark sites. With the advent of developer-funded archaeology in 1991 the number of investigations of rural sites increased markedly. However, it is only following the extensive work carried out in advance of the M1-A1 Link Road construction that an opportunity arose to evaluate collectively the results of 10 years of investigations on rural sites, and to assess the implications for Roman archaeology both in West Yorkshire and the surrounding counties.

'Roman Southampton', or should that be Clausentum?

Andy Russel (Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit)

That Southampton had a Roman past was first recognised in the late 16th century. The local doctor, wandering vicars, visitors, antiquaries, storytellers and poets have contributed to its image ever since. Archaeological evidence occasionally contributes to the tale.

A WEA class became a Study Group, and the last 10 years has seen the re-examination of records and artifacts from excavations in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s. Over the same period excavations on development sites, watching briefs on service trenches, and community excavations in the area have produced new and unexpected results. This work is leading to 'new' interpretations of Roman Southampton; indeed some of it has become Saxon! But in many cases we seem to be returning to the older interpretations, which fell out of favour as new generations of scholars discarded the theories of their predecessors. Or do theories have life cycles of their own?

Civilian town or military area; defended town or Saxon shore fort; naval base or imperial port; invasion depot or bridgehead. How many can be fitted into 22 acres and 400 years, and how can we tell them apart?

Beyond Trench Warfare: the archaeology of Roman Inveresk

Mike Bishop

Inveresk is not only pivotal to any attempt to understand Antonine Scotland, but also – witnessing the earliest attempt at state protection of a monument in the kingdom – an arena in which the uneasy struggle between the needs of preservation, research, and development continues to this day. This paper takes as its starting point my own excavations at Inveresk Gate, within the civil settlement to the east of the fort, and examines how the findings (some anticipated, others

unexpected) contribute to our understanding of the site. It then moves on to look at how, as a result of a seminar organised by Historic Scotland and the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, archaeologists working in the vicinity have shed new light on Roman Inveresk as a whole. The changing nature of the modern village means that many of the larger 18th and 19th century properties are being redeveloped for housing, whilst the need to accommodate the deceased of Musselburgh in the cemetery at Inveresk, which overlies the fort, is just one more factor in a spectrum of challenges for those charged with protecting and studying the site. This all makes for an intriguing reflection upon the pros and cons of modern research-driven and developer-funded Roman archaeology.

What's new in Roman Britain: Kent

Contributions from PPG16 archaeology and public funding

Session organizer and Chair: Pete Wilson (English Heritage)

In the last few years the volume of new development in Kent has probably been greater than in most counties of England. This development has been accompanied by a commensurate amount of PPG16 driven archaeology, which has yielded spectacular results with the potential to change our view of the region's archaeology, particularly in the Roman and early medieval periods. The session will examine case studies of some of the important work undertaken recently on Roman sites in Kent, and will seek to cover a comprehensive range of projects. The emphasis of the session will be on the contribution of commercial work on the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, at Westhawk Farm, Ashford, and in Canterbury itself, though the research project at Richborough will also be covered. The session will end with an overview of the significance of the new information from the viewpoint of the County's archaeological curators.

Programme

14.00 Introduction, *Pete Wilson & Jay Carver*
14.05 New Investigations at Springhead Roman Town, Gravesend, Kent, *Phil Andrews*
14.35 New Investigations at Northfleet Roman Villa, Northfleet, Kent, *Richard Brown*
15.05 New perspectives on Roman Richborough, *Tony Wilmott*
15.35 Coffee
16.00 Westhawk Farm, Ashford, *Paul Booth*
16.30 Excavations at Whitefriars, Canterbury, *Mark Houliston*
17.00 Round-up and Overview, *John Williams*
17.30 Discussion

Two Excavations in advance of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link

Jay Carver (Rail Link Engineering)

During the last 3 years large scale, open area excavation' of two previously excavated Roman period sites in North Kent has been undertaken by Rail Link Engineering's Archaeology Team and two contractor organisations (Oxford and Wessex Archaeology) in advance of construction works associated with building the Channel Tunnel Rail Link. The areas investigated represent a large proportion of an entire river valley and data recovered from a diverse range of sites for most periods represents an exceptional opportunity for future landscape synthesis. The first pair of papers will concentrate on two distinct, previously known and well investigated, Roman period sites. They will divulge key new data, discuss some of the historical integration issues with previous work, and provide a preliminary assessment of the relations of the two sites.

New investigations at Springhead Roman Town, Gravesend, Kent

Phil Andrews (Wessex Archaeology)

Extensive excavations carried out in association with the CTRL project at Springhead at the head of the River Ebbsfleet for the past 2½ years have provided a wealth of new information on the prehistoric landscape and the small Roman town of *Vagniacae.*

The town, well known for its important group of temples excavated between the 1950s & 1980s will now be better understood in terms of its development, function and place in the wider landscape. The recently completed excavations have revealed a late Iron Age settlement and associated landscape which immediately preceded it, as well as much that is new concerning the topography of the town itself.

In the Roman phase, an early enclosure, perhaps a temporary supply base, seems to have been connected with a road linking it directly to the river. This was rapidly abandoned and replaced by a series of timber structures, followed by a remarkable temple complex grouped around the springs. A later probable temple has been uncovered nearby and the waterfront area exposed. A long sketch of Watling Street towards the periphery of the town was fronted by various agricultural, craft, and 'commercial'(?) structures. Together the evidence demonstrates that Springhead was primarily a settlement of temples and shrines, which provided a temporary stopover for travellers between London and towns to the east of the Medway.

New investigations at Northfleet Roman Villa, Northfleet, Kent

Richard Brown (Oxford Archaeology)

Northfleet Villa, in the Ebbsfleet valley is one of the most extensively excavated villas in Kent. Local archaeologist WH Steadman excavated parts of it in 1909-11 and the Thameside Archaeological Group excavated the bathhouse in 1977-1984. During 2002 as part of the CTRL archaeological mitigation works Oxford Archaeology exposed much of the main complex, as well as new evidence for use of the Ebbsfleet river frontage.

It appears that in the 1st and early 2nd centuries AD, the site was occupied by an enclosure housing a range of productive activities. Facilities included a wharf, a limekiln, clay and timber-lined cisterns. Millstone fragments, provided tantalising evidence for a Roman mill in the immediate vicinity. Other evidence for crop-processing included a corn-dryer and crop processing waste. The villa complex was built over this enclosure, It would have been an impressive building, with heated rooms, a bathhouse and plastered and decorated interior walls. The villa appears to have been constructed in the late 2nd century with occupation continuing until the 4th century.

This settlement at the lower end of the valley began life as a production and trade centre servicing the Springhead 'small town' and temple complex, but may have emerged as the main settlement focus in the Ebbsfleet Valley when the temple complex went into decline during the 3rd century AD.

