

The Fourteenth Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference

26-27th of March 2004
University of Durham

Organizers: James Bruhn and Dimitris Grigoropoulos

Programme and Abstracts

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TRAC 2004**Friday Morning*******9:30 registration*****

Time	Exploring Regionalities Martin Pitts Room D110
10:00 -10:05	Introduction
10:05-10:30	From Regio to region: interrogating the palimpsest - James Gerrard (University of York)
10:30-10:55	The social use of ceramics: an approach to intra-regional consumption practices in south-east England - Martin Pitts (University of York)
10:55-11:20	NOT AT RANDOM: Evidence for a regionalized coin supply? - Fleur Kemmers (University of Nijmegen)
11:20-11:35	Coffee
11:35-11:55	'Regionality' and commemoration: the <i>cupae</i> of Iberia in their epigraphic and monumental contexts - Charlotte Tupman (University of Southampton)
11:55-12:15	Brickworks and ladders: explaining the intra-regional diversity of late prehistoric and Roman enclosed landscapes in the territory of the Parisi. - Mick Atha (University of York)
12:15-12:35	Discussion
12:35-12:45	

Lunch: 12:45-2:15

Van Mildert begins at 1:00 pm to 1:30 pm

Friday Morning*****9:30 registration*****

Time	Recycling matter in the Roman world: practice and meaning- Dimitris Grigoropoulos Room D118
10:00 -10:05	Introduction
10:05-10:30	Social and economical aspects of glass recycling - Daniel Keller
10:30-10:55	Metal-Working and Late Roman Power: A study of Towns in Later Roman Britain - Adam Rogers (University of Durham)
10:55-11:20	Monuments into debris: spoliation and recycling of stonework in Athens during the early Roman period. - Dimitris Grigoropoulos, (University of Durham)
11:20-11:35	Coffee
	General session - Paul Newson - Room D118
11:35-11:55	Roman Segmental Articulated Armour - Hilary Travis (University of Liverpool)
11:55-12:15	Battlefield Surgery in the Iron Age - Annette Frölich (University of Copenhagen)
12:15-12:35	Why Greeks and not Romans in British Archaeology? Imperialist matters and political and ideological affairs in late 19th and early 20th centuries Britain - Fabio Adriano Hering (UNICAMP - BRAZIL)
12:35-12:45	Discussion

Lunch: 12:45-2:15

Van Mildert serving at 1:00 pm to 1:30 pm

Friday afternoon

Time	Roman Landscape as a lived environment Ben Croxford Room D110 
2:15-2:25	Introduction
2:25-2:50	Identity in the Iron Age and Romano British periods of Ullswater, the Lake District, Cumbria: judging difference — Helen L. Loney (Crichton Campus, University of Glasgow) and Andrew W. Hoan (University of Glasgow)
2:50-3:15	Beyond the temple: blurring the boundaries of 'sacred space' - Eleanor Ghey
3:15-3:40	Exploring Roman Britain through the bioarchaeology of inhabitation - Rachel Ballantyne (University of Cambridge)
3:40-4:00	Coffee
4:00-4:25	Between Opportunities at the gates of hell? The Romans and their views of wetlands. - Birgitta Hoffmann
4:25-4:50	The quick and the dead in the extra-urban landscape: The Roman cemetery at Ostia/Portus as a lived environment — E.J. Graham (University of Sheffield)
4:50-5:15	The past is a basalt landscape: negotiating the previous environments of Roman Syria. - P.G. Newson (University of Durham)
5:15-5:20	Discussion

*****5:20 Reception in the Birley Room*****

Van Mildert serving 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Friday afternoon

Time	General session 2: The Roman Economy Richard Hartis Room D118
2:15-2:25	Introduction
2:25-2:50	Romano-British Butchery Practice – New Light on an Old Trade: Recognising urban identity through meat exploitation in Roman Britain -Krish Seetah (Cambridge)
2:50-3:15	Roman Coal -J R Travis
3:15-3:40	The Counter Revolution: Selling platforms in Roman Italy and beyond. -Ardle Mac Mahon
3:40-4:00	Coffee
4:00-4:25	Researching Ideas of Security in the Provinces of the Roman Empire in the Third Century AD. – Patrick Hurley
4:25-4:50	Perceptions of the Romano-British economy - Kevin Greene (University of Newcastle)
4:50-5:15	Feasting and its role in social change during the later Iron Age in Britain -Sarah Ralph (University of Cambridge)
5:15-5:20	Discussion

*****5:20 reception in the Birley room*****

Van Mildert serving 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Saturday Morning

***9:15 TRAC General Meeting Room D110 ***

Time	Frontiers of the Roman Empire: delineation, interaction, exchange James Bruhn and Jason Lucas Room D110
10:00 -10:05	Introduction
10:05-10:30	Interaction and exchange in Food Production in the Nijmegen Frontier Area during the Early Roman Period - Annemiek Robeerst
10:30-10:55	Man and animal on both sides of the border; the economic / non-economic use of animals in Roman Age Netherlands - Roel Lauwerier
10:55-11:20	Unifying Aspects of Roman Fortresses - Mark Driessen (University of Amsterdam)
11:20-11:35	Coffee
11:35-11:55	Reassessing <i>Vici</i> : Combining fielding walking and Geophysics at Piercebridge; some recent work - James Bruhn (University of Durham)
11:55-12:15	The Stone Wall of Hadrian: Construction and Survey - Rich Hartis (University of Durham)
12:15-12:35	Discussant David Breeze
12:35-12:45	Discussion

Lunch: 12:45-2:15

Van Mildert serving 1:00 pm to 1:30 pm

Saturday Morning

***9:15 TRAC General Meeting Room D110 ***

Time	Theory in the Archeology of Roman Italy: Traditional Themes and Current Approaches Room D118
10:00 -10:05	Introduction
10:05-10:30	Reading an Emperor's mind. Imperial building policy and early church buildings in Rome. - Claudia Kunze (University of Cambridge)
10:30-10:55	Producing and Consuming the Rural Landscapes of Roman Italy - Rob Witcher (BSR/ University of Southampton)
10:55-11:20	Houses, GIS and the Micro-Topology of Pompeian Domestic Space - Michael Anderson (University of Cambridge)
11:20-11:35	Coffee
11:35-11:55	After Marxism: Pottery and Socio-economic History in Republican Italy - Roman Roth (University of Cambridge)
11:55-12:15	TBA - Richard Miles (University of Cambridge)
12:15-12:35	Discussion
12:35-12:45	

Lunch: 12:45-2:15

Van Mildert serving 1:00 pm to 1:30 pm

Saturday Afternoon

Time	How Many Roman Britains? Pluralism and Synthesis in Roman Archaeology Andrew Gardner Room D110
2:15-2:25	Introduction
2:25-2:50	Beyond the Great Story? Multi-vocality in practice Andrew Gardner, (University of Leicester)
2:50-3:15	Post-colonial angst and writings about Roman Britain Richard Hingley, (University of Durham)
3:15-3:40	Empire, empiricism and Experience: synthesis and its limits in the archaeology of the Roman era Steve Willis
3:40-4:00	Coffee
4:00-4:25	James Deetz, Russell Crowe, and the Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Roman archaeology as historical archaeology Jane Webster, (National Maritime Museum)
4:25-4:50	Reconstructing syntheses in Romano-British cremation Jake Weekes, (University of Kent at Canterbury)
4:50-5:15	Discussant Martin Millett, (University of Cambridge)
5:15-5:20	Discussion

Van Mildert serving 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm

Saturday Afternoon

Time	Placing Finds in Context Daniel Keller Room D118
2:15-2:25	Introduction
2:25-2:50	Soldier, civilian and Roman military brick production. - Renate Kurzmann
2:50-3:15	Resistance is Flue tile - cultural identities and ceramic building material. - Phil Mills
3:15-3:40	Gift-exchange and identity in Late Antiquity: hoarding in 5th century Britain - Peter Guest, (Cardiff School of History & Archaeology, Cardiff University)
3:40-4:00	Coffee
4:00-4:25	Engendering Roman burials: The use of mortuary analysis to interpret gender in Roman Britain. - Melanie Sherratt
4:25-4:50	An Archipelago of Corrupt Fragments: Gender, Power and the Cartoceto Gilded Bronzes. - I.M. Ferris
4:50-5:15	Out of the fire and into the frying pan: Studying the human-built environment of Romano-British production. - Richard Jarrett (University of Durham)
5:15-5:20	Discussion

