

LUCERNA



THE ROMAN FINDS GROUP
NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 34, December 2007

Lucerna

Roman Finds Group Newsletter 34

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Notes for contributors

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

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SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2007/8

Annual subscriptions of £8 (or £11 for two members at the same address) **were** due on **October 1st 2007**. Thank you to everyone who paid the subscription promptly last year - and if you are among the few who have not yet paid **please can you make every effort to send them before the end of January 2008!**

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

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Editorial

Richard Hobbs

Welcome to the 34th issue of *Lucerna*. This issue includes articles concerning new research on patera handles, and well as two contributions by Chris Lydamore on a new find and his experimental work on projectiles. There are also study day reviews for the well attended meetings in York and Caerleon.

However, things are not all rosy on the RFG front! Firstly, we really need more contributions on finds from RFG members – it is your society, and your newsletter, so please make use of the opportunity to publicise your research and new finds from your own region. *Lucerna* is a good way to get information out there and gather some feedback from other specialists.

Secondly, the committee needs new members! We have vacancies for both Meetings Co-ordinator and General Secretary at the moment. Please consider joining the committee – it is not a huge time investment, and ensures that the RFG can continue to thrive! Meetings usually take place in London.

Richard Hobbs

A Patera / Trulleum from Clay Farm, Cambridgeshire. Notes from ongoing research and the development of an online resource

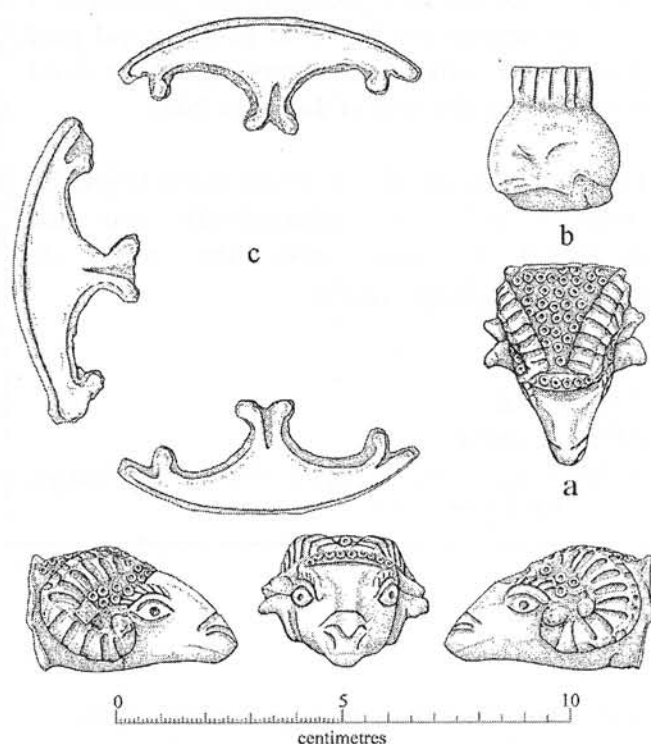


fig1: a) Ram's head termini b) suspension ring mount c) pelta feet. Illustration Viki Herring

During an evaluation of land to the south of Cambridge at Clay Farm commissioned by Countryside Properties Ltd in 2005, an Aylesford type burial was discovered and excavated by the Cambridge Archaeology Unit (CAU). The burial's assemblage comprised of imported vessels, gaming pieces, fragments of a copper alloy vessel and other metalwork. The copper alloy fragments were scattered in a linear pattern across the eastern half of the grave, in a northeast to south west alignment. In the northeast corner of the grave was a ram's head termini and a group of three pelta-shaped feet. From the centre of the eastern half of the grave a suspension ring mount was recovered, and from south west end a fragment of sheet bronze was also recovered. These copper alloy artefacts are discussed below (a detailed discussion of the whole assemblage is recorded in Evans 2006).

The sub rectangular grave was only shallow, and the linear distribution of the copper alloy fragments suggests a vessel may have suffered plough damage. The fragments were distinctive enough to suggest that the damaged vessel had been a Patera / Trulleum. This type of vessel has been associated with cleansing and ritual and is at times found in association with jugs in burials (Nuber). The surviving fragments were sufficiently characteristic to be recognised and placed within established typologies. The fragments recovered at Clay Farm exhibit characteristics of Eggers type 154 (Eggers 1951) and Nubers (Nuber) type D Hagenow and are discussed below.

Pelta Feet

The three detached flat crescent or pelta-shaped feet have almost identical profiles. The outer concave edge and inner convex edges are slightly bevelled. At the point of each curve the foot divides into two small lobes separated by a short incised notch. The upper side that would have been attached to the base of a vessel has white concretions (possibly traces of solder). The attachment of this form of feet to the base of a patera / trulleum bowls is demonstrated by another Cambridgeshire find from Snailwell (Lethbridge) where the bowl had a single surviving pelta shaped foot attached to the base. At Heybridge a detached pelta-shaped foot (Eggers 1966) was found in the same vicinity as a finely fluted handle and the decorated base of a flat bowl. A more complete parallel comes from a cremation burial at Antran (Pautreau). This patera had three feet *in situ* evenly distributed around the circumference of the base of the bowl. Other vessels with full sets of similar pelta shaped feet come from Boscerale (Oettel) and Prag-Bubeneč (Novotný). The above mentioned vessels were included by Nuber in his type D group, with the exception of the recent find from Antran. The Antran find however does exhibit sufficient similarities to be included in this group. Detached feet have also been found without other vessel fragments. Recently, two pelta-shaped feet identical to the clay farm set have been recovered from sites in Bedfordshire (UKDFD Ref. No. – 4210) and

Lincolnshire (UKDFD Ref. No. – 7005) and are listed on the online UK detector finds database.

Suspension ring mount

A cast copper alloy pendant shaped appliqué. The detail is somewhat obscured by corrosive elements but appears to be a crouching animal, possibly a hound or deer. The upper horizontal slightly cylindrical element of the pendant has five irregular incised vertical lines decorating it. Although a suspension ring is missing from the artefact two indentations in the upper part of the appliqué indicate where a ring could have been attached. No patera / trulleum with suspension rings have been found in Britain. However, there are continental examples: a patera from Prag Bubenec (*ibid*) which has a single suspension ring attached to the bowl on the exterior wall beneath the rim opposite the handle, with the bowl resting on three pelta-shaped feet. The bowl of the patera from Antran (*ibid*) also had traces of solder diametrically opposite the handle with an open ring found in the vicinity, suggesting a suspension ring had been attached to the vessel. Nubers type D is the only Roman form of patera / trulleum with suspension rings.

