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# BRITANNIA



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THE SOCIETY FOR  
THE PROMOTION OF  
ROMAN STUDIES



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THE PROMOTION OF  
ROMAN STUDIES

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# EDITORIAL

Volume 41 of *Britannia* carried articles by Christopher Stray and Sheppard Frere and Roger Goodburn to mark 100 years of the Roman Society. The centenary was celebrated in 2010 with a full programme of events and the launch of new projects and initiatives, which are worthy of record.<sup>1</sup> The 100th anniversary of the first meeting of the Society on 3 June 1910 was marked by a spectacular celebration at the British Museum at which the President, Andrew Burnett (as the Emperor Vespasian) was joined by Bettany Hughes (Theodora), Mary Beard (Livia) and a number of classicists, archaeologists and staff of the British Museum in costume. The Imperial Guard was provided by the re-enactment group *Legio II Augusta*. A birthday card was presented to the Emperor by Classics students from the Godolphin and Latymer School and Holland Park Comprehensive, London. Two days later, the Annual General Meeting was held, which was followed by a programme of lectures, including Andrew Burnett's Presidential Address (fittingly on the topic of *Roman Anniversaries*), and a reception. Dr Armand d'Angour read his Latin celebratory verses, a gift from the Hellenic Society, and Colin Sydenham delivered his English version (both published as a frontispiece in *Britannia* 41). The celebrations concluded with lighting the candles on the Society birthday cakes, appropriately modelled on *vota* inscriptions on Roman coins.

2010 also marked the 1600th anniversary of the 'end of Roman Britain' in A.D. 410 and the Society was delighted to be associated with many of the events. These included the conference *AD 410: The End of Roman Britain*, hosted by the British Museum, and a number of very successful regional Roman Archaeology Conferences on this theme in different parts of the country. Over 90 papers were presented to a combined audience of about 1,500 people, which demonstrates very clearly the continued interest in late and post-Roman Britain. It is very evident that new research is beginning to offer alternatives to the traditional view of the period based on decline and fall. The Society intends publishing a volume of selected archaeological and historical papers from these conferences. Such a volume will not only lead to a better understanding of the period A.D. 350–500, but also be a fitting legacy of the Society's centenary. The ninth Roman Archaeology Conference and twentieth TRAC were successfully held in Oxford in March, attracting an international audience of over 350 delegates. Plenary lectures were delivered by current and past Presidents during the 'centenary' conference, and a reception was held in the Ashmolean. At the Classical Association conference held in Cardiff in April, Dr Kate Gilliver convened a Roman Society centenary panel — which included a section on Britain and *Britannia* — and the Society hosted a splendid evening reception in the City Hall, Cardiff, with the President delivering his thanks in Latin. The Society also organised a number of other lecture series, such as the British Museum Lunchtime Lectures delivered by a number of past Presidents; museum visits and gallery talks; and a trip to Rome!

Successful anniversaries not only dwell on past achievements, but also take the opportunity to look forward and introduce new initiatives ensuring the continued vitality of the Society. Two new projects were launched, masterminded by the Archaeology Committee and Schools Committee respectively: IMAGO — the digitisation of the Society's slide collection, which will be available online; and *Journeys in the Roman Empire* — a new Roman World website for schools. Two awards were introduced (for the best BA dissertation on the subject of Roman archaeology and for the best research paper undertaken for the PGCE in Classics), as well as a new scheme of bursaries for university students wishing to undertake an internship in a museum. The Society is very aware of the importance of encouraging young people in

<sup>1</sup> I am grateful to Dr Fiona Haarer, Secretary, Roman Society for providing details of the centenary events that took place in 2010.



developing interests in archaeology and Classics and this has been one of the priorities during the centenary and beyond. It has also been decided to streamline meetings and the Editorial Committee will no longer meet; the *Britannia* and *JRS* sub-committees will now become full committees reporting directly to Council. It is hoped that this will provide more time for the *Britannia* Committee to discuss relevant issues and explore ways of taking greater advantage of the opportunities — especially online — offered by the arrangement with Cambridge University Press.