Van Mildert serving 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm

****The Sunday Excursion will leave from in front of the archaeology department at am.****

TRAC 2004 Abstracts:

Session

Exploring Regionalities

Session organizer: Martin Pitts, University of York

Regional diversity is increasingly seen as one of the principal characteristics of the archaeology of the Roman period. Such patterning has been explained by a variety of factors, ranging from economic strategies to the need to establish cultural identities. This session aims to explore various theoretical and methodological approaches to studying the phenomenon of 'regionality'. We hope to use a number of case-studies to encompass different classes of evidence and various levels of spatial resolution at which the region might have operated. Of particular concern is how regions, especially those based on distribution patterns derived from classes of material culture, came to be defined in the first place. Are our perceptions of regionality simply an artefact of present practices, for example the need to define 'study-areas' for our research projects on the basis of good quality, accessible data? Or do they relate to the real experiences of communities in the past? And, if so, what are they telling us about the interaction between imperial power and more localised dynamics?

Paper Abstracts:

From Regio to region: interrogating the palimpsest -James Gerrard (York)

This paper springs from the difficulties encountered in defining a study area for a piece of doctoral research that encompassed a temporal transition (the 'end' of Roman Britain), high quality archaeological data and yet also retained some 'meaning' in the past. It argues, through a series of case studies, that the manner in which our study areas are defined are the products of a palimpsest of ancient and historical constructs that both inform and prejudice our judgment.

The social use of ceramics: an approach to intra-regional consumption practices in south-east England -Martin Pitts (York)

This paper addresses some of the issues and problems with using ceramic evidence to elucidate social and cultural identities at a regional level. From a theoretical perspective, this involves the provision of models for the articulation of regional identities through pottery use and consumption. Particular emphasis is placed on the social use of ceramics in dynamic spheres of socio-cultural practice (most notably domestic and ritual consumption). This approach is seen as being in direct opposition to the current orthodoxy in Romano-British pottery studies, which has been traditionally focused on processualist concerns such as production and provenance.

The second half of the paper is principally focused on methodological concerns, including issues pertaining to the quantification, recording and publication of pottery assemblages. A methodology is proposed (involving the use of multivariate statistics) for the analysis of regional consumption patterns and identities, and

this is demonstrated briefly on a series of assemblages from south-east England.

NOT AT RANDOM: Evidence for a regionalized coin supply?

-Fleur Kemmers (Nijmegen)

The Roman government's main purpose in minting coinage was to pay the troops. Those troops, both auxiliaries and legions, were spread unevenly over the empire. Theoretically one would expect every unit to receive each year the same amount of newly minted money. However, a preliminary survey of coin finds from Roman sites in Upper and Lower Germany and Britain shows that large differences exist between specific regions, though some show the same characteristics. Those regions seem to be smaller than provinces, but larger than single legionary bases. Most likely this regionality in coin supply does not really reflect the attitudes of the inhabitants, but it might reflect what the Roman authorities regarded as meaningful entities.

Not only the years in which a large amount of 'fresh' coins was supplied to the legions differ, but also the denominations used and the dominant coin types. This might imply that the Roman authorities were aware of the economic situation (e.g. a low price level) in a specific area. Furthermore it might reveal an interest of the imperial government in distributing not only coins, but with them some basic messages, aimed at specific regions.

'Regionality' and commemoration: the cupae of Iberia in their epigraphic and monumental contexts -Charlotte Tupman (Southampton)

Regional and local diversity is a central theme of this research project, which explores differences in commemoration with inscribed funerary monuments in the Iberian peninsula during the second and third centuries AD, and the extent to which these differences can help to reveal cultural identities and patterns of

social differentiation. It focuses on cupae, barrel-shaped tomb markers which appear in the early second century and are found across a variety of sites which are largely concentrated within two particular areas: north-east Tarraconensis and southern Lusitania. These very distinctive tombstones do not conform to our usual expectations of provincial funerary monuments in this period, in that they are modelled neither on the standard altars and stelae nor, it seems, on any indigenous monument types. Set up mainly by slaves, freedmen and foreigners, the cupae have no 'elite precedent', in that they were not built in emulation of an elite style of funerary commemoration. The small amount of scholarly work which has been done on the cupae has always treated them as a phenomenon in their own right, with no real attempt to place them within the context of the other funerary monuments of the sites at which they have been found. This project believes that identifying and studying local and regional patterns of commemoration is vital if we are to understand why these particular groups considered cupae an appropriate type of funerary monument. This paper will discuss the concept of 'regionality' within the context of commemoration with inscribed funerary monuments, and will explore the ways in which monuments such as the cupae, despite being visually very similar, may have been used and interpreted in a variety of ways at different sites and by different groups.

Brickworks and ladders: explaining the intra-regional diversity of late prehistoric and Roman enclosed landscapes in the territory of the Parisi. -Mick Atha, University of York

Eastern Yorkshire is a region linked archaeologically to the so-called Arras Culture of the 5th to 1st centuries BC, and to the Parisi tribe with whom a similar territory is thought to be associated immediately prior to and during the Roman period. Such territorial-cultural connections were established around geographical distributions of La Tène square barrow burials and grave goods in the former period, and the identification of regional landmarks and

towns with places mentioned in Roman texts in the latter. More recent research has revealed a regionally distinctive settlement pattern dominated by extensive linear enclosure complexes or ladder settlements. These linear nucleations typify the rural settlement pattern of much of the region from the 1st-century BC until the end of the Roman period.

In the Wolds, the pre-existing communications network of long-distance trackways and boundaries appears to have been influential in the development of the settlement pattern and its associated field systems. Conversely, in the co-axial or 'brickwork' field systems of the adjacent lowlands the field system itself seems to have been the dominant structuring factor. Significantly, outside areas of direct imperial influence like those envisaged surrounding forts and towns at Brough, York and Malton and roads in between, such rural settlements exhibit strikingly little engagement with Roman material culture until the third century AD.

The differential character of settlements in the uplands and lowlands, and within and outside zones of direct Roman influence is explored through the critical assessment of existing theoretical models and in light of recent fieldwork. It is proposed that a successful pre-Roman rural economy provided little requirement for intervention by the Roman authorities. It is further argued that the pre-conquest emergence of mass enclosure in the form of ladder settlements was a structural reflection of changing community-household relations. The post-conquest continuation and apparent 3rd-century acceleration of this process suggests perhaps an increasing emphasis on Roman expressions of social differentiation but mediated through Parisian social structures.

Session

Recycling matter in the Roman world: practice and meaning

Session organizer: Dimitris Grigoropoulos, University of Durham

The Roman period across the regions that made up the empire has been characterised by an explosion in the range and choice of artefacts that people could obtain, consume and discard. Artefacts and material culture however have complex trajectories in their use by human societies that reach beyond the discard phase. Recycling, the redeployment of disused or no-more-usable materials, artefacts or parts of artefacts, is a key concept in formation process theory but only in recent years it has begun to be examined in its specific social and historical contexts. To what extent were things recycled, under what circumstances and in what contexts in the Roman world? What was the impact of recycling on the biographies of artefacts and what social and economic impact could this have engendered? This session aims to bring together information about the recycling of material culture in the Roman world and to set this practice in its specific historical and social contexts. Speakers are encouraged to explore the recycling of different materials and artefacts across the Roman world with a view to understanding the social, economic and symbolic forces behind this practice.

Paper Abstracts:

Social and economical aspects of glass recycling

- Daniel Keller

The social and economical context of glass recycling in the Roman world will be reconsidered in this paper. Since the Augustan period glass was used as everyday table ware not only in Italy but in the entire Roman empire and the technology of glass blowing spread throughout the empire. However, the discovery that glass could be totally remelted took place most likely in the early Flavian period. Literary and archaeological evidence indicates that collecting broken glass was common practice from the later 1st century AD onwards. Literary sources indicate that broken glass was collected by peddlers in exchange for useful household goods.