Westhawk Farm, Ashford

Paul Booth (Oxford Archaeology)

Excavations at Westhawk Farm, Ashford, Kent in 1998 and 1999 examined *c* 6 hectares of a previously unknown Roman roadside settlement, situated at the junction of the road from Canterbury to the Weald with one running north-westwards from Lympne. Although there was widespread Iron Age settlement in the area, direct evidence for this on the site was confined to a single high status cremation burial. The settlement was established in the early post-Conquest period and presumably owed its precise location to the presence of the road junction. Its full extent, largely revealed by geophysical survey, was probably in excess of 15 hectares. The focal (junction) area may have been enclosed but the excavation concentrated on more peripheral areas, with planned elements such as groups of rectilinear roadside plots and also less regularly laid out components. The most notable features of the site included a large open space containing a shrine complex including a polygonal posthole structure, and structures used for iron production. The scale of the latter was relatively modest, however, and agricultural production also played a part in the economy of the settlement. In addition, trading and possible administrative functions may be indicated by unusually high proportions of weighing equipment in the finds assemblage.

A striking characteristic of the excavated areas is the almost total lack of evidence for activity after *c* AD 250. There was clearly major contraction of the settlement at that time and

there are only limited hints of 4th century activity, presumably confined to the unexcavated focal area. These hints include the presence of late Roman burials in a small peripheral cemetery; a male cremation of this date contained jet jewellery. There are no indications of early post-Roman activity.

The site transforms understanding of the settlement pattern in this part of Kent and raises important questions about the organisation of iron production and its integration with other economic activities. The early decline of large parts of the settlement remains to be explained - was this part of a broader sub-regional pattern, or was it linked to social and economic characteristics specific to the settlement?

Excavations at Whitefriars, Canterbury

Mark Houliston (Canterbury Archaeological Trust)

Archaeological excavations and 'watching-briefs' associated with the Whitefriars development in Canterbury started in November 1999. Although the work is still only two thirds complete, about forty small, medium and large-scale sites have been undertaken so far. This paper will outline some of the research question that underpin the project, and give a provisional indication of the degree to which they are being addressed by the ongoing investigations.

New perspectives on Roman Richborough

Tony Wilmott (English Heritage Centre for Archaeology)

Since the excavations by J P Bushe-Fox in the 1920s, and the final publication of Richborough 5 in 1968, Richborough has been a key site in the study of Roman Britain. The way in which it has been examined, however, has stressed its status as the probable site of the Roman invasion of AD43, and as a fort of the Saxon Shore. An aspect of the archaeology of the site that has received little attention is Richborough as a civilian port and town in the period between the two military episodes. This is important not least because it provides the context within which the great monumental arch- the gateway to the province of Britain- should be seen. A new partnership project between the University of Cambridge, English Heritage and Kent County Council is aiming to redress the balance, and to look at Richborough as a town within its landscape and hinterland. This paper will introduce aspects of the project, and will summarise some of the results derived to date from geophysical work, aerial photograph interpretation, coring and excavation.

Round-up and Overview

John Williams (Kent County Council)

The presence of this session at the conference demonstrates well the scale and importance of recent archaeological work relating to Roman Kent, and other speakers describe some of the key fieldwork. Most of the sites have been investigated in advance of development and this paper looks firstly at the strategic approach to archaeology in this environment. A technique of "strip, map and sample" has been widely employed. Here detailed excavation of more limited areas is traded against the opening up, planning and sampling of more extensive areas in order to see how the Romano-British (and other period) landscapes are articulated in space and time. The paper then considers briefly a number of other sites not covered by the other speakers, including the Thurnham villa and the Monkton "village". It finally discusses briefly the contribution which recent work has made to the overall understanding of Roman Kent, in particular in relation to aspects of the nature, chronology and distribution of settlement.

TRAC Sessions

Body and Soul: Health, Treatment and Well-Being in the Roman World

Session organizers: Patricia Baker (University of Kent, Canterbury), Rebecca Redfern (University of Birmingham) & Rebecca Gowland (University of Cambridge)

The health status of individuals and populations is to a large extent a reflection of the social environment. This includes the important sphere of cultural practice, which has an enormous influence on the type of illnesses prevalent within a society as well as dictating the social response to them. Medical anthropologists have for some time recognized that concepts of health and treatment are not universal understandings, but rather complex social constructs created within specific cultural frameworks. Medical beliefs and practices in the Roman world were equally complex because of the multifaceted population incorporated within the empire. This dialectic between health and culture has yet to be fully explored in Roman studies. There has also been a failure to recognize the social nature of skeletal evidence and that the skeleton can reflect the variety of medical treatments within the empire. For example, palaeopathological analysis of skeletal remains will have implications not only for the overall health of Roman populations, but also for internal cultural differences relating to gender, age or socioeconomic status.

Only recently has work within archaeology begun to focus on the social specific nature of health and medical treatment. It should be expected that ideas about the body, its function and care, as well as related material culture (e.g. medicine and tools) were not perceived in the same manner throughout the empire. One means to further our knowledge of health and treatment in the Roman era is for archaeologists concerned with all aspects of material evidence relating to health (e.g. textual, iconographic, artefactual and skeletal) to collaborate.

Programme

1400 Votive body parts and retrogressive medical analysis, *Patricia Baker*
1430 The social identity of health in late Roman Britain, *Rebecca Gowland*
1500 Did curse tablets work? *Philip Kiernan*
1530 Roman health: evidence and problems, *Charlotte Roberts*
1600 Tea
1630 A re-assessment of the Poundbury Camp cemetery: the social nature of skeletal evidence, *Rebecca Redfern*
1700 A Roman Doctor's House at Rimini, *Ralph Jackson*
1730 Discussion

Votive body parts and retrogressive medical analysis

Patricia Baker (University of Kent, Canterbury)

A high yield of votive body parts was recovered from the Late-Republican period sanctuary site of Ponte di Nona, Italy, in the 19th and 20th centuries. Rather than simply recording the finds, a paleopathologist, Calvin Wells, was asked to examine the finds in attempt to determine possible medical problems that might have affected the visitors to the site (Wells in Potter 1985: 41-5). Unfortunately such collaboration between biological anthropologists and archaeologists specialising in material culture has not been very frequent. Although it would be a useful means to attempt to broaden understandings about disease and materials related to it in the Roman era. This paper aims to explore possible areas where further collaboration can be made. With a main emphasis on Roman and Greek votive offerings, the problems inherent in retrogressive analysis and cultural conceptions of disease will be questioned. It must be remembered that a modern diagnosis of a past medical affliction, although helpful in categorising problems, might not be useful for understanding how a particular illness was understood or cured in the Roman world (e.g. Leven 1998). Therefore, discussion will focus on how both specialists can determine illness and its cure in the past, but at the same time overcome modern cultural conceptions of disease and its analysis in the past.