Ram's head termini

A copper alloy cast ram's head detached from the shaft of a handle, the ram's head has deeply knurled horns curled around the ears with the tips turning outwards. The details of the eyes, nostrils and mouth are incised in a simplistic style. The fleece is represented by an irregular raised circle-and-dot pattern across the top of the head between the horns. In addition a band decorated with circle and dots is modelled across the ram's brow. A series of short incised lines above the eye gives the impression of eyebrows on the ram.

The casting of termini and shaft as separate components to be soldered together to form the handle is a characteristic of Nuber's type D. Later types are often cast as a single component. The separate casting often results in the termini becoming detached as is the case with the Clay Farm termini. Examples of the

type D handle with missing termini come from Pleshey (May 1998), Heybridge (Eggers 1966), Hagenow (Lasser.R and Halbet 1998), Lago di Nemi (Ucelli 1950) and Prag Bubenec (*ibid*). There are numerous examples of unattached ram's heads including several from Pompeii (Tassinari 1993) and others from Dobrichov (Sakař 1970), Monte Lato (Isler 2005), and a recent metal detected find from Norfolk (UKDFD Ref. No. – 6296).

The use of incised decoration to model details can often be seen on patera / trulleum found in the Roman provinces in particular parts of Eastern Europe. Ratkovic suggested that incised décor is characteristic of provincial workshops and moulded décor characteristic of Italian workshops. Although the majority of the type D patera are given as being of Italian manufacture, the style of incised décor of the Clay Farm termini suggests a possible provincial workshop. Further research on this point is needed. The combination of ring and dot patterning and incised décor can be seen on examples from a recent find from Norfolk (*ibid*), Antran (*ibid*), and from Italy at Monte Lato (*ibid*).

Summary

The surviving fragments of this vessel, the ring and dot decorated ram's head, the pelta shaped feet and the suspension-ring are sufficiently characteristic of the earlier form of patera to group this find with Nuber's other type D patera. Other type D patera have been found in Britain at Snailwell (*ibid*), Pleshey (*ibid*), Heybridge (*ibid*). In addition the recent find from Norfolk is most likely of the same type. So far the earliest form of patera appears to be confined to the south-east. However, the more widespread recovery of unattached pelta feet may suggest a wider distribution.

Nuber dated the circulation of type D to the Augustan period continuing until the Claudian period with the production diminishing around 50 AD. The ceramic material from the Clay Farm cremation has suggested an early post conquest date before the spread of Roman

influence in the region for the burial (Anderson) this would fit in with the end of the circulation of Nuber's type D.

Research into Patera Trulleum and an online database

The above notes are from an unfinished research project I'm conducting at present, started as a result of writing up the copper alloy small finds report for Clay Farm. One of my first references for the report was Moore's 1972 *Late Celtic and Early Roman Metalwork in Britannia* vol. 4, which lists eighteen patera in the appendix. Further research led to works by Radnoti, Eggers, Nubers and Tassinari (see references). As I attempted to collate all the available data and discovered more recent publications I realised that considerably more patera existed than I had initially thought. At present I have identified nearly fifty possible patera in Britain and nearly five hundred in the rest of the sphere of Roman influence.

The numbers are not precise at present, as some of the artefacts I'm researching may or may not be patera / trulleum. Part of the problem lies with the name patera frequently given to this form of cylindrical handled bowl as the name is also used to describe the more common flat handled deeper bowl type as well as a few other forms. This has led to many dead ends in my research. Although a more satisfactory name Trulleum has been suggested (Boon 1998) and taken up in some cases, an online search at present still returns more pages concerning Buttercups (*Trollius europaeus*) than articles on Patera / Trulleum. Hopefully the term will become more widespread. Another problem is that some finds have only been given cursory mentions in early antiquarian reports and insufficient details exist to use them as meaningful comparative. With so many recent discoveries and early reports needing clarification I considered it might be appropriate to produce an updated listing based on Nuber's Kanne and Griffschale typologies, incorporating any recent finds and refining the groupings where appropriate. The results of this part of my

research in to patera / trulleum will be catalogued online. The hope is that this will form an interactive resource that can be updated as new finds are made and details from earlier reports are clarified.

At present a prototype of the web site with a basic listing of the British (other countries will be added soon) finds is online at <http://www.archdiggers.co.uk/patera/>. I eventually hope to add file card descriptions including references, typologies, and illustrations for each patera. As I have nearly five hundred items to work through, this may take time! By placing the data online I'm hoping that anyone with an interest in the vessel type can use the resource for research, inform me of any missing data, errors or suggestions. If any one knows of material (patera, pelta feet etc) that should be included in the database or any other related points please contact me at the following: dwwebb@tiscali.co.uk.

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 Pelta feet

4210
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 7005
<http://www.ukdfd.co.uk/ukdfddata/showrecords.php?product=7005&cat=all>

Ram's head termini
 6296
<http://www.ukdfd.co.uk/ukdfddata/showrecords.php?product=6296&cat=all>

Dave Webb

Website <http://www.archdiggers.co.uk/patera/>
 Contact dwwebb@tiscali.co.uk

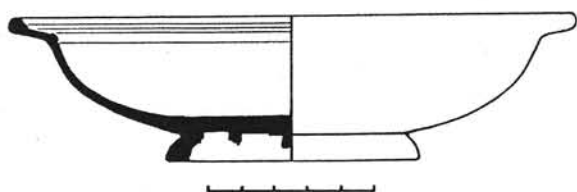
NEXT RFG MEETING

The venue and subject of the spring meeting of the Roman Finds Group is yet to be decided. More details will follow in due course.

A bath saucer from near Harlow, Essex

The bath saucer (a type of shallow bronze handled dish so named after their frequent association with other toilet/bathing articles) was originally discovered in the early 1990s when it was struck by a plough during the ploughing of a field on the northern boundary of Harlow, Essex. It was thereafter stored in the ploughman's toolbox until it was eventually brought in to the Museum of Harlow in 2003 for identification, along with a number of other unrelated items also found during ploughing.