The collection and reuse of broken glass as cheap and locally available raw material offered economical advantages for the production of glass vessels. In some regions of the empire such as Roman Britain, broken glass could have been the main source of raw material for local glass workshops. As raw glass was produced in the Roman world in a few primary glass workshops only and then transported to secondary glass workshops in which the glass vessels were blown, the supply with enough raw glass was not secured in certain regions and during certain periods. In a case study, glass recycling in Byzantine Palestine will be presented focusing on economical reasons and social meaning.

Metal-Working and Late Roman Power: A Study of Towns in Later Roman Britain –Adam Rogers (University of Durham)

This paper explores the clear trend of metal-working within the public buildings of towns in the later Roman period in Britain. This evidence has been used predominantly to support ideas of decline – leading to fall – of towns but here an alternative, and more positive,

approach will be taken. It will be suggested that the concept of decline and fall is in fact a modern social construct deriving from the social attitudes of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and also classical notions, based upon an élite mindset, of iron and rust replacing a golden age. Evidence for iron-, lead- and bronze-working and pewter manufacture within, and on the sites of public buildings, will be discussed in the light of the ritual significance of metal-working and its symbolism for regeneration and rebirth. There are many indications of ritual activity connected with the metal-working including possible feasting, animal sacrifice and deposition. The likelihood of the metal-working activities using recycled rather than new metal and its importance in the life-cycle of the public buildings will also be examined. It will be suggested that these central locations were powerful sites in the minds of the inhabitants and that there was a comparable significance of central sites in the late pre-Roman Iron Age where metal-working was also important. The recycling of metal from these buildings, and elsewhere, combined with the ritual significance of regeneration in the process of metal-working implies a desire to revive these sites and the power of the past. This interpretation of the evidence contrasts greatly with traditional notions of decline.

Monuments into debris: spoliation and recycling of stonework in Athens during the early Roman period - Dimitris Grigoropoulos, (University of Durham)

The use of *spolia*, stone elements retrieved from old and/or derelict buildings and monuments, for architectural purposes is a widespread phenomenon in the Roman Empire, especially in the architecture of the Late Roman period. Although much recent work has emphasized the symbolic content of this practice, discussions of recycled stonework in the Roman empire have focused on the history of individual monuments rather than using this evidence to understand the social forces behind it. This is especially the case with monuments which incorporate recycled masonry in conspicuous positions or objects of intrinsic value such as inscriptions and reliefs,

most notably in the case of the Arch of Constantine in Rome. Although this is a valid approach, this tendency has established a dichotomy between what are perceived to be singular items worthy of re-display in architectural contexts and the mass of 'indistinct' recycled rubble, either conspicuous or filling the space in the foundations of buildings.

This paper takes a wider 'biographical' approach to encompass both the creation of such objects and their various uses in contemporary society by exploring recycled stonework in Athens and its port at Piraeus in Achaea during the Early Roman period. This part of the province experienced some dramatic changes in the early first c. BC, when Athens and Piraeus were sacked by the Romans under L. Cornelius Sulla. Monuments and the material fabric of the two towns were acted upon during the siege in strategies of the aggressors to reduce the morale of the local population, while the debris left from the sack was managed in different but equally significant ways in the reconstruction of the towns in the following period. By adopting this approach, it is hoped that the paper will avoid replicating the function – style dichotomy, while attempting to use this type of interesting archaeological evidence to make a genuine contribution towards a broader historical synthesis of the period in question.

General Session 1:
Chair: Paul Newson
Paper Abstracts:

ROMAN SEGMENTAL ARTICULATED ARMOUR - Hilary
Travis

Roman segmental articulated armour is known to have been in use from the 1st C AD (from the Augustan period) through to the mid to late 3rd C. Sculptural representations include Trajans column and grave stelae. The earliest finds of prototype lorica segmentata have been from Kalkriese, Germany dating to the time of the lost legions of Varus, while the final 3rd C development can be seen from the Newstead finds (AD 259-260). However, the largest one find of segmentata comes from Corbridge, being a collection, dating to the middle period of its use, of parts of various sets which can be divided into 2 basic types, A and B. This gives a developmental progression of types "Kalkriese", "Corbridge A", "Corbridge B", through to the final Newstead type.

Reconstructing the lorica segmentata has been based on both sculptural and archaeological evidence, although the earliest artistic reconstructions, eg 1901 by Von Groller, were never tested by actual reconstruction. Later H Russell Robinson, an experienced armourer, after the discovery of the Corbridge hoard, pioneered reconstructed representations, testing the viability of previous theories, discounting some and eventually reaching a version which was as close as possible to what the original may have been.

I have recently been re-assessing the Corbridge finds, noting a several features not present in the Russell Robinson reconstructions, which suggest possible alternative methods of construction, particularly in the case of the Corbridge B type. By comparing these Corbridge finds to the earliest evidence of segmentata from Kalkriese (9AD), and to finds from the time of the conquest of

Britain (43AD), such as Chichester, Hod Hill, etc, it is possible to reconstruct this earliest prototype form. This then follows a progression of improvements and modifications through to its final 3rd C form. However, this prototype "Kalkriese" form may also have to be subdivided into a Type A and a later development, Type B, from the early invasion contexts in Britain. To test the constructional differences noted, based on the archaeological evidence I have recently built the (at present) only reconstructed example of this prototype "Kalkriese" lorica segmentata.

This paper therefore will discuss:-

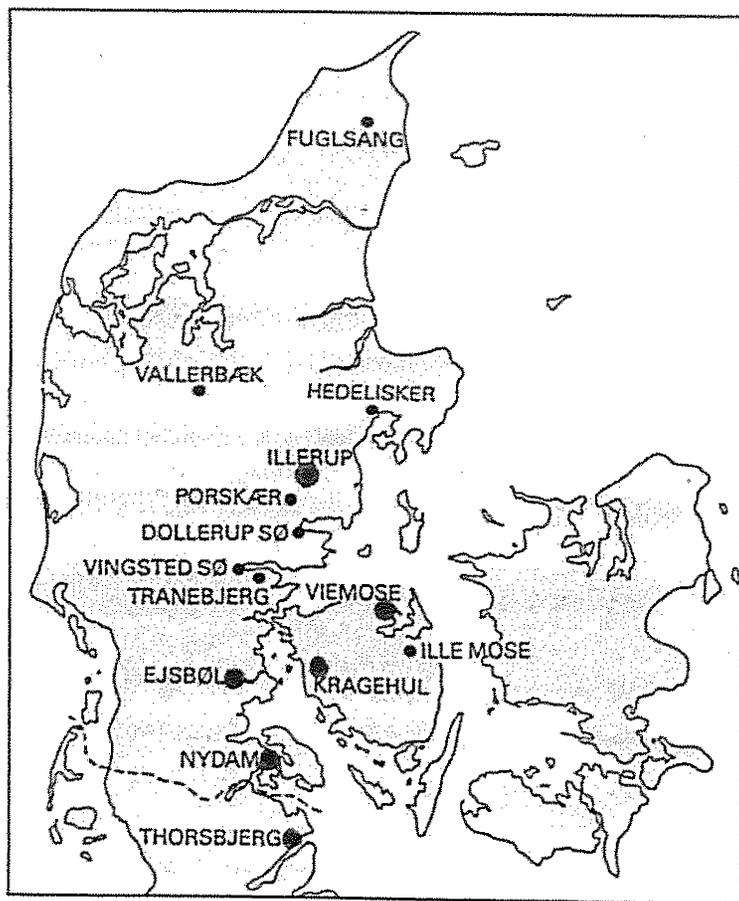
- The early interpretations of lorica segmentata.
- The original "Corbridge" reconstructions by H Russell Robinson.
- The evidence for the "Kalkriese" prototype.
- Suggested alternative reconstructions of the "Corbridge B" and "Newstead" forms.