Bibliography
Leven, Karl-Heinz 1998. Krankheiten - historische Deutung versus retrospektive Diagnose. In P. Norbert and Schlich (eds.) *Medizingeschichte: Aufgaben, Probleme, Perspektiven.* Frankfurt: Campus Verlag pp. 153-185.
Potter, T. W. 1985. A Republican healing-sanctuary at Ponte di Nona near Rome and the Classical Tradition of Votive Medicine. *Journal of the British Archaeological Association* 138: 23-47.

The Social Identity of Health in Late Roman Britain

Rebecca Gowland (University of Sheffield)

The manifestation of health stress and disease within a society results from the complex interplay between its specific social and physical environment. Because disease is, to a large extent, culturally contingent, individuals within any one society may be differentially exposed to health risks. This occurs as a result of social practices relating to aspects of identity such as gender, status and age. An individual's experience of poor health and medical treatment may also be further impacted by their existing social persona. Elucidating the relationship between health and social identity in the past is, however, far from straightforward. The response to health stress within a society can be subtle and varied and the social impact of disease for those afflicted will more often than not leave no archaeologically discernible trace. Such interpretive difficulties are further exacerbated by the limitations of palaeopathological evidence. Nevertheless, the skeletal pathology of past populations has much to offer when used in conjunction with cultural evidence from the funerary context. This paper examines the nature of the palaeopathological evidence from several late Roman cemeteries, addresses the limitations of this type of information, and discusses health stress patterns in relation to the social identity of the deceased. By doing so it attempts to go some way towards understanding the dialectic between health and social identity in late Roman Britain.

Did Curse Tablets Work?

Philip Kiernan (University of Cincinnati)

Towards a psychological mechanism. The idea that one's mind can generate the symptoms of a physical illness has been recognized since the late 19th century. Mental stress or conflict can be converted into symptoms of diseases, paralysis and other physiological problems without the knowledge or intention of the sufferer. Psychosomatic illnesses (or somatoform disorders) are recognised as genuine mental disorders by modern psychiatric classification systems. This paper argues that the fates requested in British curse tablets represent the symptoms of psychosomatic disorders. The victim's belief in the power of magic resulted in sufficient mental distress to generate the symptoms the tablets requested. More than fifty British curse tablets specify the fates of their victim. These fates are classified and compared to psychiatric descriptions of somatoform disorders and anthropological descriptions of witchcraft. When considered in this manner, the tablets provide a unique glimpse into ancient conceptions of magic and illness.

Roman health: evidence and problems

Charlotte Roberts, (University of Durham & Margaret Cox, Bournemouth University)

The study of the health and welfare of past populations comes primarily from their skeletal remains. While there are problems with studying this type of evidence from archaeological sites, it is the primary evidence. Using written and artistic representation of disease in the past, or secondary evidence, is probably more problematic in its interpretation, although it can be usefully utilised alongside the skeletal data. This paper will consider the 'health' of Roman Britain and is based on data recently collated from published and unpublished skeletal reports. The data from 51 archaeological sites and 5716 individuals are considered within the context of the origin of the skeletal remains. The themes of diet and nutrition, lifestyle, including living environment, and hygiene and sanitation are discussed. Some trends are apparent such as increases in dental disease from the previous Iron Age, contrasting with a decline in the early Medieval period. Male stature increases while that of females slightly declines; for both males and females stature in the subsequent early Medieval period increases. Poor quality air in the environment and its impact on respiratory health is also seen, and the first cases of leprosy. The data is discussed with reference to what we know of life in Roman Britain and problems with the data.

A re-assessment of the Poundbury Camp cemetery: the social nature of skeletal evidence

Rebecca Redfern (The University of Birmingham)

The data from the author's re-assessment of a large sub-sample of the Poundbury Camp (Dorset, England) will be used in conjunction with the results of isotopic analysis studies (Richards *et al.* 1998), and recent research into the material culture of the cemetery (Hamlin *pers.comm*). This paper will present a new assessment of the social nature of the skeletal evidence.

The social nature of the skeletal evidence will be framed around the theme of difference. The use of this theme will enable important medical aspects of social archaeology to be presented; in particular, status, age, gender, and origin. These aspects will be explored in terms of health status, access to medical treatment, whether material goods relating to treatment can be correlated to the osteological data, and evidence of medical treatment.

References

Hamlin, C. (pers.comm) Grave Goods of the Poundbury Camp Cemetery, Dorset. Primary PhD research work. University of Wisconsin.

Redfern, R.C. and Roberts, C.A. (forthcoming) *Health in Romano-British Urban Communities: Reflections from the Cemeteries.* Association for Environmental Archaeology, Susan Limbrey Volume.

Redfern, R.C. (forthcoming) Sex in the City: A biocultural investigation into female health in Roman Britain. *TRAC 2001. Proceedings of the Eleven Annual Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference, Canterbury 2001.*

Richards, M.P., Hedges, R.E.M., Molleson, T.I., and Vogel, J.C. (1998) Stable isotope analysis reveals variations in human diet at the Poundbury Camp Cemetery Site. *Journal of Archaeological Science.* 25. 1247-1525.

A Roman Doctor's House at Rimini

Ralph Jackson (British Museum)

The evidence for the practice of medicine in the Roman world is uneven and incomplete. Nevertheless, it would appear that healing took many forms and was carried out by many different people, only a proportion of whom were full-time practitioners who earned their living by healing. The commonest term for those who did was *medicus*, though some styled themselves *iatros*. It has seldom proved possible to identify the premises of *medici/ iatroi* or to discover the entirety of their medical and surgical equipment. Even at Pompeii and the other Vesuvian settlements that were overwhelmed by the eruption of AD 79 the evidence is rarely conclusive. At Rimini, in northern Italy, however, exceptional circumstances sealed the destruction debris from a disastrous fire that burned down the house of a medical practitioner in Roman *Ariminium* in the mid-third century AD. This extraordinary find, which effectively preserved a frozen moment in time, has provided a wealth of new information on individual types of Roman surgical instruments. It has also shed valuable light on the overall composition of instrumentation of Roman surgical practitioners, and it gives us a fascinating glimpse into a Roman healer's surgery.

Memory and the Past in the Roman Period

Session organizer: Hella Eckardt (University of Leicester)

Objects and monuments, like people, have histories. Through their consumption and long-term use as well as through the meanings and stories associated with them, artefacts and monuments can play a vital part in the transmission and maintenance of status and identity through time. They serve to reproduce and manipulate the social memories of communities and may embody shared conceptions of the past and of its relationship with the present. The physical traces of the past are important in all societies but we have only recently begun to investigate the ways in which Rome conceptualised her own past and that of the people she encountered. This session will examine what role 'old' material culture played in the creation of provincial Roman identity. In particular, it will attempt to compare the Roman response to countries with both a historical record and very visible remains (such as Egypt and Greece) with her response to countries with no written records but potentially very visible remains (such as Britain, Gaul and Germany). Building on theoretical work in other periods, it has become clear that the study of 're-use' is too simplistic an approach to memory and that we ought to expect a much more heterogeneous response to the material remains of the past in the Roman period. This session will therefore address processes of forgetting and incorporate regional, chronological and contextual variability.