Although incomplete, the handle having been lost, presumably in antiquity as the patination on the scar matched that on the body of the saucer, and distorted and slightly damaged due to the plough strike, the bath saucer was remarkably well preserved. The original diameter of the bowl was approx 173mm (+/- 2.5mm) although an exact measurement was not possible due to the deformation due to plough damage. Following the initial identification the owner permitted the bath saucer to be retained for a limited period so that a more accurate identification could be attempted.



The bath saucer

The bath saucer was shown to Nina Crummy who was able to identify a similar, although slightly smaller, example in the collections of the Rijksmuseum G.M.Kam at Nijmegen (Kam invent no. 10.1948.1) and give a suggested date of manufacture of the mid/late 1st to early 2nd century AD.

Although it was found in the plough soil the bath saucer came from an area of known Romano-British occupation and is thought to

have probably formed part of a cremation burial. Since the identification the bath saucer has remained in private hands.

I would like to thank Nina Crummy for her kind assistance in confirming and refining the initial identification.

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A possible method of producing barbed projectile heads in the late Roman period

For many years I have had an interest in the manufacture and use of projectile weapons in the pre-gunpowder era and, having recently purchased a small portable forge, have been experimenting with producing reconstructions of Roman period projectile heads. Whilst seeking inspiration for a "new project" in Bishop & Coulson's Roman military equipment, I observed the pronounced medial ridge on a *spiculum* head (fig 115.4), a type of 4th century shafted weapon related to the pilum. Although I had previously examined the illustration on many occasions and had noted the pronounced ridge it was only as I was considering how to replicate it that the significance of the detail struck me; the ridge – a continuation of the shaft - appeared to be overlying the barbs projecting from either side. I surmised that the head may have been formed by folding and welding a fork-ended bar. On examination, other projectile heads illustrated on the same figure (fig. 115.13, 14,15) also appeared to have been possibly made by this method.

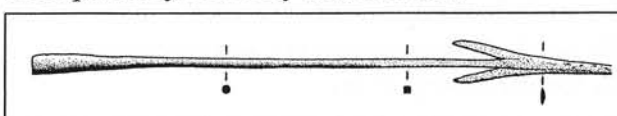


Fig 1 (Fig 115.4, Bishop & Coulston, Roman Military Equipment, 1993)

I therefore decided to put theory to the test by making a barbed and tanged plumbata head.

This would enable me to obtain a quick result to illustrate the feasibility of the process without having to engage in a large forge project.

The experiment

In the interest of brevity, unless stated otherwise, all forming operations described below were carried out with the metal heated to a bright red/orange.

The end of a round section mild steel bar, 6mm in diameter, was drawn down to form a tapering point, approx 50mm in length, which became the tang of the plumbata head. The end 150mm of the bar, including the tang, was then cut from the parent bar using a hardie. The cut off portion of the bar was reversed and the opposing end partially flattened for a length of c25mm to form a spatulate shape (fig 2a). This flattened portion was then split centrally with a chisel to form two "horns" (fig 2b) that were spread and drawn out to form points (fig. 2c). The forked end of the bar was then bent back on itself, brought to heat, and welded on the anvil (fig 2d) to roughly form a barbed head. The shape of the head was then refined and the point drawn out by light hammering before being quenched and finished with a hand file. The completed head was then mounted on a shaft (fig. 3). This process was repeated a further two times, on each occasion a tanged and barbed plumbata head was successfully produced.

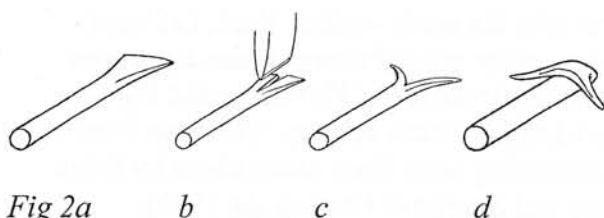


Fig 2a

b

c

d

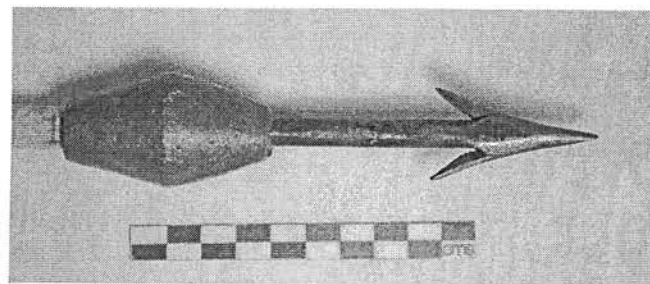


Fig 3. Completed plumbata head mounted in lead weighted shaft

Observations

At the conclusion of the experiment I was pleased to note that the method had worked in so far as functional *plumbatae* heads had been produced relatively easily and with minimal waste of material. The method of manufacture appeared to reasonably efficient and the finished *plumbata* heads shared, at least on superficial examination, a number of manufacture related features in common with those observable on some(although by no means all) ancient examples (e.g. pronounced medial ridge on the obverse with a transverse edge between the barbs on the reverse).

Where to go from here?

Although initial experiments have shown that the method proposed can successfully duplicate the physical form of ancient plumbata heads (and by extension certain other barbed projectile heads), further experiment is required to more fully assess the resource implications of the method described. Observations on the resource implications of producing artefacts through experiment, as opposed to merely seeking to identify process, can only have validity when the experiments are conducted by an experienced practitioner (such as Prof. David Simm) whose empirical knowledge and practical skill permits the efficient use of tools, fuels and raw materials. In his experiments Simm is able to examine the resource implications, in terms of iron and fuel required, material loss due to oxidisation and labour in man hours, as he tracks the stages in transforming an iron billet into finished artefacts.

I would welcome any comments from readers on the above-suggested process of manufacture.

