

# Editorial

The past year has seen notable additions to the public display of sites and structures in Roman Britain. Caerleon now has an excellent legionary museum to add to the recently displayed *thermae*. The legionary baths at Exeter now look set to see the light of day once more after years of indecisive debate. And in London, at long last, the site of the amphitheatre has been identified, where it ought to be, close to the Cripplegate fort. As this volume goes to press, however, it is far from clear what the long term fate of this structure will be, despite concerns expressed in many places, including the House of Lords. Elsewhere, the presentation of monuments has been in the news for other reasons. The modern pressures for generation of income by the display and exploitation of monuments are now intensifying and difficult choices face official bodies over the next few years. To a large extent, the aims of the academic community to which this society belongs and those of what must now be called the heritage industry are not easily compatible. Both have a case to make and both sides must have their say when designs for the public display of sites and buildings are being drawn up. At two major sites in Britain, Verulamium and Chester, what is proposed goes far beyond conservation and display. At Verulamium, something described as a Roman "experience" is proposed, the setting to be the heart of the Roman city. There will be other such schemes as financial stringency on local authorities becomes ever tighter. The appropriate national bodies must not be allowed to relax the controls which at present apply and those who believe that the past should not be exploited for money alone must make their views known.

The French Ministry of Culture and Communication (what is the British equivalent, one wonders) has recently enlarged its publication list by adding a useful series of guides to major sites in Roman Gaul. Vaison, Alesia, Narbonne, Lyon, Vienne, Autun and Bibracte have already appeared, while Orange, Arles and Glanum are among those promised shortly. For about £5.00 a hundred pages and plentiful illustrations are offered and the standard of reportage is good. These guides deserve emulation in Britain, where the coverage of individual sites and cities is increasingly patchy and unsatisfactory.

*Britannia* will attain its twentieth number in 1989 and to mark the anniversary the Roman Society will publish a volume reviewing work on Roman Britain since 1960. A small number of articles on selected subjects was included in the *Journal of Roman Studies* for that year, but a review of larger scale has not been attempted before. The volume should help to identify those areas of the subject which have made less advance than others, as well as recording the immense corpus of new information which has been assembled over a relatively short time and outlining the new approaches to the subject which are currently being made. Publication is foreseen for the summer of 1989, so that its appearance should coincide with the *Limeskongress* to be held in Canterbury at that time.

Few major exhibitions of recent times have been quite so revealing and visually stunning as *Glass of the Caesars*, held at the British Museum in the winter of 1987/8. The technical problems of viewing glass through glass were splendidly overcome and the overall arrangement of the material was masterly. The scholarly catalogue by Donald Harden is in itself a work of the greatest merit, as well as a permanent memorial of a fine enterprise.