In 2010, two discoveries caused considerable media and public interest: the Crosby Garrett parade helmet and the Frome hoard, comprising a large pottery vessel containing 52,503 denarii and radiates (both reported in 'Roman Britain in 2010'). However, the outcome for these spectacular discoveries has been very different. The extremely fine, near complete copper-alloy two-piece Roman cavalry sports helmet with griffin crest dates to the late first to mid-third century A.D. It is an outstandingly important find and undoubtedly of international significance, but single finds of non-precious metal do not come under the definition of treasure. The helmet was sent to Christie's and they commissioned its restoration, after which the helmet went 'under the hammer' in October 2010. Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery was represented at auction, but with unprecedented global interest and a final hammer price in excess of £2,000,000 the museum was unfortunately unable to secure the helmet for Cumbria. Sadly, the future of the helmet, whether it will remain in the UK or even be on public display, is speculative since the new owner has remained anonymous. Such tales spark the continuing controversy over protection for major archaeological finds in Britain. Despite this, the Portable Antiquities Scheme still ensured that the find spot was visited and that the helmet was examined and recorded during the process of restoration. It can only be hoped that a future review might close this gap in the Treasure Act and that such notable finds are not hidden from public view. In stark contrast, the Frome hoard, one of the largest Roman coin hoards ever found in Roman Britain, will stay in the county where it was unearthed. Having been declared treasure under the Treasure Act, the Museum of Somerset, Taunton, has raised a significant amount of money to acquire, conserve and display the hoard in the redeveloped museum. The prompt reporting of the hoard to the Portable Antiquities Scheme led to the full excavation of the pottery container and coins and the subsequent study and conservation of the hoard has been an excellent example of co-operation between many different individuals and organisations.

Richard J. Brewer  
Editor, *Britannia*

# BRITANNIA

## NOTES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

### I. ARTICLES AND NOTES

1. Contributions should be sent to the Editor, Mr Richard J. Brewer, Department of Archaeology & Numismatics, National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NP ([richard.brewer@museumwales.ac.uk](mailto:richard.brewer@museumwales.ac.uk)). All submissions should include the author's name at the beginning and address at the end, including e-mail address. All papers will be subject to a refereeing process, and may be discussed at meetings of the Editorial Committee. The refereeing process necessarily takes time, and contributors should allow at least three months for this process. Detailed comments from referees are normally forwarded to the contributor, anonymously, by the Editor. Papers may be submitted at any time during the year; potential contributors may wish to discuss scheduling with the Editor in advance of submission. In order to protect the interests of authors, the Society requires all authors to sign a form assigning the Society an exclusive licence to publish (not copyright); if a paper includes textual or illustrative material not in the author's copyright, permission must be obtained from the relevant copyright owner for the non-exclusive right to reproduce the material worldwide in all forms and media.
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6. Contributors will receive a pdf offprint of their article.

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2. When photographs are taken the light should be raking and, where possible, from the left and well above the horizontal axis.
3. The principles which are followed for the inclusion or exclusion of inscriptions on pottery and tiles are set out in *RIB* I, p. xvii, s.v. scope (d) 1–4.

### (b) *Sites and discoveries*

1. Information about sites explored and finds other than inscriptions should be sent to Mr E. Chapman, Department of Archaeology & Numismatics, National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NP (evan.chapman@museumwales.ac.uk) (for Wales), Dr F. Hunter, National Museums of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF (f.hunter@nms.ac.uk) (for Scotland), Dr P. Wilson, Rarey Farm, Weaverthorpe, Malton, N Yorks, YO17 8EY (pete.wilson@english-heritage.org.uk) (for England Sections 3–4), or Mr P.M. Booth, Oxford Archaeology, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES (p.booth@oxfordarch.co.uk) (for England Sections 5–9), before 1 April of the year following discovery.
2. Information on projects including surveys, excavations, and evaluations that yield substantive evidence for Roman-period activity is welcomed. Reports should be as concise as is consonant with clarity and comprehensibility and should include information on such topics as significant stratification, dating evidence, evidence for function. They should, though, avoid the level of detail appropriate to a final report. Plans and other illustrations which complement or expand the verbal description are helpful. For large-scale projects in a single year or for longer-term, multi-year projects which have reached a significant stage or have terminated, a more substantial piece with accompanying illustrative material would be useful. Potential contributors should also consider whether a record of a small-scale intervention with little stratified evidence relating to the Roman period should be submitted. Correspondents should be careful to include the following details:
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# Elaine Matthews