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Study Day Reviews

ROMAN FINDS GROUP

Spring meeting: How it's done in *Eboracum*

5th March 2007: York

Simon Holmes – 'Roman artefacts recorded with the PAS in Yorkshire'

Simon was, at the time of writing, the Finds Liaison Officer for North Yorkshire and East Riding – an area prolific in artefacts. Though most of the detectorists are responsible there is a problem with night-hawking. Items from other counties e.g. Lincolnshire, are reported to the Yorkshire Museum but records will be put on to the national database. The most common finds reported are coins. Simon Holmes encourages detectorists to display their finds in a case in the foyer of the museum.

Some regional trends are appearing e.g. the most common brooch type is the trumpet and sometimes its variant, then headstud, with Hod Hill brooches being the third most common brooch in the area. The regional type is dragonesque.

Finds discussed by Simon included:

- Terret rings, one with good quality enamelling and another with a quatrefoil base.
- Arm purse and lamp from Tadcaster found on the line of the Roman road. Two trenches were excavated to determine the context but they were inconclusive.
- Pewter dish with a footring and hole in the centre suggesting the vessel had been finished off on a lathe; and a pewter fluted cup.
- *Patera* handle from Lincolnshire.
- Wax spatula handle in the form of Hercules, from Goldsborough signal station. This is the only one known depicting Hercules (usually Minerva).

Francis Grew - 'Bowes Roman fort: the metalwork'

Bowes is to the north west of York, in County Durham on the cross-Pennine route. Its origins are with Agricola in the Flavian period but survived to the fourth century. The finds Francis was discussing were from excavations by Brian Hartley and Shepherd Frere in the 1960s. Shepherd Frere is writing up the site for Yorkshire Archaeological Society and the report is to be published in 2008.

The excavations were of the central range of buildings and a section through the rampart.

They were fairly small scale and the material is mostly residual. There are some very good inscriptions, including a dedication to Severus and his sons, ?early 3rd century. One of the units mentioned on the inscriptions was the 1st cohort of Thracians with c 800 men. Many of the finds broadly date to the second and third centuries and may be applicable to a mixed cohort i.e. infantry and cavalry.

Finds discussed included:

- Bronze disc, 75 mm in diameter. Plain back and domed. Pin and D-shaped 'attachment' soldered on to boss (see Oldenstein fig 85), possibly a baldric attachment. Dating not clear, probably 2nd/early-mid 3rd century, possibly infantry weaponry.
- Scabbard slide 114 mm in length.
- Plate, sharply bent at one end. 53 mm long and decorated with vine tendrils and leaves and bunches of grapes and hatched decoration around the outside, most of the enamel lost. Possibly a military belt plate. There are no parallels for it but compare ones from Ribchester, Caerleon and Templeborough. The Bowes example has the remains of two prongs but no prong at the other end but it does have a central scar from where the prong appears to have been lost. Could it be that the plate was wrenched from the belt, which would account for the sharp bend in it? The decoration is unparalleled because most have stylistic laurel leaf. Dating is difficult – Caerleon (from barracks) and Ribchester date to first half 2nd century, all other sites are Flavian or later foundations.
- Pendant, 35 mm across with triskele decoration. Not many parallels (see Oldenstein fig 32). Hinged examples seem to be from baldric but the Bowes example is smaller and doesn't have a

hinge – possibly from an apron or cavalry harness?

- Harness clip – 44 mm. Clips on to a junction ring (see Bishop & Coulston fig 81). Bowes example is not unique, eg there is one from The Lunt. Do the smaller ones have the same function? Difficult to date. Niello types are 1st century.
- Fragments of shield binding.
- Bits and pieces from construction trench beneath Severan wall i.e. loops, wire, corrugated strips – all parts of helmets.
- Headstud and Hod Hill brooches.
- Possible weight 'L S I I' with a central hole, but only weighs 8g and is only 20 mm in diameter.

Roman military metalwork : where next?

This category of finds needs to be put on the research agenda because:

1. The dating and development of equipment in the 2nd and 3rd centuries is not well understood.
2. Military versus civilian: new definitions are needed for the types and styles of artefacts associated with the army and civil service.
3. Regional styles: technology may be as useful as 'typology' or decoration. We therefore need a better understanding of the manufacturing processes.

'Military' finds are everywhere – what does this mean? Is there a category of people with military affiliations that have equipment that others don't?

Elizabeth Hartley – 'The recent Yorkshire Museum exhibition: Constantine the Great, York's Roman emperor'

The exhibition last year celebrated the 1,700th anniversary of the proclamation in York, of Constantine as emperor (25th July 306). The

exhibition illustrated the story of Constantine and his legacy to Europe, the Mediterranean and ultimately the rest of the world. There were over 270 exhibits, many of them on loan from across the UK and Europe.

The catalogue is still available and includes a series of multi-disciplinary essays. It focuses mainly on the Western Empire. Key themes include the transition from the classical to the medieval world, and from paganism to Christianity. The book brings together for the first time a fascinating range of objects to support its arguments, most notably: the monumental marble head of Constantine from York; the mosaic roundel with Christ's head from Hinton St Mary, Dorset; the earliest Christian silver hoard in the Roman Empire from Water Newton, Cambridgeshire; the late Roman silver hoard from Traprain Law and the building inscription of Constantius from the Esquiline Treasure.

Elizabeth outlined why some of the items were chosen, the emphasis of the exhibition and examples of new research which had come about as a result of the exhibition.

Objects were chosen to show who Constantine was and why he was great. The galleries were designed to be dramatic and visual. Items were intentionally not everyday pieces and included many high prestige objects. Finds came from the BM, Ashmolean, milestone from Chesters, chain mail from South Shields, glass from Cologne, mirror from Shrewsbury, textiles from V&A and Hoxne arm ring with three other arm rings from Bonn and Cologne which had not been brought together before.

Further research has been prompted on gemstones (Catherine Johns), glass (Jennifer Price), Constantine head, the high quality mosaics from York, wall paintings and indicators of Christianity eg grave groups in Cologne with pairs of glass vessels (not in exhibition). The V&A are also having a seminar on textiles as a result of their findings during conservation prior to the exhibition.

Kelly Powell – 'Teaching Roman archaeology at the Yorkshire Museum using artefacts'

The museum has two different learning programmes – formal and informal. They have a lot of Key Stage 2 groups visiting (mostly primary schools Years 3 & 4) and as they link with the National Curriculum there are very stringent guidelines. The museum offers workshops on Romans (most popular) and Vikings.