Programme

1400 Introduction: Memory and the Past in the Roman Period, *Hella Eckardt*
1430 Romano-British re-use of prehistoric monuments in the Ouse Valley, *Judy Meade*
1500 Appropriating Avebury, *Mark Gillings & Josh Pollard*
1530 Memory and Roman Mortuary Archaeology, *Howard Williams*
1600 Tea
1630 Attitudes to the material past in early Roman Greece, *Dimitris Grigoropoulos*
1700 The King and the Philosopher: Myth and Memory at Volubilis, *Susan Walker*
1730 Discussion (Richard Hingley)

Romano-British re-use of the prehistoric landscapes and monuments of the Ouse Valley

Judy Meade (University of Leicester)

This paper will examine evidence for re-use, respect, disregard or destruction of earlier landscapes by the LPRIA and RB occupants of the Middle and Upper Ouse Valley. Recent archaeological investigations, in particular around Bedford, have shown the existence of Neolithic/Bronze Age ceremonial landscapes along the River Ouse, and in a few cases have revealed later ritual, religious or burial activity incorporating earlier monuments. Aerial photographs also provide evidence. The study of continuity or change in these symbolic uses of the landscape will help illuminate the extent to which the advent of the Roman Empire brought changes of identity in this, until recently, neglected part of Britain.

Appropriating Avebury

Mark Gillings (University of Leicester) & Josh Pollard (Newport)

The prehistoric monument complex at Avebury is hard to avoid and even harder to ignore. Since the banks and stones were raised in the later Neolithic, its sheer physicality and presence have made it something that has had to be accommodated and explained. It is a monument with a past, something that has been encountered, negotiated, and incorporated into innumerable presents.

Our concern is with the Roman present. Despite no compelling evidence for any major alteration in the composition of the local population, the Roman period saw a dramatic re-organisation of the Avebury landscape. A road was constructed, a major new settlement grew up around the enormous earthen mound of Silbury Hill, and a wholesale remodelling of the existing agricultural landscape took place resulting in the creation of new axes of enclosure and movement. At the calm eye of this hurricane of change were the circle, avenues and earthworks of Avebury.

This paper seeks to explore the ways in which Avebury was integrated into this landscape of transformation. What will become clear is that Roman Avebury is an Avebury of tensions and contradictions, and any singular notion of 're-use' or 'appropriation' is far from adequate in describing the processes at work. At any one time components of the monument were subject to numerous interpretations and appropriations, negotiated at a range of scales from the immediate

and personal to the regional and strategic. Some conform to what we might traditionally think of as re-use, either through the creation of a rustic shrine or acts of regular deposition. Others took the form of shunning and avoidance – acts as deliberate and active in their own way as those leaving more physical traces. We intend to argue that an understanding of these pragmatic and often subtle acts is not only essential to any understanding of the Avebury landscape in the Roman period, but also the development of an enriched archaeology of reuse and appropriation.

Memory and Roman Mortuary Archaeology

Howard Williams (School of History & Archaeology, University of Cardiff)

Recent approaches to the burial evidence of the Roman period have emphasised the social and contextual use of material culture in constructing identities. Yet the role of material culture in the funerary contexts for situating these identities in relation to the past - in the making of social memories - has received less attention. Drawing upon recent theories of social memory and personhood in mortuary archaeology, this paper applies a mnemonic approach to the burial rites of Roman Britain. While tombstones are familiarly regarded as methods of commemorating the dead by the survivors, this paper seeks to identify other strategies of remembering and forgetting focusing upon the uses of portable artefacts and technologies of transformation.

Attitudes to the material past in Early Roman Greece: an archaeological perspective

Dimitris Grigoropoulos (Department of Archaeology, University of Durham)

Among the promising areas for future research on Roman Greece that S. Alcock highlighted in her *Graecia Capta* is the exploration of the "imaginary landscape" of the province under Roman rule, 'the idea of a Greece that no longer was' (1993: 227). The basic premises of the concept are the conscious archaism and escapism from the provincial reality which is attested in Greek authors of the period (notably Pausanias) but also in social practices, including the religious and academic tourism conducted by educated Roman and Greek élites. The implications of this concept regarding the way that Greeks and Romans viewed and acted upon Greece's past have been studied from the literary or ancient historian perspective (inter al. Bowie 1974; Arafat 1996; Alcock et al. 2001), while Alcock's study incorporates some information on the manipulation of ancient monuments including the 'itinerant temples' of Attica.

Less well understood however are the ways that the archaeological record can inform us about the "imaginary landscape" and the perception of the past in Roman Greece. In other words, how was this imaginary landscape materialized? What were the strategies for retaining and indeed performing the past? And what were the reasons for making associations with the past? This paper will attempt to address these questions by drawing on evidence from around the province (Athens, rural Attica, Mantineia and Laconia) and discussing the material treatment of ancient monuments and artefacts in Roman Greece. It is intended to raise the issues of the rise of private collecting and the art trade, antiquarianism and local identity and discuss to what extent they encapsulated particular attitudes towards the past.

References

Alcock, S.E. (1993) *Graecia Capta: The Landscapes of Roman Greece* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP); Alcock, S.E., Cherry J.F. & J. Elsner (eds.) (2001) *Pausanias: Travel and Memory in Roman Greece* (Oxford: Oxford UP); Arafat, K.W. (1996) *Pausanias' Greece: ancient artists and Roman rulers* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP); Bowie, E.L. (1974) 'Greeks and their past in the Second Sophistic', in M.I. Finley (ed.) *Studies in Ancient Society* (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul), 166 – 209

The King and the Philosopher: Myth and Memory at Volubilis

Susan Walker (Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities, The British Museum)

This paper concerns two rooms in the "House of Venus" at Volubilis (Mauretania Tingitana), which about AD 200 were decorated with antique bronze portrait busts of Juba II, client-king of Mauretania under Augustus, and the arch-republican stoic philosopher, Cato of Utica. The busts were so placed as to make their subjects the principal viewers of the mythological scenes which were the focus of the mosaic floors. A third room was decorated with antique Alexandrian themes in bronze and perhaps also in mosaic.

The "House of Venus" offers rare archaeological evidence for the deliberate preservation, even cultivation, of eminent pre-imperial individuals at the height of Volubilis' imperial prosperity. The house is in other respects unusual for Volubilis: having no surviving provision for the production and marketing of oil, it was apparently the home of a "man of culture" with a taste for nostalgia and parody.