Elaine Matthews was born in Netherton (Yorkshire) on 19 August 1942 and died on 26 June 2011 in Michael Sobell House, Oxford, after a long battle with cancer. Her contributions to the activities and the well-being of the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies and to its joint endeavours with the Hellenic Society were outstanding and were signally complemented by a distinguished career in research on Greek onomastics, about which much has been written elsewhere by way of tribute.<sup>1</sup> In the mid-1970s, after several years devoted to bringing up her young family, Elaine began what was to be her long and important association with the Roman Society and the *Journal of Roman Studies*. Initially, she became involved in the complex and demanding editorial work for the Journal and was at the same time Secretary of the Joint Committee of the Hellenic and Roman Societies. A principal responsibility of the latter was the organization of all aspects of the joint Triennial Conference of the Societies which was and continues to be much more than another forum for university academics to present their research to each other. It has served as a showcase for teaching and research in the UK in all fields of Classical Studies, encouraging the presentation of lectures on subjects in new and developing areas and attracting participants from universities, schools, museums and the general public. Elaine's vision of this as part of the Roman Society's responsibility to the whole of the spectrum of its constituency and its membership has been an important factor in maintaining vital support for the teaching of classics in higher education and in schools, which has ensured the survival, and even the health, of the subject through some critical times. The healthy attendance at the 2011 Triennial Conference in Cambridge bore eloquent testimony to the lasting effects of this synergy.

From the late 1980s, Elaine's role in the Roman Society became more prominent. In 1989 she became the Honorary Secretary of the Society, following the much regretted and premature death of Elizabeth Rawson, a position which she occupied until 2010. For almost twenty years the irreducible core of Elaine, the Secretary Helen Cockle and the Treasurer Graham Kentfield, along with a succession of Presidents, ran the affairs of the Society with an efficiency, sensitivity and sense of propriety which (*experto credite*) made the office and the duties of the President seem like a privilege and an honour. Elaine's role in attempting to ensure the health of the Society and the disciplines it promotes is more readily appreciable in the context of the fact that in the 1990s it was on her initiative that the Advisory Committee to the Council was established. Elaine chaired this as Honorary Secretary and convened it annually on a Saturday morning in May in St Hilda's in order to identify and consider the broader strategic issues facing the Society in the longer term. These were valuable occasions for relaxed and thoughtful debate on issues in the broader context to which Elaine brought her hallmark of calm and incisive analysis.

Some aspects of the Society's activities were less than straightforward during her tenure. In the new world of the early twenty-first century, the symbiotic relationships of the Hellenic and Roman Societies with the University of London, its School of Advanced Studies and the Institute of Classical Studies became much more complicated than they had earlier been, for institutional and financial reasons which were not of the Societies' own making. The future of the Library of the Hellenic and Roman Societies and the Institute was a particularly delicate issue. Elaine's

<sup>1</sup> R.W.V. Catling *et al.* (eds), *Onomatologos Studies in Greek Personal Names Presented to Elaine Matthews* (Oxford, 2010).



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commitment to scholarship, her knowledge of the institutional background and history, as well as her thoughtful and authoritative judgement, made a crucial contribution to reaching viable solutions (happily put in place before she died) which should enable the Societies to continue their work and respond to the needs and wishes of their members, particularly the users of the Library, for the foreseeable future. In this respect and in many others their debt to her is immense, as is that of the Faculty of Classics at Oxford and St Hilda's College, where she was particularly active on its Information Technology Committee and in helping to administer the Jacqueline du Pré Music Building.

Elaine Matthews was quite exceptional in her ability to combine fundamental scholarship, a vision of how research can and should respond to complex developing technology and active promotion of the national institutions which are essential to the discipline. Her legacy to our discipline will long endure.

Alan Bowman