Roman workshops

i) 'digging the Romans' which involves a handling collection of real objects. One group visits the permanent gallery with topic boxes (mixture of authentic and replica objects); while another group are told about the work of archaeologists. Objects to handle include a ceramic lamp, samian bowl with potter's stamp, amphora handle with finger print indentations, coins and a brooch.

Objects are laid out on a grid square on the floor and the children have to identify which room in the villa they have come from eg mortarium in kitchen, beaker in dining room etc. They are also encouraged to find parallels with modern life - the emphasis in the curriculum is to compare historic times with the present.

ii) slavery and sustenance – this relies on role play and less on objects to give the children a sense of empathy. Children are given an imaginary identity – a Roman name, skills, where they came from etc. and a photograph of an object. The children have to find the matching object in the gallery and work out their role e.g. sword = soldier, mortarium = slave. The teacher acts as the (sympathetic) wife of a slave trader and tests them to see if they have potential and can be given their freedom. Also use dishes with ingredients and foods which smell e.g. fish sauce. Children are then blindfolded and if they get the wrong answer they become slaves! For the soldiers there is a ballista ball – if they can pick it up they go free. The emphasis is on getting them to empathise

e.g. with a soldier in battle, and how the objects relate to the people of the past.

Other informal activities include holiday events for families.

**Catherine Bearcock and Andrew Morrison –
‘The Yorkshire Museum’s Roman collections:
the future’**

Yorkshire Museum is a charitable trust, formed in 2002. The Trust is underwritten by the city council and a funding deal was agreed last year up until 2013 so the funding can not be cut.

The Roman collection goes back 400 years and includes 800 burials from the railway station site(s) and Trentholme Drive. There is now a programme to bring things up to date with regard to displays and communication techniques, especially material from the 19th-century collections. The stores also need sorting out, in particular the way artefacts are packaged. There are a lot of antiquarian finds such as samian with no documentation or labels. Priorities have been set e.g. the jet is badly packaged. Although it has already been studied they want to make the information more accessible by putting it on a database; the glass is fairly well-packaged but it needs to be cross-referenced with HC’s work and some objects have been revealed during this process which require more research. Their aim is also to gather in all excavation archives and bring them back to the heart of the city.

Staff are keen for the collections to be used. Examples include:

i) ceramic building materials were used at a recent IFA study day helping people to identify fabric types so that they can set up their own reference collection in their own areas;

ii) community project with local hairdressers to study Roman hairstyles from statues, gravestones, coins etc, and images displaying the use of hair rings and pins. The benefit being that hair and make-up students have the chance

to put their interpretation on these images. This is a two-way process, for example, the tutor of the course has suggested that the big hair pins, found at the back of the skull of a burial, would be too big as pins because they would slip out. It was suggested that the twisted rod (no 282 in Lindsay’s catalogue) could be a ringlet maker and that another one (cat no 281) may be some sort of hair tong;

iii) loans to other museums, churches etc so that as many people as possible can see finds which are important to their town/area e.g. mile marker from Castleford, beaker from Malton.

There are also bids being submitted for specialists to come and look at the material, in other words it is not a static collection. They are concentrating on putting research back on the agenda and setting priorities, which will be published.

Examples:

a) students carrying out a curatorial survey on R-B cemetery remains;

b) bid for c 7 million pounds to re-vamp the museum and set up a research programme. Their intention is to get rid of the permanent galleries so that all galleries will be ‘rotational’. There will be a research budget with each new exhibition. First one is to be Roman – specifically Roman York and Yorkshire. The galleries are to change every 12-18 months, covering all periods – there is an excellent prehistory collection that hasn’t been seen for years.

c) a lottery bid to extend the store so that material from excavating units can be accommodated.

Roman Finds Group Meeting, Caerleon

Monday, 8th October 2007

The autumn meeting took place at the National Roman Legion Museum at Caerleon, and was a well-attended event. Those participating had an opportunity to visit the museum and the Roman remains in and around Caerleon (the amphitheatre is particularly impressive) as well as to listen to a range of informative and interesting speakers, mostly from the National Roman Legion Museum and the National Museum of Wales.

Professor Manning opened the proceedings with a discussion of the 'ironwork from the fort at Newstead', specifically focusing on the issue of deposition. Several significant ironwork deposits have been recovered from the site, including tools, weapons, cart-fittings, armour, and the like. They were found in several pits, each of which tended to contain different categories of material – for example most of the vehicle fittings were found together. The material was mostly too damaged to have been in use at the time of deposition. Some could be shown, through inscriptions, to have been the possessions of individual soldiers, and in some instances a piece of equipment had been owned by more than one individual. Professor Manning made a strong case for the pragmatic disposal of ironwork at military sites, suggesting that more evidence would be needed for the alternative, ritual deposition, to be taken seriously.

Julie Reynolds (who also organised the meeting) gave two papers, the first on 'Roman burial at Caerleon'. A pipe burial first excavated in 1921 was rediscovered in recent excavations of the suburb of Ultra Pontem. Other interesting material from this campaign allowed the reconstruction of a Roman funeral pyre, which was apparently made from logs of beech and birch, with kindling of gorse, hazel and blackthorn. A reptile vertebra – probably of a grass snake – was a unique find in a burial pit from the site. Pyre goods apparently included

extra pairs of shoes, perhaps for the journey to the afterlife.

Edward Besly then provided an overview of 'Roman coin finds in Wales', now totalling around 53,000 and newly available on a web database, along with Iron age coins from Wales, through AHDS (project director Peter Guest). Since the project was finished, more than 4,000 new coins have been found; the point was made that one would expect Roman coin finds to 'run out' sooner or later, but that there is no sign of this happening yet! Most of the coin-finds in Wales, we learned, are from hoard contexts, with 12 hoards from Caerleon alone.

Mark Lewis next gave an account of 'Recent artefacts reported to the Museum', mostly through the Portable Antiquities Scheme. He drew attention to a fascinating extract from Philostratus, who describes enamelled harness-fittings as 'barbarian' work. An outstanding example of such horse furniture was found near Usk, with beautiful millefiori enamel. More fragments of similar items have recently been recovered. Mark also told us about a Roman mosaic which a local hospital only discovered on its property (re-laid next to some outdoor steps) when it was damaged by vandals. The mosaic, originally discovered in the 1840s, is now in safer hands at the National Roman Legion Museum.