The Practice of Theory in Roman Archaeology

Session Organizer: Andrew Gardner (Institute of Archaeology, UCL)

This session highlights a general theme which will hopefully be of relevance to all conference delegates, namely the perceived problem of reconciling theory and practice. Emerging in part from the closing debate at TRAC 2002, the session aims to encompass both case studies and explicitly theoretically-informed excavation, finds, or presentation work, and more general papers dealing with the continued division between 'the abstract' and 'the practical'. Contributions were invited from all sectors of Roman studies, and from all viewpoints on the range of relevant questions. These include: are some aspects of theory inevitably divorced from practice, or should theoretical thinking be regarded as part of the practice of any archaeologists? How does the division between theory and practice map on to the divisions within the discipline, e.g. between universities, units and museum/curatorial staff? What implications do these divisions have in terms of power to present particular visions of the Roman past to different audiences? How can such divisions be overcome – indeed, can they be overcome – within existing institutional frameworks?

Programme

0900 Introduction, *Andrew Gardner (UCL)*
0920 Spoons and other stories, *Hilary Cool (Barbican Research Associates)*
0945 Pottery consumption, power and identity in SE England, 50 BC - 200 AD: some theoretical and methodological issues, *Martin Pitts (York)*
1010 Samian and consumer choice in an urban context, *Gwladys Monteil (Birkbeck)*
1035 coffee
1105 Theory and the practice of collecting and categorising evidence of Romano-British cremation rituals, *Jake Weekes (Canterbury)*
1130 Lost Horizons: the study of rural society in Roman Britain, *Peter Guest (Cardiff)/Mike Luke (Albion Archaeology)*
1155 Generating Archaeological Theory in Field Archaeology, *Ian Haynes (Birkbeck)*
1220 Discussion

Spoons and Other Stories

Hilary Cool (Barbican Research Associates)

This paper starts out as a case study of how cooking and eating practices in Britain altered during the 1st and 2nd centuries using the incidence of spoons and mortaria as an index of change. Such matters as what you will eat and what are considered good table manners are all things that are influenced to a very great extent by what the society you live in expects. This topic, therefore, should be one where theoretical perspectives can provide useful insights, and so it can be used to explore how such an enquiry can be developed. The different theoretical and practical issues involved and their interactions will be examined. It will be argued that there is not such a large gulf between theory and practice as is often suggested, but that one problem is the narrowness of what is accepted as theory within the canon of 'archaeological theory'.

Pottery consumption, power and identity in SE England, 50 BC - 200 AD: some theoretical and methodological issues

Martin Pitts (York)

This paper is concerned with 'identity' and how it was negotiated through the medium of pottery consumption in late Iron Age and early Roman Britain. A theoretical model is proposed which draws on recent ideas in social science and archaeology to establish a framework for interpreting cultural identity in terms of patterns of pottery consumption. The model pays particular attention to public and hidden transcripts of power (after Scott 1990) and the concept of habitus (after Bourdieu 1977). The theory is then tested on a specific case study – the well-recorded site of Elms Farm, Heybridge, Essex. The main tool is analysis of pottery fabrics by weight against intra-site space/time divisions using the statistical technique of Correspondence Analysis. The method facilitates the comparison of sites/areas/periods in terms of their assemblage composition, condensing a vast amount of data into a single visual output. With the aid of additional

contextual information (e.g. details of site morphology), this effectively permits the mapping of the principal trends in patterns of consumption, discard and ultimately, identities. The resultant interpretation in this paper links practices of pottery consumption with fluctuations in the fortunes and identities of the site's occupants, most notably with the postulated elite households just prior to the Conquest and the politically and economically 'degregated' generations that followed. The implications of this study for the recording and publication of data will also be discussed.

Samian and consumer choice in an urban context

Gwladys Monteil (Birkbeck)

This paper will concentrate on illustrating the potential of comparing the distribution of samian with the distribution of samian imitations in an urban context using GIS. Thanks to its capacity in linking spatial and numerical data, a variety of different socio-economical and urban spatial issues can be examined. Samian averages about 15% of all London pottery assemblages but London was also provided with a wide range of pottery including imitations of samian. The idea of imitating samian ware seems to take shape early in the local productions and samian forms were imitated across a relatively large number of fabrics, with specific decorations and colours. Partly explained as substitutes which would have filled a temporary gap in the market when samian was less readily available, these local wares were products in their own right, not especially designed as a cheaper option, but proposed as an 'alternative' (Webster & Webster 1998).

The large set of data available provides us with an ideal opportunity to test the variety and complexity of responses to the penetration of a 'Roman' item and the extent and scale of the 'culture of copying' within London's townscape. The significance of clustering in terms of social-groupings will be critically assessed against known London urban models. Are the spatial discrepancies in the consumption of samian and samian imitations of any social significance? Was it a question of identity or was the consumption of samian a pragmatic question of convenience and availability as suggested by Cooper (1996)?

References

Cooper, N. J. (1996) Searching for the blank generation : consumer choice in Roman and post-Roman Britain. In *Roman Imperialism : post-colonial perspectives.* Edited by J. Webster and N. Cooper. Leicester Archaeology Monographs 3, 85-98.

Webster, J. and Webster P. (1998) Second-Century pottery from Caerleon derived from metal and samian prototypes. In *Form and Fabric. Studies in Rome's material past in Honour of B. R. Hartley,* Oxbow Monograph, 80. Edited by J. Bird. 249-262.

Theory and the practice of collecting and categorising evidence of Romano-British cremation rituals

Jake Weekes (Canterbury)

This paper examines the realities of data collection in relation to research questions concerning Romano-British cremation rituals. From the researcher's point of view, archaeological data representing ritual actions are often ephemeral and require careful preservation of a high resolution archive. The fact that archaeological features associated with cremation rituals are frequently excavated in difficult conditions is an obvious problem. However, varied attitudes towards both the value and reconstructive possibilities of such features are perhaps an even more significant factor in creating an archive that is somewhat impervious to detailed comparative study. The paper also reconsiders the effectiveness of PPG16 and the Burial Act for securing cremation ritual sites, and suggests ways in which increased communication between all interested parties might be translated into further control over data recovery conditions.

Lost Horizons: the study of rural society in Roman Britain

Peter Guest (Cardiff)/Mike Luke (Albion Archaeology)

The application of theory has stimulated the exploration of alternative narratives in archaeology, and has invigorated the study of Roman Britain by bringing the subject closer to a new generation. Yet, despite some successes, theory is still regarded by many as irrelevant and exclusive. Critics argue that theorists concern themselves with deconstructing broad historical interpretative models without providing alternative frameworks with which to progress. Romanization is rightly regarded with suspicion by the post-imperial generation, yet this concept of benign acculturation remains as familiar today as it was 20 years ago.

In this paper we argue that it is time to ask different questions and look for new sources of evidence. In particular, the countryside remains the great unknown of Roman Britain – a strange state of affairs for the study of an agrarian society. The preliminary results of the Lyonshall (Herefordshire) fieldwork project provide a good guide to the opportunities and pitfalls associated with the study of rural society in Roman Britain. How theory can help exploit these opportunities but avoid the pitfalls are the main themes of the paper.