Battlefield Surgery in the Iron Age- Annette Frölich (University of Copenhagen)

The title of the dissertation is 'Battlefield Surgery in the Iron Age', and it is illustrated by a reinterpretation of artefacts found in the sacrificial bogs at Thorsbjerg, Nydam, Ejsbøl, Illerup Ådal, Vimose and Kragehul reinterpreted in the light of European, classic and Egyptian archaeological finds and ethno archaeological parallels and in the light of the author's years of experience as a practicing specialist in gynaecology and obstetrics.

No surgical instruments from the Iron Age have previously been construed or identified as such in Denmark or Schleswig-Holstein; the purpose of this dissertation is to examine the possible finding and identification of surgical instruments – or what could be construed as a battlefield surgeon's instruments – among artefacts thrown into the above-mentioned sacrificial bogs in the Iron Age. In this dissertation, the term 'surgical instrument' means an instrument used in the practice of medicine. Material for the dissertation was collected in a

review of illustrations in published works about these bog finds, localising these artefacts and examining them at the museums at which they were located. Also examined were artefacts in museum storage that had been found in the above-mentioned bogs. A few Norwegian Iron Age gravesites were also examined briefly. In an effort to reinterpret the function of the artefacts, they were compared with known surgical instruments found in the geographical area controlled by the Greeks and later the Romans and with pictures of artefacts and a few written sources from the same area. They were also compared with ethnographic parallels. The material upon which the dissertation is based consists of a total of 67 artefacts, each identified as being from one of the above-mentioned bogs. Of these 67 artefacts, 40 can be identified and reinterpreted as being surgical instruments and 27 are toilet sets, i.e. tweezers for personal use or sets consisting of tweezers connected by a metal ring to either an ear pick or a nail cutter. Analysis of the artefacts revealed that in six of the above-mentioned bogs, 40 surgical instruments were found among sacrificed weapons: 29 scalpels, one pair of tweezers, five needles, more than 200 'wound thorns', three trephination saws and a double box. These instruments and the context, in which they were found, i.e. among sacrificed Iron Age weapons, indicate that the artefacts can be interpreted as being a battlefield surgeon's instruments. It must be concluded that battlefield surgeons, women or men, took part in the acts of war, and their equipment was sacrificed to the bogs in the Iron Age. It must also be concluded that these surgeons gained their knowledge through not only contact with civilians but also from a close association with the military of the Roman Empire. This insight into the humanitarian care principles and philosophy of Iron Age civilisation is completely new and of substantial cultural and historical significance to the currently reigning view of the Roman Iron Age within the geographical area that is Denmark today.



The geographical location of investigated sacrificial bogs.

Why Greeks and not Romans in British Archaeology? Imperialist matters and political and ideological affairs in late 19th and early 20th centuries Britain -Fabio Adriano Hering (UNICAMP – BRAZIL)

This paper analyses the role Ancient Greece played in British archaeology during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. One of the main issues to be discussed will be the processes leading towards the construction of a specific image of Greek ancient heritage as opposed to a Roman one (Bernal, 1987). In contrast to the common held view based on an internalist perspective of the history of archaeology, that maintains that the ideas developed were associated with the spectacular discoveries made at the time (Marchand, 1996), I will follow an externalist perspective (Diaz-Andreu, 2002). I will argue that the developments on the discipline can be better understood in the framework of the political and ideological expectations, marked by the same concerns that ruled the arena of foreign affairs (Hingley, 2000; Said, 1993). In this paper I will examine the degree to which roman archaeology was seen by some of the archaeologists who worked on Ancient Greece as an intellectual enterprise associated mainly with conservative politics (Turner, 1989).

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Session

The Roman landscape as a lived environment

Session organiser: Ben Croxford (University of Cambridge)

Much of the Roman landscape was inhabited and experienced on a day-to-day basis; many of these experiences, particularly the interpretations arising from these, are now all but lost to us today. We are unable to experience the Roman landscapes ourselves and even if we could, our interpretation of these spaces and places would most likely differ greatly from that of the Roman period inhabitants and observers. Despite these obstacles, it is still possible to make some comment on how these spaces and places may have been viewed, used and experienced during the Roman period. This session aims to bring together varying approaches to the Roman landscape and to consider what it is possible to say about these spaces, their uses and interpretations. The landscape was a lived environment and it is important that people are included in our consideration of this area of Roman archaeological study.

Paper Abstracts:

Identity in the Iron Age and Romano British periods of Ullswater, the Lake

District, Cumbria: judging difference – Helen L. Loney (Crichton Campus, University of Glasgow) and Andrew W. Hoan (University of Glasgow)

In this paper we will begin to assess how we reconstruct the identity of two very dissimilar settlements which overlap in time, and are adjacent in space.

The relationship between the late Iron Age peoples and the Roman occupation is poorly understood in the Lake District, Cumbria. Burgess has suggested that there was little first millennium BC occupation, after the depopulation of the uplands during the second

millennium climatic downturn. Consequently, he suggests that most if not all 'native' settlements are started as the result of Roman economic growth. However, the evidence from the Matterdale Archaeology Project, in Matterdale and Hutton parishes suggests that contra to Burgess, there is a well established Iron Age community, predating Roman arrival. Further, despite the relatively poor evidence for site chronology, there is evidence of a well-established, local Iron Age society with strong trading links with the Romans, which can be contrasted with other local sites, which can be demonstrated as new to the area, but with poor trading power. This paper will use the authors' current research into Iron Age settlement in Matterdale, the Lake District, Cumbria, to compare and contrast contemporary yet differing Iron Age settlements, in order to better understand issues in cultural identity and political participation. In particular, new evidence of a well-established pre-Roman Iron Age sheds light on the relationships between local settlements and non-local incomers, and how the results of their interaction manifests themselves during the Roman period.

Beyond the temple: blurring the boundaries of 'sacred space' - Eleanor Ghey

Using examples from the Burgundy region, this paper considers aspects of the wider landscape contexts of Gallo-Roman temple sites. Apparent similarities in the form of Gallo-Roman temples may cause specific architectural responses to site to be overlooked. The choice of site made reference to events and features more distant in time and space.

The paper questions the idea of conceptually bounded 'sacred space' in this context, temple sites being embedded in daily experience of landscape. It examines the ways in which temple sites could be seen to extend sacred authority into a wider area both through their visibility and by means of their relationship with watercourses. It also examines the limits of concepts of architecture in a temple

setting, arguing for a less rigid distinction between 'natural' and 'constructed' features.

Exploring Roman Britain through the bioarchaeology of inhabitation - Rachel Ballantyne (University of Cambridge).

The role of daily activities in the creation and expression of identity, both cultural and economic, can be investigated through bioarchaeology. Plant and animal remains express past activity patterns within their taphonomy and by their constellation with other artefact types, in addition to providing evidence of species. The changing foodstuffs, commercialisation, and settlement forms of Roman Britain will be examined from the perspective of everyday subsistence activities. This presentation will draw widely upon published archaeobotanical remains, in conjunction with other archaeological and historical sources. It will further be argued that the concept and semantics of landscape inadequately encapsulate the time-space qualities of daily life, and that inhabited environment may be a more productive interpretive framework.

Between Opportunities at the gates of hell? The Romans and their views of wetlands. - Birgitta Hoffmann

Classical texts are frequently cited as evidence that the Romans shunned wetland as marginal lands with connotations to the underworld, much of this is based on Classical mythology and poetry, but also the recurrent finds of the archaeological wetland deposits. On the other hand evidence abounds that when faced with wetlands the Romans took a very practical approach to them, draining them, using coastal marshes for salt panning and using them successfully for strategic purposes. This paper will review the evidence and try to put the very divergent views into perspective to each other.