Following a break for lunch, two papers were given on the theme of military equipment, particularly appropriate to the location of the meeting. Firstly Evan Chapman gave an overview of 'military equipment from Caerleon', including, exceptionally, 22 fragments of bone parts for composite bows found at the Prysby field, which he believes to be the largest collection of its kind anywhere in the Roman Empire. Most of the finds of military equipment were concentrated in one area of excavation of buildings to the rear of the barrack blocks. Next Mike Thomas provided an introduction to *lorica segmentata*, with a wealth of information on the different types and the reconstructions that have been made of them over the years.

Finally Julie Reynolds finished the day with a very interesting discussion of inscriptions in the National Roman Legion Museum at Caerleon. Mistakes on tombstones, she told us, may be related to the way in which Latin was spoken in the outposts of Empire. Poignant stories can be recovered from some tombstones; one veteran apparently lived to be a hundred years old – though we have to allow for some exaggeration. A family group was commemorated by two stones, one to Julius Valens, and another, to his wife Julia Secundina. They were of widely disparate quality, leading to some interesting speculation on the reasons behind this.

Julie reminded us that military sites like Caerleon are not only concerned with soldiers and military affairs, but must be seen in their wider context as places where people lived, had families, and died as part of a community.

Ellen Swift

RFG Subscriptions due for 2008!

Please send your subscription of £8 (£11 joint membership) by **January 1st 2008** to continue to receive your copies of *Lucerna* and reduced rate attendance of Roman Finds Group meetings. Subscriptions should be sent to:

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Stanway: an elite burial site at Camulodunum, by P. Crummy, S. Benfield, N. Crummy, V. Rigby and D. Shimmin, Britannia Monograph 24 (2007). 480 pp approx, 150 line drawings, 30 plates. £38 until 31st March 2008, thereafter £46.

Available from The Roman Society, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU

The Stanway site lay on the outskirts of the modern town of Colchester in what had been Stanway Hall Farm. It was excavated in intermittent stages between 1987 and 2003 in advance of its destruction for sand and gravel extraction. Stanway was on the fringe of the Late Iron Age and Roman oppidum of Camulodunum, just outside Gryme's Dyke and close to the important site at Gosbecks. It appears to have been the burial place of members of a high status Catuvellaunian family. The characteristics of the site and the rites practised there reveal links with the Folly Lane and King Harry Lane sites in Verulamium and sites in northern Gaul. Stanway provides support for the possibility that Camulodunum may have existed as early as the time of Caesar's invasions of Britain.

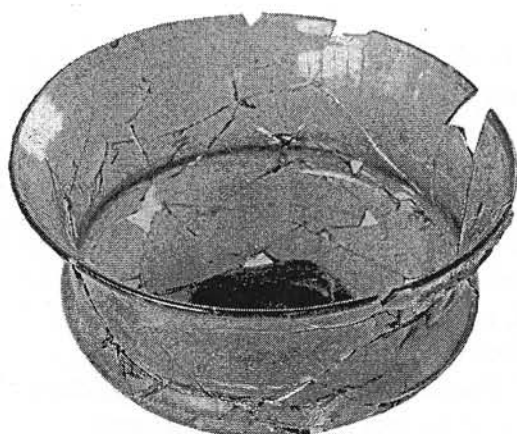
Of the five enclosures which characterised Stanway, the smallest and earliest was the core of an Iron Age farmstead which had been abandoned by the mid 1st century BC. A pair of currency bars was placed in the ditch of its enclosure. Four funerary enclosures followed, each of which incorporated a single wooden chamber in a central or axial position. The earliest of the enclosures (Enclosure 1) was the largest. As well as a wooden chamber, it included an unaccompanied urned cremation burial and a pit with broken funerary goods. All three features dated to the second half of the 1st century BC. A single contemporary pit found some distance away contained pyre debris and was probably datable to between c 60 and 1 BC (CF7). The other three enclosures (Enclosures 3-5) were laid out in a continuous row in two

stages, one in c AD 35-45 (Enclosure 3) and the other two (Enclosures 4 & 5) as a conjoined pair in c AD 40-50. Parts of deliberately broken pots and other objects were placed in the chambers as part of the funerary rite. The minimum number of vessels represented in the chambers ranges from two in the earliest of them (AF25) to 24 in the largest of them (BF6). Six cremation burials inside Enclosures 3-5 probably date to c AD 40-60/75 with most in the range c AD 40-60. The numbers of grave goods in those burials varies from none at all to the many in the well-endowed 'Warrior's burial' (BF64) and the 'Doctor's burial' (CF47). The former was distinguished by the inclusion of a shield and lance or spear and the latter by a set of surgical instruments, a gaming board with counters in place, and a copper-alloy strainer which had been used to prepare an infusion of artemisia. The only certain pyre-site was in the centre of one of the enclosures (Enclosure 3) and had apparently been used at least twice. Two small square ditched areas in the latest two enclosures (Enclosures 4 & 5) may have been the sites of pyres or structures for excarnation.

A small probably unrelated cemetery containing at least three cremation burials and five pyre-debris pits was situated about 200 m south-east of the enclosures. Its period of use, as far as can be judged, approximated to that of the enclosures but with a slightly later end date (*i.e.* from the early 1st century AD to the early Flavian period). However, the grave goods they contained are comparatively modest in nature and number.

There are many gems within the published report, which has many specialist contributors over and above the five principal authors. To name but a few: Hilary Cool on the remarkable glassware assemblage, Richard Hingley on the currency bars, Paul Sealey on the graffiti on the pots in one of the chambers, and Patricia Wiltshire on the plug of artemisia found in the strainer bowl spout. The Doctor's grave

received world-wide attention when it was being excavated, and Ulrich Schädler's detailed examination of the game that this healer might have played provides a clear and instructive insight into games and gaming far beyond the Roman world, while Ralph Jackson's description and analysis of the surgical kit leads to the conclusion that many of the pieces were probably made in Camulodunum and that the 'Doctor' may have been a druid.