Generating Archaeological Theory in Field Archaeology

Ian Haynes (Birkbeck)

It is frequently argued that field archaeology remains largely unaffected by recent debates within archaeological theory. The problem is seen as particularly acute within archaeological excavation. Conversely, many field archaeologists feel that the most recent debates have very little to offer them. This paper suggests, however, that the situation may change if the capacity of field projects to *generate* theory, rather than simply receive and apply it, is properly recognised. At present the capacity of such projects to facilitate this is limited by current assumptions about appropriate staffing and funding levels. In developing this point, this paper will suggest a way of returning field-work to its rightful place at the centre of archaeological thought.

Writing and Using Histories of Roman Archaeology

Session organizer: Colin Wallace (National Museums of Scotland)

It is often claimed that archaeology, especially prehistoric archaeology, has come of age, and that a sign of the maturity of the discipline is a willingness of scholars to engage with their predecessors. How true is this of Romano-British archaeology?

Worryingly, not at all: more than one recent treatment has implied that the subject is riddled with problems and dogma to an unacceptable degree. Yet good reflexive practice is possible, and I have argued elsewhere that a first step towards this is the assembly of past trends in scholarship, drawing on the 'critical histories' and 'problem-orientated' approaches used elsewhere in writing the history of archaeology (Wallace, C forthc. 'Writing Disciplinary History, or why Romano-British archaeology needs a biographical dictionary of its own', *Oxford J Archaeol*, 2002).

The point of this TRAC session, however, is to convince a wider audience that there is fruitful ground in examining the 'culture-clash' between approaches taken to writing and using the history of archaeology, between those writing intricate, but more difficult, institutional and personal histories and those who yield to the temptations of what is essentially myth-making. The tendency of some writers on Romano-British archaeology to want to destroy, rather than simply abandon, old paradigms is worthy of exploration, in considering the kind of disciplinary history which is merely a vehicle for current preoccupations. We hope to consider too recent explorations of biographical myths and myths of biography, ways of remembering and forgetting our predecessors and work on 'status bias'/the 'Great Man' myth of history.

Programme

0900 Introduction: writing and using histories of Roman archaeology, *Colin Wallace (Edinburgh)*
0920 'The Camden Connection': Revisiting the origins of Romano-British archaeology and historiography, *Leslie W Hepple (University of Bristol)*
0945 On becoming Roman: William Stukeley and Roman history in 18th-century England, *David Haycock (Birkbeck College, London)*
1010 "Sober and cautious.... or to write a novel": Romano-British archaeology in 1919, *Philip Freeman (University of Liverpool)*
1035 coffee
1105 Insularity, misogyny, and political correctness in Roman Archaeology in Britain: the case of Eugenie Strong, *Stephen Dyson (SUNY at Buffalo)*
1130 Great Men and Myths: Remaking the Romans in a totalitarian state, *Oliver Gilkes (University of East Anglia)*
1155 Tessa Wheeler: Memory, Mythology and Archaeology, *Julia Roberts (University of Wales College Newport)*
1220 Some oral myths, *Pamela Jane Smith (University of Cambridge)*
1235 Concluding Discussion

'The Camden Connection': Revisiting the origins of Romano-British archaeology and historiography, *Leslie W Hepple (School of Geographical Sciences, University of Bristol)*

The 'foundation document' of Romano-British archaeology is William Camden's Britannia (of 1586). This paper outlines a project revisiting Camden's work, the ways he assembled and evaluated evidence, the role of his network of informants and the place of artefact collections. It then links this to recent developments in how the history (and historical geography) of science may be conceptualised, arguing for a re-evaluation of the historiography of early Romano-British archaeology.

On becoming Roman: William Stukeley and Roman history in 18th-century England *David Haycock (Dept. of History, Birkbeck College, London)*

This paper will examine why Roman history and archaeology was considered of importance in 18th-century England, focusing on Dr William Stukeley, founder of the Society of Roman Knights.

"Sober and cautious.... or to write a novel": Romano-British archaeology in 1919

Philip Freeman (Dept. of Archaeology, University of Liverpool)

The apostolic approach to the writing of the history of Romano-British studies, one which emphasises the passing of the mantle of greatness from the last great figure to the next – with the concomitant creation of 'schools' of student-disciples – has enjoyed a longevity almost as long as the discipline has been accepted as a subject appropriate for instruction at University level. While it is now questionable if this line of explanation is appropriate in an age of post-graduate recruitment targets, case studentships and completion rates for theses, it is the primary means by which the development of the subject up to the 1960s is characterised. The apostolic approach has its merits but equally can lead to problems. These include, with the implication that all the major figures in the discipline have been university men or women, detaching university-based students of the subject from the non-university environment. It can also occasion the mythologising of the part in which the achievements of the previous generation might be written, re-invented, and disseminated, whether inadvertently, unconsciously or with a degree of collusion.

In this paper I propose to examine some of the myths that are commonly repeated with respect to Francis Haverfield (1860-1919) and his legacy. A reappraisal of aspects of Haverfield's work relative to the universities and how others have written about this will, in turn, allow us to explore in part the way Romano-British archaeology with respect to the universities is supposed to have evolved.

Insularity, misogyny, and political correctness in Roman Archaeology in Britain: the case of Eugenie Strong, *Stephen Dyson (State University of New York at Buffalo)*

Abstract not available

Great Men and Myths: Remaking the Romans in interwar Italy

Oliver Gilkes (Institute of World Archaeology, University of East Anglia)

Benedict Anderson famously defined a nation as an 'imagined community', and certainly all nations imagine their own pasts to some degree. Myths and manufactured origins reinforce the collectively of the nation, permitting its members to build relationships across social, economic and political divides.

In this process archaeology can and does play a vital part. Its role can be benign, where the reinforcement of collective identity produces conditions for stability and certainty. In many cases, however, the archaeological past can be manipulated as an aggressive, and sometimes deliberately or selectively divisive, force.

This paper will examine the case of fascist Italy and in particular how Mussolini's regime attempted to complete the forging of a modern Italian nation, a process begun in the mid 19th century. This was attempted through the careful development of myth, via archaeological fieldwork, and its juxtaposition with a created past of cultural continuity from the age of Rome. Significant personalities of the past, Aeneas, Romulus and Augustus, were equated with Mussolini as the latest in a line of great 'Romans'.

The paper will look at two particular elements of the fascist programme. Firstly, the capture of the Roman past through archaeological research in Italy and overseas. Attention will be given here to the Italians in Albania and Libya. Secondly, the interpretation and presentation of this work in the form of an ideology suitable for mass consumption by an audience of 'new men'. In this case, exhibitions, films and publications will be considered. Finally, I will attempt to assess the overall impact of this programme on the Italian public.