The quick and the dead in the extra-urban landscape: The Roman cemetery at Ostia/Portus as a lived environment - E.J. Graham (University of Sheffield)

Modern descriptions of Roman cemeteries on the outskirts of urban areas as "cities of the dead" imply landscapes devoid of life and dominated by the dead who resided there for eternity. However, far from being a static extension of the city, these areas played an active role in the society of the living on a political, social and religious level. This paper aims to highlight the existence, location and structure of the Roman cemetery as a lived environment by discussing its frequent use by the living for activities related directly and indirectly to funerary ritual. In particular, the manipulation of the extra-urban landscape for the interaction of the dead and the living will be explored by examining the Isola Sacra cemetery at Ostia/Portus. Rituals, such as dining, which regularly took place within the environment of the cemetery, and the structures associated with them provide a backdrop for a detailed examination of the ways in which the living experienced these fluid and negotiable spaces.

The past is a basalt landscape: negotiating the previous environments of Roman Syria. - P.G. Newson (University of Durham)

In many regions of the Roman Near East, considered marginal lands today, evidence exists of dense sedentary settlement at certain periods in the past. Before the present day, the most widespread and intense development of such land appears to have commenced during the Roman period. One such area is that of the Basalt Region to the North of Homs in Central Syria. Recent survey has collected a large amount of evidence which documents the progressive development of this marginal area and which seems to have intensified after the Roman annexation. The paper seeks to interpret the available evidence as to how the Roman authorities and the local

population negotiated the past, whilst establishing new relationships within the landscapes of the basalt.

General Session 2:
Chair: Richard Hartis
Paper Abstracts:

Romano-British Butchery Practice – New Light on an Old Trade: Recognising urban identity through meat exploitation in Roman Britain -Krish Seetah (Cambridge)

Key words: multidisciplinary, butchery, identity, carcass and Romano-British.

Increasingly faunal studies are being used as a viable means of better understanding aspects of food predilection and exploitation. One area of faunal studies that has been somewhat underestimated in terms of the cultural and socio-economic data that it can provide is that of butchery analysis.

The present study investigates the issue of urban Romano-British meat use, which had been categorised as being 'crude and unskilled'. A multidisciplinary methodology, based on modern butchery knowledge, was used to replicate a number of the more distinctive marks observed on Romano-British cattle bones in order to clarify what actions may have caused them, what implements may have been used and what actual function (i.e. were the cut made for gross dismemberment, skinning etc) was evident.

The main outcomes suggested that rather than lack of skill the Romano-British butchers were in fact processing the carcasses quickly, using innovative and specific techniques to do so, with increases in demand possibly forming a catalyst for the techniques seen. It was also noted that specific butchery implements were in production and use, with evidence suggesting that potentially both the tools and techniques originated on military sites. Most importantly however were the new insights into this aspect of food preparation and how demand in meat led to changes in, and possibly even the establishment of, one of the first large scale food businesses/ professions relating specifically to meat.

On a greater level the methods carried out to study this period have clearly shown that butchery data can be a viable means of extracting culturally important findings. With further research a range of

information relating to aspects of identity and food - such as diet preferences; cuisine; trade; meat production/ exploitation/ disposal, as well as implement specialisations for food processing - should be elucidated.

Roman Coal -J R Travis

During the Roman Period in Britain one of the major fuels used for both industrial and domestic purposes was coal. This paper aims to examine coal, its extraction, transportation and use from the 1st to 6th century AD. The area used for this initial study is the coalfields of South Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Lancashire where there appears to be a relationship between settlements and coal outcrops. Coal has been a common find on over 800 Roman sites in Britain, including military installations, villas, farmsteads and industrial complexes, where it was presumably used as fuel to heat bath houses, barracks, domestic houses, and in the production of tools, pottery etc. Evidence from many sites show that certain types of coal were also used to produce jewellery, loom weights and possibly even furniture. There is evidence that coal may have been used as a fuel in Britain and mainland Europe from the Palaeolithic, with further evidence from regions of Britain that it was used in certain processes of metal production from the late Iron Age.

The aims of this paper are:

1. To locate the sources of the coal and identify areas of coal extraction.
2. To look at the relationship between settlements located in the coal measures and the outcrops of coal seams.
3. To look at the methods of extraction during the Roman Period.
4. To look at the transportation of coal.
5. To look at the uses that coal was put to, such as heating, fuel and its uses in certain industrial processes, such as metal processing.

The Counter Revolution: Selling platforms in Roman Italy and beyond. -Ardle Mac Mahon

One of the most distinctive and clearly identifiable features of the known tabernae of Pompeii, Herculaneum and Ostia are their shop counters. The taberna counter was the real focus of the shop and where the activities of buying and selling took place. Counters were not just a mundane and utilitarian feature of the shop floor but were an element of pride for their owners as numerous selling platforms were elaborately embellished with coloured marble or painted decoration. Many shops counters have been lost but substantial counters can also be found outside Italy in North Africa and further evidence for their existence can be seen on depictions on bas-reliefs from Italy and Gaul.

The position and form of a counter within a taberna had a great deal to say about how the shop functioned. The majority of premises operated for profit but others performed social and welfare services. Many of the counters were similar in form to modern examples, some were temporary and functioned as stalls, and others had a more specialised purpose. Counters were part of the very identity of the taberna and represented the type of establishment, its standard of sophistication and most importantly distinguished it from competing premises.

The diversity of selling platforms in many ways typified the items sold by the taberna, evolving refinement and advances in retail techniques, operational trends and perhaps even political dictates. From the point of view of the customer taberna counters reflected shopping patterns, social and living habits, changing life styles, spending power and eating and drinking patterns. This paper wishes to examine the diversity of selling platforms, discuss their function and to place taberna counters within the context of retail in the Roman world.

Researching Ideas of Security in the Provinces of the Roman Empire in the Third Century AD. –Patrick Hurley

This paper is a report on my ongoing research for my PhD dissertation, which is on the subject on ideas of security in the provinces of the Roman Empire in the Third Century AD. The third century 'crisis' has been the subject of much debate for scholars over the years. The focus of my research is to find out whether or not it is possible to find out how the inhabitants of the empire during this time, both soldiers and civilians, viewed their position in their respective provinces. Did they see their situation as a 'crisis' situation? Did they feel that they needed to be prepared against the threat of the Third Century 'crisis,' even in the provinces that were not directly threatened by it? If either of these above situations was the case, what measures did they take in order to either resolve the problems of crisis, or to prevent a crisis from happening in their area in the first place? With the help archaeological, literary, numismatic and epigraphical evidence, we might be able to get a better idea of how people 'on the ground' dealt with the Third Century crisis.

Perceptions of the Romano-British economy - Kevin Greene
(University of Newcastle)

Who speaks for Roman Britain? How has the 'economy' been constituted in publications, and why have certain categories of evidence been given a higher status than others? This paper will compare the professional background of contributors to recent publications on Roman archaeology in Britain, and explore the historiographical background of the role of pottery as a form of proxy evidence in studies of the economy.

Feasting and its role in social change during the later Iron Age in Britain -Sarah Ralph

Food is much more than just a source of nourishment, it is also a language through which a society expresses itself. Eating is an activity that can be used by the social group or the individual within the group, as a symbol to communicate a message. The ritual feasting system was a key social context in which political alliance and status relationships were negotiated and the productive potential of individuals and kin groups were publicly displayed.

Feasting constitutes part of a central domain of social action that has largely been absent from archaeological analysis. Discussions of the transformations of political systems fail to consider the kinds of social practices by which people negotiate relationships, pursue economic and political goals, compete for power and reproduce and contest ideological representations of social order and authority.

The later Iron Age and Early Roman period in Britain (500BC – AD 100) was a time of considerable change. There were marked changes in settlement, ritual, material culture and political organisation. Imports of ceramic, metal and glass vessels as well as exotic foodstuffs and wine demonstrate an increased concern with the semiotics of the meal and the use of eating and drinking as a vehicle for social distinction and emulation.

Why Greeks and not Romans in British Archaeology? Imperialist matters and political and ideological affairs in late 19th and early 20th centuries Britain -Fabio Adriano Hering (UNICAMP – BRAZIL)

This paper analyses the role Ancient Greece played in British archaeology during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. One of the main issues to be discussed will be the processes leading towards the construction of a specific image of Greek ancient heritage as opposed to a Roman one (Bernal, 1987). In contrast to the common held view based on an internalist perspective of the history of archaeology, that maintains that the ideas developed were associated with the spectacular discoveries made at the time (Marchand, 1996), I will follow an externalist perspective (Diaz-Andreu, 2002). I will argue that the developments on the discipline can be better understood in the framework of the political and ideological expectations, marked by the same concerns that ruled the arena of foreign affairs (Hingley, 2000; Said, 1993). In this paper I will examine the degree to which roman archaeology was seen by some of the archaeologists who worked on Ancient Greece as an intellectual enterprise associated mainly with conservative politics (Turner, 1989).

