Reconstruction of Chedworth Villa as depicted by A. Forestier – see article on page 10.
EDITORIAL

An element of re-assessing long accepted theories and interpretations forms a significant part of this extended edition of ARA. The growing debate on where the legions landed in AD43 (p. 3 and letter, p. 6) is scheduled to have a long run. Also, is the most famous villa in Britain really a villa? This is backed with recent work and re-discoveries at Chedworth.

However, what should be a matter of immediate concern to all students of Roman Britain is the escalating decay and destruction of entire Roman sites and landscapes. The increasing erosion by agriculture, of one of our most important Roman cities at St. Albans, has gone unchecked for too long (p. 7-8). In historic Chester, where for decades it had been expected we would see Britain’s largest amphitheatre displayed to the nation, hopes have been dashed as planning consent to redevelop the building above the still buried section of the monument has been approved. Surely Chester City Council should have had the foresight to realise that this major monument would have been a marvellous tourist attraction for the city if properly displayed and exploited. The same arguments could be made for Dorchester – Roman Durnovaria (p. 16-18), where the provision for archaeological investigation will fail to take advantage of a golden opportunity to enhance our knowledge of the history, art and religion of late Roman Britain.

Britain has an archaeological heritage of which she is justly proud. Why is it that this heritage is inadequately preserved and displayed? Every year hundreds of sites continue to be destroyed – urban development and ploughing are only two agents of irreparable loss. The ARA Board members have one thing in common. They believe that the legacy preserved in our Roman remains can and should be rescued. However, although they cannot intervene in national and local planning decisions, they are able to express concern on behalf of the Association’s members, now approaching 3,000 in number. They also advise members to write to the relevant authorities and to lobby their Members of Parliament urgently, to draw attention to individual cases and to ensure better state and legislative protection of our Roman heritage before it is too late.

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The late Iron-Age background was set by the chairman Professor Barry Cunliffe’s discussion of territorial boundaries and ethnic groups, with the communities occupying the Solent region being in close contact with the adjacent continent from c. 120 BC onwards. Were these the Belgae referred to by Caesar? Mark Hassall asked “why did Claudius invade Britain in AD 43; what was he trying to do, and how successful was he in achieving his aims?”

The concept of the Roman invasion force landing in the Chichester area was resurrected by John Hind in his persuasive Britannia article of 1989. At the conference Ernest Black took up the theme with an examination of invasion research but more particularly, of the actual documentary evidence for the invasion in the original Roman literary sources. He reminded us that unfortunately the section of Tacitus’s Annales dealing with the invasion and the governorship of Aulus Plautius (AD 43-47) does not survive. Our main source therefore is Cassius Dio’s Roman History, written in the 3rd century. There are a small number of additional sources which give further snippets of information, most significantly Eutropius, writing in the 4th century, who states that the conquest was carried out by two commanders (Cn. Sentius and A. Plautius), not one. It is worth remembering that there is no mention of Kent in Dio or the other sources and there is no reason to assume that any part of the invasion force landed there, at least in the first part of the campaign. In 1968 Barry Cunliffe, in his report on Richborough, felt that there was little doubt that the first phase of occupation there fell within the earliest days of the invasion and belonged to the base set up by Aulus Plautius on landing in Britain. However, he now suggested that he favoured the Chichester area as a strong possibility for the initial landings. There is indeed evidence to suggest that the fleet aimed for the harbours of the Chichester area, towards the heart of Verica’s former kingdom, a friendly base, well-known through years of cross-Channel contact and trade. This westward route and a long crossing is supported by the one account in Dio: “They were sent over in three divisions, in order that they should not be hindered in landing, as might happen to a single force, and in their voyage across they first became discouraged because they were driven back in their course, and then plucked up courage because a flash of light rising in the east shot across to the west, the direction in which they were sailing.” If they were sailing for Kent and particularly Richborough, they would have been going north-east.

The case for a landing near Chichester was led at the Conference by David Bird, Surrey’s County Archaeologist. It was agreed that the Bodunni, said by Dio to have allied themselves with the Romans after the separate defeats of the Catuvellaunian princes Caratacus and Togodumnus, could be identified with the Dobunni occupying the Gloucestershire area and not with an unknown tribe in Kent. Martin Henig, reviewing the evidence of later history on the events...
TIMOTHY POTTER (1944 – 2000)
A PERSONAL APPRECIATION

by Anthony King and Grahame Soffe

On 10th April a Commemoration of the Life and Work of Dr. Timothy Potter was held at the British Museum followed by a Reception in the Weston Gallery of Roman Britain. Having known him well, we have contributed this personal appreciation.

Tim Potter’s friends and colleagues were shocked by his death on January 11th 2000 at the age of 55. He had an international reputation as a great scholar, writer, excavator and fieldworker, and also as an enthusiastic curator, teacher and lecturer in the field of Roman archaeology. His earliest excavation took place as a schoolboy with his brother Christopher in the Fens where he worked on the Romano-British village of Grandford (1956–64), and the Roman Fenland remained a subject close to his heart throughout his career. After studying A Level Archaeology privately with Joan Liversidge, he read Archaeology and Anthropology at Trinity College, Cambridge, graduating in 1966. He then developed into a Roman archaeologist of great ability, ebullience and style, modelling himself partly on John Ward-Perkins, speaking the same kind of fluent Italian with an Oxbridge accent; and partly on Sir Mortimer Wheeler, that brilliant excavator who strongly believed in getting good history out of the earth and presenting it well to scholars and the public alike.