Tessa Wheeler: Memory, Mythology and Archaeology

Julia Roberts (SCARAB, University of Wales College Newport)

Archaeology has problems remembering the contribution of many of its practitioners. Many have been entirely written out of our histories, particularly those whose participation was blocked by their sex or class, such as women and labourers. Alternatively they have been used to embody myths, so we remember Pitt-Rivers as the 'father' of fieldwork, or Petrie as the 'father' of Egyptology, overlooking earlier or contemporaneous figures whose involvement was just as important. Then there are those figures whose role is to disrupt accepted reputations and form new myths around different figures. Tessa Wheeler (1893-1936) occupies two of these categories: her access to archaeology was constrained by the limitations on the education and employment of women in the first half of the twentieth-century; and she has been used to attack

the idea of Mortimer Wheeler as a leading figure in archaeology. This rendition of Tessa Wheeler as either the 'real' archaeologist of the Wheeler partnership, or as an unimportant background figure overlooks the complexity of a real person. This paper discusses why we need myths in archaeology, and how we might uncover those traditionally lost in our histories without creating new legends.

Some oral myths

Pamela Jane Smith (Lucy Cavendish College, University of Cambridge)

Abstract not available.

"Where's the Landscape?"

Session organizers: James Bruhn (University of Durham) & Ben Croxford (University of Cambridge)

Discussant: John Barrett

"The recent growth of landscape perspectives has stimulated fresh approaches to the ways in which prehistoric communities attached significance to what we classify as topography or geology" (Barnatt and Edmonds 2002, 113). What evidence is there that a similar process is taking place with regards to Roman studies? Is the landscape being considered in such a way? The works of Dark and Dark (1997), Petts (1998) and Witcher (1998) have looked at the concept of landscape, but have primarily focused on the environment or the role of roads. Fincham (2000) utilizes the landscape of the Fens as a case-study in post-colonial studies, focusing on the multiple landscapes that can exist, reinforcing the idea of landscapes as social constructs. Why are these new concepts that are being utilised in prehistoric studies having so little impact on the Roman period? Are these concepts practical? Can we just borrow theories from anthropology and pre-history and apply them *ad hoc* or do we need to adapt them or create new theories to deal with the Roman Period?

References

Barnatt, J. and Edmonds, M. (2002) 'Places Apart? Caves and monuments in Neolithic and earlier Bronze Age Britain' in *Cambridge Archaeological Journal* Vol.12 no.1 April 2002 p113-29.

Dark, K. and Dark, P. (1997) *The Landscape of Roman Britain*

Fincham, G. (2000) 'Romanisation, Status and the Landscape: Extracting a Discrepant Perspective from Survey Data' in Fincham, G. *et al* (eds) *T.R.A.C. 99,* p60-70.

Petts, D. (1998) 'Landscape and Cultural Identity in Roman Britain' in Laurence, R. and Berry, J. (eds) *Cultural Identity in the Roman Empire*, 79-94.

Witcher, R. (1998) 'Roman Roads: phenomenological perspectives on roads in the Landscape' in Colin, F., Hawthorne, J. and Witcher, R. (eds) *T.R.A.C. 97,* p60-70.

Programme

0900 Ritual Activity in the Romano-British Landscape, *Ben Croxford:*

0930 Heavier burdens for willing shoulders'? Writing different histories, humanities and social practices for the Romano-British countryside, *Adrian Chadwick*

1000 The Transformation of the German Cultural Landscape, *Jason Lucas*

1030 Coffee

1050 Pluralistic social settings in the Roman Period: Burnswark Hill a place of conflicting landscapes *James Bruhn*

1120 Discussion, *John Barrett*

General session (abstracts below)

1140 Black-glazed pottery and the study of social identity in Roman Italy, *Roman Roth*

1210 Villas in fashion: applying a behavioural science perspective to explain architectural display and diversity, *Chris Martins*

1240 Discussion

Ritual Activity in the Romano-British Landscape

Ben Croxford (University of Cambridge)

There is undeniable evidence of 'ritual' activity in Roman Britain. The temples, shrines, structured deposits and items of cultic importance are all widely acknowledged as being such. Some of these objects and buildings have been found in direct association with 'features' in the landscape; the temple at Bath and the objects dredged from numerous rivers are just two examples. There does however appear to be little in the way of academic thought regarding the significance of these associations. Beyond the occasional observation of a connection between temples and their immediate environs there is often little or no consideration of the landscape as a place of ritual importance. Frequently, statements are made regarding the 'Celtic' reverence for 'natural places' when the subject of Romano-British religion is tackled but these rarely transform into any serious consideration of the possibilities or significances.

Studies have in the past focused mainly on the constructed and the monumental. It has been noted before that this is not a justifiable or rational approach to the subject. This paper aims to highlight ritual activity and significance not always openly acknowledged or considered in discussions of Romano-British religion or in landscape studies of Roman Britain. Work in prehistoric periods openly considers and accepts the possibility of 'ritual', 'mythic' or 'supernatural' landscapes. This paper is an attempt to transfer this methodology and interpretative framework to the Roman period. By considering specific points in the landscape, namely 'natural' places, it is hoped to demonstrate that the landscape was most likely an arena of ritual activity and was of significance to the Romano-British. The landscape is of greater significance than simply as scenery in which mining, farming, roads and towns (the usual foci of 'landscape' studies) occurred.

'Heavier burdens for willing shoulders'[1]? Writing different histories, humanities and social practices for the Romano-British countryside

Adrian Chadwick (University of Wales College Newport)

We know all about the Romano-British countryside don't we? After all, the Romans improved agricultural techniques, increasing production and introducing new crops and animal breeds. Villa estates, urban centres and a coin-based market economy appeared. Roman roads revolutionised the transportation, distribution and storage of livestock and produce. Yet does this evolutionary narrative of proto-Victorian rationalism really reflect the everyday lives and social practices of rural Romano-British communities? My research focuses on the region stretching from Nottinghamshire through to South and West Yorkshire, and the rural landscapes of field systems and farmsteads revealed by aerial photography and commercial contract archaeology. Here, Doncaster, Chesterfield and Castleford were the only urban centres, and there were also few villas. Small non-villa farmsteads were the most common settlements, and metalwork and pottery has often proved relatively scarce when these have been excavated. There is also intriguing evidence that these settlements and the wider landscape were settings for a host of apparently non-rational social practices and small-scale, placed deposits. In an area bereft of many of the accepted data, dating and type-sites of Romano-British life, how do we write histories for the lives of these people? Or should we just dismiss them as materially impoverished 'hicks in the sticks', living out their lives in a bleakly functionalist world, at the mercy of environmental and economic determinism?

In this paper, I will outline how theoretical approaches to landscape derived from social geography and anthropology, together with critical approaches to material culture, can provide us with insights into how these small-scale Romano-British communities dwelt within their lands. Theories concerning the human experiences of space and place, the construction of identity and of the taskscape can be woven together to write dynamic archaeologies of inhabitation for these people, and can also allow us to explore other ways of seeing the past, and other ways of telling.

1. 'For the Britons, their fears allayed by the absence of the dreaded legate, began to canvass the woes of slavery, to compare their wrongs and sharpen their sting in the telling. "We gain nothing by submission except heavier burdens for willing shoulders".' Tacitus *Agricola* 15. 1970 (Transl. H. Mattingly and S.A. Handford). Penguin Books, pp. 65. Harmondsworth: Penguin.