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Frontiers of the Roman Empire: delineation, interaction, exchange

Session Organizers: James Bruhn, (University of Durham) and Jason Lucas, (University of Southampton)

Discussant: David Breeze

Paper Abstracts:

Interaction and exchange in Food Production in the Nijmegen Frontier Area during the Early Roman Period.

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Key words: Interaction, change and exchange, Urbanisation, Animal husbandry, Pre-Flavian Period

The subject of this lecture focuses on the bone material found while excavating the Pre-Flavian settlement of *Oppidum Batavorum*, the predecessor of the civitas capital *Ulpia Noviomagus* that developed in Nijmegen following on the Batavian Revolt in 69/70 AD. The Nijmegen region is currently the object of intensive study by several Archaeological Research Institutions. One of the research methods used is Archaeozoology, a key complement to any archaeological study.

One of the main research questions archaeozoology deals with in the Roman Period is the impact of the incorporation of the region in the

Roman Empire, and changes caused by the process of Romanisation concerning food supply, dietary habits, stock breeding and trade circuits both long distance and within the surrounding area.

Focusing on *Oppidum Batavorum*, the nature and function of the settlement is still rather vague. The present consensus for the settlement is that of a Roman founded civil centre for the newly created *Civitas Batavorum*: the layout, infrastructure, buildings and pottery are not of native tradition. Analysis of the bone material found in *Oppidum Batavorum* also indicates that the settlement was probably inhabited by a (Gallo) Roman population, which was already more "Romanised". However, since only about 3 % of the settlement area has been excavated, conclusions about the nature of the settlement must be considered provisional.

Since *Oppidum Batavorum* was one of the Roman founded settlements in the Nijmegen area, it was most likely part of the driving spirit responsible for the processes that occurred because of the creation of the *Civitas Batavorum*. From the Augustan phase onwards, indications exist that the animal husbandry system and the handling of animals have changed which resulted in intensification, interaction and exchange toward a market orientation of the system. It is argued that changes were observed on several issues regarding (A) consumption patterns, (B) stock improvements, (C) use of primary and secondary products, (D) breeding and keeping intensification, and (E) the introduction of new species.

A. The general trend for the animal utilization is an increase in pork consumption, which can be observed in *Oppidum Batavorum* as well as nearby *Atuatuca Tungrorum* / Tongres (Belgium), and *pre-Colonia Xanten* (Germany). Compared with the rural river area settlements, where cattle values remain at a high level after the Late Iron Age, in *Oppidum Batavorum* the decrease of beef consumption is counterbalanced by the increase in pork consumption. In addition, the animal consumption displayed more variation; game, birds and fish were more frequently on the menu.

B. Stock improvements were mostly focused on cattle; indications of oust breeding or other breeding enhancements were visible in the increase of the withers height as early as the Augustan period. There are indications that the surrounding native settlements interacted in the cattle improvement-breeding programme as well, since withers heights have increased here simultaneously.

The picture for the increase of the horse mean withers height is more complicated. Although the population found in *Oppidum Batavorum* displays no significant increase in withers height when compared with the Late Iron Age, specimens found in Tongres, Xanten, and rural Wijk bij Duurstede – De Horden indicate an increase for this period as well. It is possible that the sample from *Oppidum Batavorum* is lacking larger specimens due to the limited sample.

C. The use of primary and secondary animal products has changed for the sheep/goat category. The emphasis previously lay on meat production (lamb), but in the Early Roman Period, a shift towards wool production could be observed as the slaughter age of the animals increased. The breeding of pigs became focused on the production of sucking pigs and older piglets, as an adjustment to the demand of a market system that developed in the urban and military settlements.

D. The intensification in breeding strategies is starting to develop, although the justification is not overwhelming. There are slight indications in pig breeding for shackling and second farrowing, but these remain inconclusive for now. In addition, results on isotope analysis, dental hypoplasia and DNA-testing have not been analysed (yet).

E. New species like domestic fowl, pigeon, oyster, mussel, and animal ingredients (allec, garum) were introduced. Ducks and geese were consumed more frequently.

However, no changes were observed concerning the use of cattle and their secondary production levels during the Pre-Flavian Period. The slaughter ages and population profile (phase A-B: 12 % killed within 12 months, phase C-D: 42 % between 15/24 -36/42 months, and phase E-F: 42% killed after 42 months), are almost the same as

observed in the Late Iron Age river area populations, and e.g. the La Tène *Oppidum of Manching*¹ in Germany. In addition, the slaughter patterns in the native settlements also indicate cattle husbandry based on the mixed aspects of milk, meat and traction.

Contrarily, Lauwerier² concluded in his study of the same site that the slaughter profile of cattle for the Early Roman Period (based on the material from the Ia Traianusplein castellum, and his Ib-Ic fraction of *Oppidum Batavorum*) already changed to meat, traction and manure, as no evident slaughter peaks occurred in his A-D phases. Only 3 % of the animals were killed in phase A and B (under 24 months), and 30 % in phase C and D (15/24-36/42 months), while phase E and F (36/42 - > 42/48 months) contained 67 % of the slaughtered animals. The anomaly in results is possibly caused by the small sample (N=153). The newly observed slaughter pattern in the present analysis pushes the shift in cattle use towards the Flavian Period.

Man and animal on both sides of the border; the economic / non-economic use of animals in Roman Age Netherlands

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In the Roman Period the Netherlands were partly outside the Roman Empire. I will focus on similarities and differences in the use (both economic and non-economic) and appearance of animals in military and native contexts on both sides of the border, and on the influence of the Roman presence on native livestock and habits. The impact of this interaction and some open questions will be discussed.

¹ Boessneck J., A. Von den Driesch, U. Meyer-Lemppnenau & E. Wechsler-von Ohlen, 1971: Die Tierknochenfunde aus den Oppidum von Manching. *Die Ausgrabungen von Manching* 6, Wiesbaden.

² R.C.G.M. Lauwerier, 1988: Animals in Roman times in the Dutch Eastern River Area. *Nederlandse Oudheden* 12, 134-138, fig. 36 table B.

Unifying Aspects of Roman Fortresses - Mark Driessen (University of Amsterdam)

A Roman military fortress serves primarily functional purposes, mainly of strategic and tactical use. Livy (44, 39) shows us that a military camp can also be seen as a substitute home or even as a second fatherland. Legionnaires can recognise in this fortress trusted social and cultural elements placed in an unknown and possible hostile environment. The fortress and its buildings exceed their functionality and can also become a unifying instrument in the perception of its habitants. Among Italic legionnaires this unification can originate from their more or less communal cultural background. Already in the early Principate the Roman army consists, next to Italic soldiers, of troops of other ethnic origins. An intentional unification created by the army command is of the utmost importance concerning matters of morale and group solidarity among their multi-cultural troops. What role can the (construction of the) fortress play in this? How can contemporary Military Psychology help us in solving these matters?

Reassessing 'Vici': Combining fielding walking and Geophysics at Piercebridge; some resent work - James Bruhn (University of Durham)

The primary focus of this paper will be discussing the possible benefits of studying plough soil finds in conjunction with geophysical survey. The case study of Tofts field, Piercebridge will be discussed, were an ongoing project is being carried out, as an example of the possibilities. What at first may appear as a fairly limited tool for understanding archaeological remains, can yield very interesting results and has the added benefits of being undertaken relatively swiftly, inexpensively and with considerable detail. In order to better understand the information discussed a general review of the nature and preconceptions of *vici* will be addressed.

