

# Editorial

In recent years we have all witnessed a revolution in the way that information can be disseminated and exchanged across the world in a matter of seconds. The Society's website ([www.sas.ac.uk/icls/roman](http://www.sas.ac.uk/icls/roman)) provides information on membership, subscriptions, lecture programmes, events, grants for excavation and research, and (from 2001 onwards) contents-lists and abstracts of the papers and notes published in *Britannia* and in the *Journal of Roman Studies*. For many prospective members, the website will increasingly become a first point of contact. An on-line version of both journals, and a CD-ROM version, will be available from 2002 as an optional extra, in addition to the printed version which all members will continue to receive. Back numbers of the *Journal* (though not of *Britannia*) will shortly become available 'on line', at institutional libraries, via JSTOR ('Journal Storage'). The provision of email addresses of contributors, where appropriate and available, will become standard in addition to 'addresses', from this year's volumes onwards.

Today's internet user can view on screen an enormous variety of information on Roman Britain, and indeed on the Roman world more widely, which can range from literary and epigraphic texts to details about ongoing or recent archaeological excavations and about research on pottery, coins, and many other categories of material. Artefacts in museum collections are increasingly available for the viewer to study on screen, or with the aid of CD-ROMs, as are the work of government agencies and archaeological units, sites and monuments records on a local or national level, information on book publications and reviews, exhibitions, events, and re-enactment days, with the added highlights of panoramic photography of artefacts or sites, computer-generated reconstructions, video and audio clips.

The fourth Roman Archaeology Conference, held at Glasgow in March 2001 in tandem with the eleventh Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference, included sessions on 'Rome beyond the Imperial Frontiers' and 'What's New in Roman Britain', and others of interest to readers. The conference was followed by a day excursion to the Antonine Wall and the new Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh, the schedule of visits necessarily modified in the light of foot-and-mouth disease restrictions on access to land, which have had a clear impact on fieldwork and excavation undertaken during 2001, presumably to be reflected too in the volume of material coming forward for inclusion in next year's annual *Roman Britain* survey. The next Roman Archaeology Conference is scheduled to take place in Leicester, in April 2003.

The career paths of Roman archaeologists have always been varied, encompassing lecturers in universities and colleges, and in adult education departments, museum curators, the staffs of government agencies and units, finds specialists and consultants. New appointments to the *Britannia* sub-committee of the Society's Editorial Committee have reflected this diversity: we are delighted to welcome Miss Lindsay Allason-Jones (Museum of Antiquities, University of Newcastle), Dr Hilary Cool (Barbican Research Associates), and Mrs Nina Crummy (freelance small-finds analyst). Professor John Wilkes has retired from membership of the sub-committee, and indeed from being chairman of the Editorial Committee; a former editor of *Britannia*, he has been involved in its affairs since 1973. This year has also seen his retirement from the Yates Professorship of Greek and Roman Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. We hope that we can continue to benefit from his expertise, as indeed we do from the sound judgement of Professor Sheppard Frere, now in his 85th year. On a less happy note, we can record the death of Dr T.F.C. Blagg (1942–2000), after a short illness. Tom Blagg was a leading scholar of architectural sculpture in Roman Britain, and beyond, and a frequent contributor to *Britannia*.

In May 2001 Dr Graham Webster (1913–2001) died at the age of 87. A civil engineer by training, he began archaeological work during the Second World War, and in 1948 was appointed Curator of the Grosvenor Museum, Chester. It was during his curatorship there (1948–54) that he wrote a booklet on the *Roman Imperial Army* (1956), which was to form the basis for the full-length study which appeared in 1969; reissued several times, it is now in its third edition. This acclaimed volume set the well-known institutions of the army against the archaeological evidence for its frontier works, forts and camps, and finds of military equipment, especially in Britain. Graham's post as extra-mural lecturer, later Reader, at Birmingham (1954–1980) set the scene for what was to become a 30-year programme of excavations, first at the Roman fort on Waddon Hill near Beaminster in Dorset, at Barnsley Park villa near Cirencester, and most notably at the Roman town of Wroxeter (soon in association with Philip Barker, who also died recently), with its (then newly recognised) underlying legionary fortress; the digs at Barnsley Park and Wroxeter served as training excavations for students of all ages. Moreover, they provided a context for a series of books on the early decades of Rome's British province, especially *The Roman Conquest of Britain* (1965) and *The Rebellion of Boudicca* (1962), both co-authored with Donald R. Dudley. Graham subsequently took account of very substantial increases to knowledge in a trilogy covering the same period: *The Roman Invasion of Britain* (1980), *Rome Against Caratacus* (1981), and *Boudica* (1978). His life-long interest in ceramics prompted the setting up of the Roman Pottery Studies Research Group. A *Festschrift* in his honour, edited in 1981 by Anne Anderson and Alastair Scott Anderson, entitled *Roman Pottery Research in Britain and North-West Europe* (British Archaeological Reports, Int. Ser. 123), included a valuable bibliography of his writings, which revealed the extent of his contributions in a variety of fields. In 1968–75 he served on this Society's Editorial Committee, at the time when *Britannia* was being established and during its early years; he was an invited contributor to its inaugural volume. In 1982 he was honoured with the award of an OBE. A collection of his own papers, selected by Graham, appeared in 1991 (with an updated bibliography of his publications) as *Archaeologist at Large*, under the Batsford imprint, a publisher for whom he sought out and assessed many volumes, including one by the present Editor. In 1994 a newly reopened gallery at the Grosvenor Museum, Chester, was named in his honour. A much loved and distinctive figure, he was at home with audiences of all ages, and gave generously of his time to local groups and individual enthusiasts, as well as to the committees of national organisations. When he saw the need for an introductory textbook or guide, and none existed, he would sit down to write it; one thinks here of his *Practical Archaeology* (1963) and *Romano-British Coarse Pottery: a Student's Guide* (CBA, 1964), in addition to the booklet on the Roman Army. He enjoyed a long retirement at Chesterton in Warwickshire. Something of the affection in which he was held emerges from an interview in *Current Archaeology* 125 (July/August 1991) and from an appreciation currently on the website of the Warwickshire Archaeology Research Team, entitled simply 'Graham'.

Lawrence Keppie, Glasgow

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