The Transformation of the German Cultural Landscape

Jason Lucas (University of Southampton)

This paper examines the transformation of the cultural geography of lower Germany in the late first century BC and first and second centuries AD, i.e., immediately before the Roman campaigns to conquer Gaul and Germany, and the repercussions of those campaigns. The Roman perceptions of the physical landscape are considered, especially concerning the importance of boundaries to the construction of Roman identity. Water and, in particular, rivers appear to have been important to Roman conceptions of the landscape. The changes in settlement patterns resulting from the conquest campaigns and the creation of the frontier zone are discussed not only in the historical terms of "who went where", but also in terms of possible experiences of the inhabitants and the impact these changes would have had upon them.

Pluralistic social settings in the Roman Period: Burnswark Hill a place of conflicting landscapes, *James Bruhn (University of Durham)*

In order to fully understand the frontiers of the Roman Empire it is necessary to look at the Roman military and local communities not as different exclusive entities but rather to focus on how these groups would have made up a pluralistic social setting. This is not to suggest some form of harmony, but rather that there would have been a variety of different beliefs occurring at the same time which would have interacted with one another and would have resulted in changes in belief structures. Contact situations have been shown to be times of drastic change in a communities' world view, this has been a research area of considerable success in historical archaeology but need not be limited to this discipline. This paper will pursue how we may use landscape studies to aid us in understanding these pluralistic social settings. The idea that places carry with them social histories that can be changed and utilised in order to create or reinforce ideologies will also be discussed.

Burnswark Hill will be used as a case study, highlighting the potential of landscape studies and what they can reveal about social interaction in the Roman Period. The Roman modifications to the landscape of Burnswark Hill will be discussed and I will argue a new interpretation for what was occurring at the site, namely that the Roman military intentionally chose this area as a practice siege site to dominate the local community. Through Burnswark Hill's appropriation the Roman Military was exerting control over a socially important place. This concept of a 'symbolic siege' gives us the ability to observe discrepant experiences which were occurring at the site. This creates an inclusive and more complex picture of social interaction (on the macro and micro scale) that was occurring at the time.

General Session

Session organizer: Judy Meade

The two papers in this session address general issues which are not covered by the themed sessions.
Programme: for timings, see 'Where's the landscape?' session above

Black-glazed pottery and the study of social identity in Roman Italy

Roman E. Roth (University of Cambridge)

In recent years, the study of the Romanisation of Italy has undergone a great deal of revision. In particular, the scholarly debate has shifted its focus away from previous approaches which regarded the creation of Roman Italy as a one-sided, politically and/or economically oppressive process, to concentrate increasingly on its diversity and on multilateral issues of agency involved in it. The most attractive model of the Romanisation of Italy is represented by the term of 'cultural bricolage' (Terrenato 1998a). According to this model, the Romanisation of Italy should be conceptualised in terms of the creation of new material forms and organisational structures through the combination of existing and new elements. In this way, for example, some north Etruscan elites would have adopted the lifestyle of their counterparts elsewhere in the peninsula, while maintaining their traditional relationship with the social groups below them, who continued to live in their time-honoured fashion (Terrenato 1998b). In my paper, I shall argue against such a passive view of the ways in which the subaltern classes were affected by the creation of Roman Italy. Conversely, I shall suggest that the ways in which their daily setting of social interaction changed would necessarily have affected their social self-perception. As a result, the social representation of those lower classes, as acted out in their daily routines, would have changed. Taking the example of Volterran black-glazed wares, I shall demonstrate how the creation of an increasing degree of ceramic variability - at a time when the 'Stadtbild' (Zanker 1987) was dramatically altered - reflects the changing self-representation of the sub-elite groups within their new setting of social interaction. I shall argue that ceramics should be considered the material through which 'bricolage' can be studied in its purest form, that is, at the level of daily routines, and that it is through such a ceramic approach that the role of the sub-elite classes in the creation of Roman Italy can be understood.

Villas in fashion: applying a behavioural science perspective to explain architectural display and diversity, *Chris Martins (University of Durham)*

Post-modern fashion theory recognises the contribution of economic, psychological and sociological models in explaining the diffusion of innovations in society and the adoption of stylistic change. Two main areas for meaning negotiation arise – between the wider cultural environment and the processes of individual social psychology, and between a person's drive to confirm and wish to appear unique.

Studies of villas in Roman Britain tend to focus on the motives for social emulation, not differentiation, and to define architectural display more in physical terms than as a self-expressive inner concept. This paper argues that it is useful to conceive of the fashion process as universal and that it has relevance to an understanding of the consumer behaviour of the elite. Case-studies of villa 'improvements', in particular bath houses, mosaics and wall plaster, consider subtle evidence for intentional agency and the projection of personal rather than social identities.

RAC/TRAC 2003

Summary Programme *of* Sessions *&* Events

Thursday	
17.00	Plenary lecture: Prof. Dr. Siegmar von Schnurbein *(Main University Campus, Ken Edwards LT1: transport provided) followed by:*
18.30	Vice-Chancellor's Reception *(Chas. Wilson Bldg)*
20.00	Dinner *(all meals in Villiers Hall Dining Room)*

	Lecture rooms *(see plan on back of pack)*		
Friday	A (RAC)	B (RAC)	C (TRAC)
09.00-13.00	Tiber Valley Project	Pax Romana? Violence…	Writing histories
13.00	Lunch		
14.00-18.00	Early Towns in Tarraconensis	Pottery Studies	Memory and the Past
18.30	Reception, hosted by Lord Mayor, Jewry Wall Museum *(transport provided)*		
20.00	Dinner		

Saturday	A (RAC)	B (RAC)	C (TRAC)
09.00-13.00	Roman Britain: Kent	Landscape I: Mining	Practice of Theory
13.00	Lunch		
14.00-18.00	Roman Britain: General	Landscape II: Rural Prod.	Body & Soul: Health…
18.30	John Wacher *Festschrift* presentation/reception, sponsored by English Heritage *(Gilbert Murray Main Hall)*		
20.00	Conference dinner		
21.00	Conference party: Greenshoots Ceilidh Band		

Sunday	A (RAC)	B (RAC)	C (TRAC)
09.00-13.00	Christianity in Roman Britain	Alternative narratives	Landscape/ General
13.00	Lunch		

Conference pack compiled and designed by Simon James. Folder and abstracts booklet kindly provided for RAC/TRAC 2003 by:

Oxbow Books, Park End Place, Oxford OX1 1HN
Tel: 01865-241249, Fax: 01865-794449
Email: oxbow@oxbowbooks.com
Website: www.oxbowbooks.com

Digitally printed by Parchment (Oxford) Ltd, from copy supplied
Printworks, Crescent Road, Cowley, Oxford OX4 2PB, England
email: print@parchmentUK.com www.PrintUK.com