The Stone Wall of Hadrian: Construction and Survey -Rich Hartis
(University of Durham)

This paper looks at the area of Hadrian's Wall that was originally constructed in stone, that is from the River Tyne to the Irthing. The methodology used is to quantify the structures which make up the Wall, those being the curtain wall itself and the interval structures of turrets, milecastles and forts. This will be expressed in the volume of stone present in the structures themselves. At various points comparative approaches have been used, most notably in dealing with turret volumes which pose the greatest amount of difficulty due to the amount of their structure above the ground floor. Insight will also be cast onto the dislocation of work which will be demonstrated by comparing the actual volume of the Wall with a conjectured Wall using the pre-dislocation structures as a template.

Furthermore, the volume of stone will be used to estimate approximate construction times of the Wall, these estimations are based around the current knowledge of the chronology as well as estimations of soldiers' numbers based on the Wall. The approximate manpower cost of the Wall directly relates to the fiscal cost of the structure – this was calculated using modern quantity survey values, and is intended to give a figure for comparison with other structures similarly costed. It is one of the aims of this paper to show that this approach can be valuable when carried out with rigour and regard for the structure in question.

Finally, it would be difficult to discuss Hadrian's Wall without saying something of its purpose. The above work reinforces the opinion that the Wall was a non-defensive structure. The ramifications of this, best illustrated with the milecastles and the symbolic aspect present in the Roman idiom of construction, will be discussed.

Session

Theory in the Archeology of Roman Italy: Traditional Themes and Current Approaches

Organizer: Roman Roth

The aim of this session is twofold: first, it addresses the question why the 'heartland' of the Roman world has received so little attention, particularly within the context of TRAC (i.e. the younger generation of scholars). Second, the session offers a scope for papers concerning both the '*Wissenschaftsgeschichte*' of the field, and the presentation of new approaches. The papers will address central fields of Italian archaeology, such as landscape, material culture and urbanism, and discuss the potential contribution of the work in this exceptionally well-documented part of the Roman world to the wider debate on theory in Roman archaeology.

Paper Abstracts:

Reading an Emperor's mind. Imperial building policy and early church buildings in Rome. - Claudia Kunze (University of Cambridge)

Producing and Consuming the Rural Landscapes of Roman Italy - Rob Witcher (BSR/ University of Southampton)

Archaeological interpretation of the rural landscapes of Roman Italy concentrates heavily on agricultural production; in contrast, the material culture collected by regional survey is more often than not connected with consumption. This paper will explore the reasons for this disparity and consider some of the possibilities opened up by shifting our interpretative frameworks from production to consumption. The emphasis on production is an artefact of the distinctive theoretical context of Italian studies (particularly Marxism) and the specific range of relevant historical sources (especially the agronomists). A new emphasis on consumption has great potential to connect the rich archaeological resource of the Italian countryside with theoretical developments both in other academic disciplines and in other Roman provinces. In particular, issues of status and identity will be considered. But just as important are the methodological implications for the collection and analysis of data and the comparison of regional surveys. Brief case studies from central and southern Italy will be used to illustrate some of the limitations of current approaches and the possibilities for future research.

Houses, GIS and the Micro-Topology of Pompeian Domestic Space - Michael Anderson

This paper discusses the use of geographical information systems (GIS) for the examination of spatial and visual phenomena within the built environment of the Pompeian house. It presents the process,

method, and results of research conducted over the past three years on a sample of Campanian houses, which considered the role of access, visibility and movement in the social life and architectural priorities of ancient house owners. Detailing novel uses of existing geographical analysis software for the examination of human-built landscapes, the paper presents new tools and theory for the study of architectural environments that will be of use to other archaeologists and architectural theorists.

Inspired by the study of social space as pioneered by Hillier and Hanson (1984), and in line with scholarship on Roman domestic space as characterised by Wallace Hadrill (1994) and Ray Laurence (1997), the research presented in this paper examines previously overlooked aspects of Pompeian domestic architecture to a level of detail that would not have been possible without computer analysis. The use of GIS facilitates the study of visibility in a large sample of houses, while custom designed software was used to extend and detail the study of spatial syntax.

Through close examination of these phenomenological effects, it has been possible to consider the experiences, opportunities and restrictions placed upon the various types of actors who used and visited Pompeian houses and to apply this knowledge towards a better understanding of the social forces that drove individual house owners towards certain house forms and developments. This paper presents the techniques and theory developed during the course of this research as well as the results obtained and their implications for Pompeian archaeology.

After Marxism: Pottery and Socio-economic History in Republican Italy - Roman Roth (University of Cambridge)

This paper looks at new avenues for the study of black-glazed pottery within the context of the Romanisation of Italy. Departing from the currently dominant approaches that are based on connoisseurship or Marxism, this paper suggests that the widespread adoption of black-glazed wares in second-century BC Italy should be seen as evidence for complex social change, rather than for the decline of regional cultures. This approach draws on the theory that material style has referents in the world of social interaction; thus, stylistic change may provide evidence for active developments within a society. In the final part of the paper, this approach is illustrated by a case study of a pottery assemblage from the Etruscan city of Volterra.

TBA - Richard Miles (University of Cambridge)

Session:

How Many Roman Britains? Pluralism and Synthesis in Roman Archaeology

Session organizer: Andrew Gardner, (University of Leicester)

Discussant: Martin Millett, (University of Cambridge)

Session Abstract

"Is there a recipe for a better future? It sounds suspiciously as if everyone must write Their Roman Britain, and all will be revealed." (Reece 1993: 38)

Since around the time that TRAC started in 1991 – and this is probably no coincidence – there have been few new syntheses on Roman Britain to rival the established textbooks on the subject. Why should this be so? Is synthesis simply not needed – because it has already been done and cannot be done otherwise – or is it merely unfashionable? Has the emphasis on multi-vocality which has become a feature of archaeology across the spectrum made synthetic works undesirable, or is there too much data now for any one person to master? What should the textbooks on Roman Britain courses (assuming such still exist) in 2010 or 2020 look like? In seeking to address these kinds of questions, this session will provide a forum for discussion of how we read, write, teach and, in short, know Roman Britain. Potential topics for papers include analysis of the history and current shape of Romano-British scholarship, suggestions for new formats or mechanisms of synthesis, evaluation of the possibility or desirability of such exercises, and consideration of the role that province-specific study has in the archaeology of the Roman empire.

Reference

Reece, R. 1993. Theory and Roman archaeology. In E. Scott (ed.) *Theoretical Roman Archaeology: first conference proceedings*, 29-38. Aldershot: Avebury.

Paper Abstracts:

Beyond the Great Story? Multi-vocality in practice

Andrew Gardner, University of Leicester

While Roman studies in Britain have undoubtedly been influenced by the growing interest in multi-vocality that has spread across the human sciences in recent decades, this has rarely been explicitly manifest in published form. This may be due to the relative lack of political impetus provided, in other contexts, by indigenous demands for a role in the presentation of their past. As a result, the study of Roman Britain is somewhat polarised between synthetic works (which remain essential in a range of educational contexts), and very theoretically eclectic (but still self-contained) articles, presented in an equally wide range of venues. Nonetheless, contrary – even contradictory – accounts of the Roman past are finding a way into the public domain, and in this paper I will argue that this requires archaeologists to be more open in acknowledging how and why this can happen. Accepting our differences of opinion in turn requires us to evaluate how significant those differences are, and thus whether our discipline permits or requires a clear and common sense of purpose. Overall, the paper will consider the place of multi-vocality in Romano-British archaeology, how it is or can be put in to practice, and its consequences for the field.

Post-colonial angst and writings about Roman Britain

Richard Hingley, University of Durham

This paper explores the context of the writing of synthesis and why such accounts appear to have declined in popularity during these supposedly post-colonial times. It addresses issues of power and peripherality and suggests that synthesis as an approach has lost popularity as a result of a loss of confidence about the types of understanding of the past that we should develop. These concerns can be situated in the context of the complex ways in which

knowledge of the Roman past connects with ideas of our global present. Is synthesis important? If so, why? In more general terms, what are our aims and objectives in writing about the Roman past?