A large amber glass bowl from the mid 1st century AD Stanway Warrior's burial, possibly made in Italy as early as the late 1st century BC. Height 125 mm, maximum diameter 250 mm. Image copyright Colchester Archaeological Trust

Coming soon...

Artefacts and Society in Roman and medieval Winchester by H Rees, N Crummy, P J Ottaway and G Dunn

Product of 30 years of Herculanean research and Sisyphean editorial effort, it includes Roman finds from Winchester's northern, eastern and western cemeteries, and from occupation in the suburbs and on the defences. Contributions by all your favourite authors including Hilary Cool, John Davies, David Hinton, Martin Allen, Barrie Cook, Ann Thompson, Jacqui Watson and many more. Illustrations by Deborah Cunliffe, Judith Dobie, Karen Holt and Paul Jones. Funded by English Heritage and Winchester City Council, published by

Archetype IT. Publication date late 2007 or early 2008, projected price £36, around 400 pp, no fiche, no CD, all BOOK!

More forthcoming titles:

Hadrian: Empire and Conflict

by Thorsten Oppen

A new evaluation of the Roman Emperor (r. AD 117-138), this exhibition catalogue explores the sharp contradictions in his personality and his role as a ruthless military leader, amateur architect and tireless traveller.

Individual chapters of the book look at his architectural designs (such as his villa at Tivoli or his mausoleum at Rome), his relationship with the young Antoninus (who became the last pagan God from Antiquity) and a discussion of his legacy and historical influence, from the Wall to Marguerite Yourcenar's *Memoirs of Hadrian*.

(Exhibition Summer 2008, The British Museum, London).

British Museum Press, June 2008
Exhibition catalogue, 224 pages, 200 ill., pbk, £25.

British Museum Concise Introduction to Ancient Rome

by Nancy H. Ramage and Andrew Ramage

A concise, lively and authoritative overview of the history of Ancient Rome, from the foundation to its legacy in the modern Western world. Includes extensive reference material: chronologies, web resources, museum collections and specific bibliographies for each of its chapters.

British Museum Press, June 2008
192 pages, 170 ill., pbk, £14.99

British Museum Press 0207 323 1234
www.britishmuseum.co.uk

New titles

Imagining Roman Britain: Victorian responses to a Roman past by Virginia Hoselitz

This book explores the Victorian new idea of what Roman Britain really was, using archaeological activity in four British provincial towns (Caerleon, Cirencester, Colchester and Chester) to offer an explanation of why the preceding view of the Romans *had to* change with the establishment of the Victorian British Empire, and providing a set of authoritative and fresh insights into the way in which Victorian archaeology emerged, developed and altered how the modern world understood the ancient.

Royal Historical Society, Nov 2007
228 pages, £50

Medicine and healthcare in Roman Britain by Nicholas Summerton

In this book Dr Summerton has assembled and critically examines the archaeological, epigraphic and literary evidence for health care in Roman Britain, set in the context of the Roman Empire.

From the *Shire Archaeology* collection of introductions to topics of the Ancient World.

Shire Publications Ltd, Sep 2007
72 pages, pbk, £6.99
www.shirebooks.co.uk

Britannia Prima: The Romans in the West of Britain by Roger White

The book analyses the distinctive Romano-British character and cohesiveness that *Britannia Prima* - broadly the West of Britain - had after the 4th and up to the late 6th century, nature that the other provinces did not have or rapidly lost in the face of the Germanic conquest. The province successfully resisted significant Anglo-Saxon penetration and

Romano-British urbanism was kept alive longer than anywhere else in Britain, and led to the development of strongly Christian states that ultimately became the kingdoms of Wales.

Tempus, Jul 2007
224 pages, pbk, £19.99

Archaeology of identity: Soldiers and society in Later Roman Britain by Andrew Gardner

Gardner's book is an incisive exploration of social identity in Roman Britain, in the Roman Empire, and in ancient society. Drawing on the sociological theories of Anthony Giddens and others, the author shapes an approach that focuses on the central role of practice in the creation and maintenance of identities-nationalist, gendered, class, and ethnic. This theory is then tested against the material remains of Roman soldiers in Britain to produce a new story of the late period of the Roman province.

Left Coast Press / UCL Institute of Archaeology Publications, April 2007
312 pages, pbk, £19.99

Die Buntmetallfunde der Grabung Feddersen Wierde. Chronologie – Chorologie – Technologie by Jörn Schuster

The volume presents one of the largest non-ferrous metalwork assemblages of the Roman Iron Age from a Germanic settlement on the southern North Sea Coast. Analysis focuses on the settlement's chronological and social development as well as its regional and interregional relationships. The increasing importance of the chieftain's farmstead can be illustrated by the fact that while it was possible for a larger proportion of the settlement's inhabitants to acquire Roman objects in the first two centuries AD, coins dating to the 4th century AD (the only Roman finds category of that period) are entirely confined to that farmstead.

The character and degree of specialisation of the local metalworking craft is examined using both the finds and archaeological evidence that prove the local presence of the craft. Various indicators suggest the non-ferrous metalwork technology was introduced from the region around the Lower Elbe. Detailed analyses of traces of various work processes are backed up with macro photographs.

The volume contains an extensive catalogue, numerous metallurgical data as well as the results of radiocarbon and dendrochronological analysis.

Lower Saxony Institut of Historical Coastal Research, Wilhelmshaven; Roman-Germanic Commission of the German Archaeological Institute, Frankfurt am Main. *Probleme der Küstenforschung im südlichen Nordseegebiet* 30; *Feddersen Wierde* 6. Isensee-Verlag: Oldenburg: 2006. 279 pages with 69 figs., 24 tables and 31 plates. ISBN 978-3-89995-391-6. Hardback 45,00 €. German text with English and French summaries and English captions.

The complete Pompeii by Joanne Berry

An up-to-date, authoritative and comprehensive account for the general reader of Pompeii's rise, fall and impressive splendour.

The volume, an ultimate resource and inspirational guide, includes lavish illustrations, numerous box features and reams of information.

