

## Roman Finds Group

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held during the Joint conference with Instrumentum at King's College, London

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2019

**19.1 Present.** Justine Bayley was in the Chair and 20 members attended. Apologies were received from Barbara Birley, Matt Fittock and Jane Tivers.

**19.2 Minutes.** The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in Canterbury on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March were approved as a correct record.

**19.3 Matters Arising.** There were none.

**19.4 Chairman's Report on the Year.** (*Circulated in advance of the meeting*)

2018 has been another great year for the Roman Finds Group with what have become our usual events and activities all continuing at full pace. I will be standing down at next month's AGM and am happy to be handing over my co-ordinating role at a time when the Group is in such good shape.

This year our membership has continued to show a steady increase, and despite some resignations we now have over 260 members, the highest number yet. Members have many benefits – from well-organised meetings to newsletters, datasheets, a growing website and an active Twitter feed. There are also grants and bursaries available – and I shall return to all these below.

During the year we held two meetings. The March weekend meeting in Canterbury (*Richborough and beyond*) was organised by Phil Smither, with help from the University of Kent and the local English Heritage team. A total of 68 people attended (including speakers and helpers) and a report on the meeting and associated papers appeared in *Lucerna* 55. For the London day meeting in October (*Finds for the living and finds for the dead in Roman London*), organised by Jackie Keily and Michael Marshall, we had 134 delegates including speakers and helpers, and benefited from a £300 grant from MOLA towards costs. Taking the year as a whole, over 200 delegates heard 28 speakers. Looking forward to 2019, we have a three-day meeting in London, jointly organised with Instrumentum, The Finds Group and the Later Prehistoric Finds Group, and in early November there will be a day meeting in Colchester. Further ahead, meetings are already being planned for Glasgow, Durham and Norwich.

*Lucerna* continues to be published twice a year with a print-run that grows in line with membership. Although its format has changed little over the last year, it has been pleasing to see a slight increase in the number of artefact-specific featured articles that have been contributed by RFG members – all of which have helped enhance their respective issues – as well as other expressions of interest for future issues. Going forward, *Lucerna* will continue to provide RFG members with group news, featured articles, mystery objects, conference reviews, and information about recent publications and upcoming events. There are currently no plans to adjust its existing format, but the editor is always happy to receive feedback and new suggestions that will enhance its content for all of its readers.

The number of datasheets, dealing with specific artefact types, continues to grow. Two more were produced this year, one on glass bangles, and one providing a typology of stone-carved phalli, based on a recent study from Hadrian's Wall. Several more are planned for 2019.

The RFG website remains a key means of communication with members of the public, and has continued to encourage new members to join. Statistics show consistent visitor numbers and overall growth. This year has seen more than 11,500 page views by 4,400 people. Half of this traffic originated from search engines, and about a quarter came via Twitter. The majority of visitors were from the UK but the rest were worldwide. The website has been upgraded by Alacrify, who continue to assist us with support, website administration and advice; this remains free of charge. The upgrade improved the website's security. Visitors are now protected by an SSL certificate which should reduce hacking and identity theft as well as providing GDPR compliance. Alacrify is currently training RFG Committee members so they can develop the content and reach of the site.

The RFG Twitter account has generated 187,953 impressions of tweets this year with 'drum-beat' tweets through the year about how to join RFG and the benefits of membership, news about Roman finds, as well as engaging with followers. Their numbers are now 2,646, up 23% over the year. Strongest

interest focuses on live-tweeting of papers from our conferences; the traffic around the live-tweeting from our Roman Dead conference in October accounted for over 33,900 views.

Three grants were awarded: Ruth Shaffrey received £250 towards the costs of thin sections of querns from Silchester as a part of a project on ‘The organisation of grain processing and supply of flour in Calleva Atrebatum’; Glynn Davis was given £350 towards the cost of colour photography for the project ‘Roman amber artefacts in Britain’; and Matt Fittock £225 towards photography fees for illustrations of pipeclay figurines to be published as a chapter in a book.

We have also introduced a conference bursary scheme for members, with up to 10 awards of £100 available each year – see the Membership page on the website for details.

There were no questions on it and it was accepted.

#### 19.5 Accounts 2018-2019. (*Circulated in advance of the meeting*)

<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Income from subscriptions	£2719	Lucerna issues and Datasheets	£1346
Income from grants received	£3000	Website hosting	£ 264
Income from conferences	£1747	Film project	£1062
		CBA subs	£ 64
		RFG grants given	£ 650
		Conference donations	£ 150
		Committee travel (2 meetings)	£ 391
<b>Income</b>	<b>£7466</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£3927</b>

**Cash balance** (as of 31.12.18): **£14281**

A busy year with two successful conferences and a grant of £2,700 from the Haverfield Bequest towards the RFG film project. Our membership is increasing but this is not reflected in the subs income as people are slow to pay at either the January or October pay points.

There were no questions and they were accepted.

**19.6 Election to Committee.** Justine Bayley had given notice that she wished to stand down as chairman. Stephen Greep was elected as Chairman and Edwin Wood as an ordinary member.

**19.7 Vote of Thanks** was given to Justine Bayley for all she had done as Chairman.

**19.8 Any Other Business.** There was none.

**19.9 Date of next meeting.**

The 2020 AGM will be held during the Spring Meeting in Glasgow. Date tbc.

Evan Chapman  
Minutes Secretary