In the mid 1970s Tim was one of the energetic trio of lecturers in Italian archaeology at Lancaster University. He had been appointed in 1973 after short spells teaching at the University of California at Santa Cruz and Newcastle University. The three made Roman archaeology at Lancaster a force to be reckoned with, and showed how an archaeology department could be established de novo with verve and enthusiasm. At that time the first Conference on Italian Archaeology was held at Lancaster, inaugurating a series of conferences reflecting the strength and depth of research by British archaeologists in Italy. Tim’s own involvement went back to the period 1966–72, when he held two scholarships at the British School at Rome. His PhD was on the ager Faliscus, part of the South Etruria survey run by the School’s Director, John Ward-Perkins. This involved walking over ploughed fields, mapping ancient settlements and dating them from pottery. He followed up his survey work with important excavations at Narce, and also at Mazzano, Tuscania and Ponte di Nona, culminating in the publication of A Faliscan Town in South Etruria: Excavations at Narce 1966–71 (1976). Out of this research came what we regard as his finest synoptic volume, The Changing Landscape of Southern Etruria (1979), which was the book that Ward-Perkins, alas, never managed to write about his grand project in that area. Tim stepped in to produce a masterly synthesis that is still essential reading for anyone seeking to understand how Rome developed and how the urbs related to its regional hinterland.

Many of the ideas put forward in this book were developed further in Roman Italy (1987). This covered the whole of Italy except Sicily and Sardinia, and took an archaeological and socio-economic approach. Its emphasis on the territory and archaeological sites of Italy was enlightening, since it was refreshingly different from the usual studies that focused on Rome itself and often, too, on art-historical and political matters. Tim was very much in tune with the archaeological times in taking this approach, since it chimed with the development of systematic archaeological survey, and with the trend to more rigorous study of socio-economic ancient history during the 1980s. Roman Italy was the first of a series edited by Tim and published by the British Museum Press, called ‘Exploring the Roman World’. He later wrote Roman Britain with his colleague Catherine Johns (1992). Sadly, only four out of the six planned volumes had been published by the time he died, but nevertheless the series reflects Tim’s commitment to making archaeological research results available to an informed readership, so that current thinking can be made widely accessible. Tim kindly invited one of us (AK) to write the volume on Roman Gaul and Germany (1990) and this reflects the way he was so influential in building up and promoting the next generation of archaeologists who came within his ambit. Many now in senior positions in British archaeology have good reason to owe Tim a debt of gratitude for the way in which he supported their research and pushed forward their interests.

Whilst at Lancaster Tim undertook a number of excavations both in Britain and abroad. In the north of England his work on Roman military and civilian sites led to such important works as Romans in North-West England: Excavations at Watercrook, Ravenglass and Bowness on Solway (1979). His enthusiasm for Cumbria and parts further north was reflected in holiday breaks with him in the 1980s and gatherings in London when we were both working on the Hayling Island temple project. At this time he also became involved in North Africa, undertaking major excavation in Algeria first at Iol Caesarea, the Roman provincial capital of Mauretania Caesarea (1977–81), and later the Roman colonia of Lambaesis (1982). At Iol Caesarea with his Algerian colleague...
Nacera Benseddick, he revealed (in an increasingly difficult political climate) a remarkably complex story of the city's development from its Punic origins to the French colonial era. This was the finest urban archaeology Africa had seen and was published in *Fouilles du Forum de Cherchel* (1993).

The series of books on the Roman world was one of Tim's projects after moving to the British Museum from Lancaster. He was at first Assistant Keeper with responsibility for Romano-British matters in the Department of Prehistoric and Romano-British Antiquities (1978-89), later rising to Keeper of the Department in 1985. Although the department was concerned with Britain, Tim felt no such geographical chains binding his own research. He took an empire-wide view, and made sure that his academic involvement in Italy and North Africa was able to continue. This was the occasion for his collaboration with one of us (AK) in directing the excavations at the Mola di Monte Gelato, 1986-91. This project had grown out of Tim's research for the South Etruria survey, and the results shed significant light on the transition from the Roman to medieval period in rural Italy (*Excavations at the Mola di Monte Gelato. A Roman and Medieval Settlement in South Etruria*. 1997).

The collaboration continued at the same time in a Romano-British project, to lift the fallen wall of the Meanstoke Roman villa in Hampshire. The wall is now on display in the British Museum's new Iron Age and Roman Britain Gallery, thanks to Tim's commitment to the preservation of this unique survival of the architecture of late Roman Britain. In fact it is the re-display and opening in 1997 of this gallery which must be the most eloquent witness to his achievement. He also played a large part in the re-planning of the Department in the major development of the Museum following the departure of the British Library to its new site. During these years and those that remained to him, Tim's great joy was his marriage to Sandra Bailey (1985), and his two children, Simon and Belinda. The last time one of us (GS) met him was when he was on duty patrolling the gallery with Belinda on a busy Sunday afternoon.