Thames & Hudson, Oct 2007
256 pages, hbk, £24.99

New in Paperback:

An imperial possession: Britain in the Roman Empire by David Mattingly

In 'An Imperial Possession', the first major narrative history of Roman Britain for a generation, David Mattingly draws on a wealth of new findings and knowledge to cut through the myths and misunderstandings that so commonly surround our beliefs about this period. From the rebellious chiefs and druids who led native British resistance, to the experiences of the Roman military leaders in the remote, dangerous outpost of their Empire, this book explores the reality of life in occupied Britain within the context of the shifting fortunes of the Roman Empire.

Penguin History of Britain
Hbk 2006, pbk 2007
640 pages, £12.99

(New books compiled by Lluís Tembleque)

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News, conferences, study days, and courses, in date order

Tombstone of Crescens found at Inveresk

The tombstone of a man called Crescens, a bodyguard in the service of the governor who ran the province of Britain for the Roman Emperor, has been found at Carberry, near Inveresk, near the line of a Roman road. The incomplete red sandstone memorial dates between AD 140 and 180, and the inscription reads: 'To the shades of Crescens, cavalryman of the Ala Sebosiana, from the detachment of the governor's bodyguard [the Equites Singulares]), served fifteen years; his heir [or heirs] had this erected'.

Fraser Hunter, Curator of Roman archaeology with National Museums Scotland, said: 'Tombstones like these are surprisingly rare in Scotland, given that there was a garrison of several thousand men here over a period of more than fifty years. Only thirteen have ever been found. This is the first time we have found evidence of the governor's bodyguard in Scotland. The image is fairly typical in that it shows a so-called barbarian, displayed as being naked and hairy, being overcome by a noble Roman soldier. It is very much a work of propaganda. Stones like these were there to celebrate the achievements of individuals in the Roman army, but were also there to intimidate people and act as a warning.'

The presence of the stone near Inveresk suggests that Crescens died while accompanying the governor on a visit to the fort there, and it provides strong evidence that Inveresk was a pivotal Roman site in northern Britain.

The stone was found by amateur archaeologist Larney Cavanagh at the edge of a field; it had been ploughed up and cleared from the field

without anyone noticing its inscription.

Cavanagh's attempts to alert archaeologists to the find were treated with scepticism until he sent them a series of images from his camera phone.

TAG 2007 (UK)

14th – 16th December 2007

Held at the Department of Archaeology, University of York. Cheques payable to 'University of York'. Organised as a series of pre-announced themed sessions. For more information contact the organisers at TAG 2007, Dept of Archaeology, The King's Manor, University of York, York YO1 7EP, email TAG07.york@gmail.com, web tag07.york.googlepages.com/home. The cost is £40 waged / £20 students.

Archaeology 2008

9th – 10th February 2008

The best of British archaeology at home and abroad. A major new conference event brought to you by *Current Archaeology* magazine and the British Museum's Department of Portable Antiquities and Treasure. All the latest news and views from the archaeological world with some of the very best and brightest speakers working in British archaeology including: Tim Taylor and Mick Aston - on the secrets of the TimeTeam; Martin Carver - Excavator of Sutton Hoo and editor of 'Antiquity' journal; Jonathan Foyle - Presenter of TV's 'Hidden House History'; Neil Holbrook - Cotswold Archaeology's top archaeologist; Mark Horton - BBC TV's 'Coast' and Reader of archaeology at Bristol University; Nick Hodgson - Arbeia Roman Fort & Museum; Andrew Selkirk and Neil Faulkner - Current Archaeology magazine; Alasdair Whittle - on the Radiocarbon Dating revolution. Held at the British Museum, London. Reduced fee before 30.11.07 for CA or CWA subscribers of £85, BBC History readers, English Heritage members and British Museum Friends all £95 before 30.11.07. Fee includes all lectures, refreshments and evening drinks reception. For more information contact

Current Archaeology at Barley Mow Centre, 10 Barley Mow Passage, London W4 4PH, tel 0845 644 77 07, email info@archaeology.co.uk, web: www.archaeology.co.uk. The cost is £125.

Celebrating Carlisle's heritage

7th – 9th March 2008

Held at Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery in conjunction with 'Carlisle Unearthed' exhibiton. Fee includes refreshments, lunches and three course conference dinner. Synthesising information from over 30 years of excavations in Carlisle to produce a detailed picture ranging from the environmental background to the industrial archaeology of the city. For brochure, ring 01228 618700. For more information contact the museum at Castle Street, Carlisle, Cumbria CA3 8TP, tel 01228 618718, email enquiries@tulliehouse.co.uk, web www.tulliehouse.ac.uk. The cost is £80.

Finds from the Frontier

8th-9th March 2008

From the 4th Century to the End of Roman Britain. Hosted by Museum of Antiquities, Newcastle University. Aims to bring together finds specialists of the Roman period to specifically shed light on the lives of the 4th century *limitanei* of Britain. For more information contact Robert Collins at Museum of Antiquities, Newcastle University, Newcastle on Tyne, NR1 7RU, email Robert.collins@ncl.ac.uk, web www.museums.ncl.ac.uk/fftf/. The cost is £15–£25.

IFA annual conference 2008

18th- 20th March 2008

The annual conference of the IFA, the professional organisation for archaeologists, has become established as the premier archaeological conference in the UK, attracting over 400 participants. With its combination of key addresses, wide-ranging sessions, workshops, displays, posters and other events, it is a vital forum for discussing topical

professional issues, as well as providing updates on current research. Held in Swansea, Wales and sponsored by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) & Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monument of Wales (RCAHMW). For more information contact Alex Llewellyn at Head of Administration, Institute of Field Archaeologists, SHES, University of Reading, Whiteknights, PO Box 227, Reading RG6 6AB, tel 0118 378 6448, email alex.llewellyn@archaeologists.net, web www.archaeologists.net/modules/icontent/index.php?page=18.

Roman army

29th March 2008-2nd April 2008

A residential course meeting in Durham, organised by the Hadrianic Society, open to anyone interested in the Roman army. Non-residential places also available. Topics include The Roman Army in its Landscape, Caesar's Italian Campaign, The Battle of Adrianople, The Praetorian Guard under Augustus and Caligula and the Seashells. See website for summary of this year's event and details of last year's course under 'Roman Army School'. For more information contact Dr Brian Dobson at President, 16 Swinside Drive, Belmont, Durham DH1 1AD, email annedobson1@uk2.net, web www.hadrianicsociety.com.