Empire, empiricism and Experience: synthesis and its limits in the archaeology of the Roman era - Steve Willis

That grand narratives ceased being so popular in some archaeological circles around the time of the inception of TRAC in 1991 was no surprise: this was a time of wide political change, while processualism had been put to the sword at TAG in December 1989. The way was clear to de-construct, investigate pluralities, smell the flowers and have some annual TRAC: what hope for those rather uncomplicated syntheses that had gone before.

Around this time we found Ian Hodder was *Reading the Past*; but for theoretical Romanists this was precisely not the time to be sitting comfortably with the text of that loud vocalist and doubtful scholar Julius Caesar. Henceforth his work was to be critically 'unpacked' while *valid* testimony of human experience under Rome might be thought to lie in the fragments of material culture, dietary remains and graffiti of the ordinary people. W.H. Auden had foreseen it all: Caesar's fate, he told us in the poem *Domesday Song* is to now lie in a sealed box, for time is tired of him and has thrown away the key for fun. Enter then, Auden's new authentic champion, the humble Wall soldier of *Roman Wall Blues* with his lice and passion for dice, so suitable as a TRAC anti-hero.

I see reasons to celebrate the recent unfolding of Roman studies. Roman archaeologists came early to synthesis and were never as excessive in sweeping the broad brush in their accounts as were colleagues working in other periods. Archaeologists write the past from the ground up, from 'the record' and we give voice to the past in our interpretations. Synthesis has been an apposite and sometimes

delightful tool for Roman archaeology (think of the outcomes of Richard Reece's coin work). In fact we need more syntheses of the burgeoning record of the pasts under Rome and of its 'small things', for such studies result in (i) pointers to past practice, action and experience, that is to the 'small worlds' of past peoples, and (ii) precisely because syntheses help us identify those areas of cultural variation (? North Wales, Small Towns, etc) that require different qualitative approaches. Moreover syntheses are far from incompatible, for instance, with post-processual, or phenomenological interpretations. Via critical syntheses of the elements of the past during the Roman era (eg. organization of water supply, the incidence of Oxfordshire ware in the 4th century) and their integration, nuanced accounts of human pasts can be sketched – and these give life to our discipline.

James Deetz, Russell Crowe, and the Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Roman archaeology as historical archaeology

Jane Webster, Caird Senior Research Fellow, (National Maritime Museum)

Violence, resistance, spectacle, slavery, ethnic complexities and interrelationships – the stuff of all colonial pasts – are missing from most archaeologies of the Roman provinces. It's surely our job to voice these 'difficult' aspects of the Roman past, rather than leaving it to novelists like Stephen Saylor and actors like Russell Crowe (however good he looked in that costume...) to tread where we will not.

If we want a model for how to proceed, we need look no further than historical (as opposed to classical) archaeology in the USA. James Deetz set the basic agenda thirty years ago with *In Small Things Forgotten*, a study of 17th and 18th century Anglo-American lifeways that takes artefacts as its starting point, tackles some complex theoretical issues, deals with the bad and the ugly as well as the 'good' in colonial New England, and yet is actually read by huge numbers of people, from cover to cover, with obvious enjoyment.

I think we (and I do mean we) should write a book like that about Roman Britain. This contribution sets out a tentative blueprint, and asks for your help in writing it.

Reconstructing syntheses in Romano-British cremation

Jake Weekes, University of Kent at Canterbury

This paper takes a critical look at how material syntheses are reached in Romano-British archaeology, re-evaluating current terminology and related categorisation of evidence for Romano-British cremation practice and associated deposits, and reconsidering apparent variability in degrees of homogeneity and diversity of practice in cremation and deposition respectively. It is suggested that examples of regional, local, and even 'individual' ritual style (generated through varied selection, modification and placement of objects) can be delineated, particularly at the depositional stage. Finally, the impact of such analyses on interpretations of 'the meaning' of Romano-British cremation is explored.

Session
Placing Finds in Context
Organizer: Daniel Keller

Paper abstracts:

Soldier, civilian and Roman military brick production. -Renate Kurzmann

This paper analyses the relationship between the Roman army and civilians in relation to Roman army brick production. Roman military units usually produced their own bricks in workshops that have occasionally been identified near the garrisons. In past and recent publications, claims have been made that occasionally civilian entrepreneurs were employed to produce bricks for the Roman army. In addition, scholars often assume that superfluous military bricks were sold to civilian enterprises. From other areas of Roman army administration it is known that in times of peace the army relied on civilians to provide the necessary provisions to a certain degree. This paper reviews the evidence for brick trade between civilians and the army, based on the archaeological context of the sites and the text on the stamped bricks in question. Often, it is hard to establish for certain if a military or civilian context applies. The evidence presented is often inconclusive, and often researchers are dealing with hypotheses. The paper questions to what degree civilian and military areas can be determined for certain in army dominated areas, focusing on the evidence from several provinces.

Resistance is Flue tile - cultural identities and ceramic building material. - Phil Mills

The external appearance of buildings within urban and rural settings can be used as a direct statement about the cultural and social identity of the owner. The appearance of roofs as well as the choices made in selecting sources and forms of other ceramic building

materials used in a structure are also a reflection of culturally embedded choices.

This paper will explore the negotiations between cultural identities as reflected by ceramic building materials. It will be based mainly on the assemblage catalogued from excavations in Beirut, but will also use evidence from North Africa, Bulgaria and Britain.

Gift-exchange and identity in Late Antiquity: hoarding in 5th century Britain- Peter Guest, Cardiff School of History & Archaeology, Cardiff University

The deposition of large quantities of gold and silver across southern and eastern England is a distinctive feature of late Roman archaeology in Britain. No other part of the Roman world produces the quantity of these precious metals contained in treasures such as those recovered from Mildenhall, Water Newton and Hoxne in East Anglia, while the number of late 4th / early 5th century hoards of silver and bronze coins from Britain is also exceptional. Previous explanations of this parochial pattern of deposition have tended to link the burial and loss of hoards with historical 'events', although the validity of these interpretations is weakened by the lack of a wider perspective. In this paper I would like to propose that the British pattern of hoarding cannot be studied in isolation from the rest of the late Roman world, and that in order to understand why gold and silver ended up in the ground we must explore the mechanisms by which these metals arrived in Britain in the first place. A more contextual method of analysis will, it is hoped, lead to a better understanding of this uniquely British pattern of hoarding in late antiquity.

Engendering Roman burials: The use of mortuary analysis to interpret gender in Roman Britain. -Melanie Sherratt

The benefits of incorporating gender studies into discussions of Roman archaeology have already been argued at length. However, very few attempts have been made to put any theory into practice. Gender is understood to be one of the primary social indicators and its absence in any discussion of the social organization of the province makes such a discussion incomplete. This paper will show how gender can be studied through an examination of the funerary rite in greater depth than the allocation of the label 'female' to any grave containing jewellery. Aspects of gender identity were incorporated into the burial rite and this paper will explore how the concept of gender can be examined through a complete study of these material remains.

An Archipelago of Corrupt Fragments: Gender, Power and the Cartoceto Gilded Bronzes.-I.M. Ferris

The Cartoceto gilded bronzes represent one of the most significant finds of a statuary group from classical antiquity. Most previous studies of the bronzes have concentrated on providing identifications of the four individuals in the group—two men and two women. This paper suggests that other lines of research, linked to considerations of the relationships between power and gender in the Late Roman Republic and Early Empire, can throw new light on these remarkable survivals.

Out of the fire and into the frying pan: Studying the human-built environment of Romano-British production.- Richard Jarrett

We know that people made things in Roman Britain. But what was it like? How did it feel to be involved with production? What would people have seen, heard and experienced around them as they made things? Is it possible to determine this from the archaeological

record?

This paper intends to examine the concept of what life might have been like on a 'production site'. It will investigate how archaeological context formation can provide meaningful information about the human-built environment in which production took place.

The implications of this information for the organisation and display of archaeological fieldwork will be discussed, together with the multitude of ways archaeologists can use contextual information to interpret what production might have been like. The early stages of an ongoing project to understand the role and nature of production at the settlement of Springhead in North Kent will be used to illustrate the ideas raised in this paper.