At the British Museum Tim involved himself in the study of major finds from Roman Britain. This work led to the publication of important studies such as *The Thetford Treasure* (1983) which he co-wrote with Catherine Johns. In addition to Monte Gelato he embarked on another huge excavation, returning to the Fens and a major Roman settlement at Stonea. This project was co-directed with his colleague Ralph Jackson and is now published as *Excavations at Stonea, Cambridgeshire, 1980-85* (1996), a huge and expensive volume. We remember vividly the excitement with which he showed us round the excavation and expressed his ideas of how that great stone tower-like building must have appeared against the flat landscape surrounding it.

At Monte Gelato Tim also displayed his boundless enthusiasm for archaeological enquiry. Nothing delighted him more than to descend into a trench, having noticed a significant feature or relationship, and to dig, with the nearest available tools, or even his hands, in order to sort out the problem. His other desire was to find the 'story' of the site – could the disparate data be strung together to get the interpretation that was most convincing? There is a moment in any excavation where suddenly the story clicks, as it did at Monte Gelato in the third season. After a day of intensive discussion (either on site or in the nearby bar!) the interpretation was arrived at which provided the agreed sequence. Tim raised money for this project mainly from the British Museum Trustees, who were happy to support a project that was not going to yield artefacts for the museum, nor relate to a department dedicated to British archaeology. It is a tribute to the Trustees that their enlightened approach allowed Tim's last major fieldwork to take place. It is also a reflection of his own powers of persuasion and his ability to deliver a wonderfully enthusiastic lecture. He could enthral a group of Italian schoolchildren as easily as holding an academic audience at a conference, or even the mayor of Campagnano (near Monte Gelato) and his entourage at a candle-lit dinner in the courtyard of the British School at Rome.

Tim, of course, was also much involved in numerous national committees, particularly to do with the British School, but last year he became President of the Royal Archaeological Institute, and was full of plans to take the Institute's Summer Meeting to his beloved Italy in 2001. What a tour that would have been! We shall always remember Tim as one of those rare individuals who, although attaining great heights of achievement, had a generous, supporting and friendly attitude towards everyone. He has left an indelible mark on British archaeology, as witnessed by some 15 books and monographs and a hundred papers in scholarly journals, and he will be sorely missed.

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**Snippets**

**LUXURIOUS COMPLEX FOUND NEAR POMPEII**

What has been described as a luxury hotel and restaurant complex has been discovered during road widening for the Naples – Salerno motorway. The Villa Moregine was built near Pompeii on the banks of the Sarno with views of the Bay of Naples. Its thermal baths had never been used and were probably still under construction. Marble and wooden fittings survived whilst doors had their bronze furniture intact. The complex was decorated with what is described as a 'dazzling cycle of paintings'. The villa will be reburied under the road following the removal of the murals.

*Daily Telegraph 04/05/2000*
Archaeologists have a problem. The best way to understand a site is to dig it. But digging is destructive, so if they want a site to be preserved, they need to leave it alone.

Geophysical techniques are great because, compared with excavation, they are relatively cheap and they offer exploration without destruction.

The Gosbecks Archaeological Park is pivotal in terms of understanding the origin and development of Colchester, since it lies near the centre of the pre-Roman settlement. It is therefore a good example of a site where there is a conflict between the need to preserve and the desire to investigate.

Over the last five summers, a series of excavations has been carried out in the park, directed mainly towards interpreting the buried remains for the benefit of visitors. The emphasis has been on locating the positions of major features such as boundaries and buildings which are known largely from aerial photography of cropmarks. The work has been funded by the Colchester Borough Council and undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust with the help of volunteers.

Geophysical survey is playing an important role in this process, although results are proving variable in quality. Different techniques are being evaluated to see which suits the ground conditions best. For example, both resistivity and magnetometry have produced good results over the Romano-Celtic temple, but were disappointing on the site of the Roman fort which is only a few fields away.

The latest trial was funded by the Association for Roman Archaeology and involved ground-penetrating radar. The results were the best achieved so far, outstripping earlier resistivity and magnetometer surveys in the clarity of some (but not all) of the detail. Erica Utsi of Utsi Electronics carried out the survey, and Tim Dennis of the Department of Electronic Engineering at the University of Essex processed the data to show the results in plan form.

The equipment is pushed over sites rather like a lawn mower, and readings are taken automatically using the rotation of the wheels to measure distance. The readings at Gosbecks were taken at 100 mm intervals along 0.5 metre wide runs, so the number of readings per square metre is high compared with previous resistivity and magnetometry surveys. The next trials at Gosbecks will again involve a magnetometer. This time measurements will be taken over much shorter intervals (25 cm) in the forward direction to judge the extent to which the success of the ground radar is to be explained by its greater number of readings. This work, like all the earlier surveys except the ground-penetrating radar, is being undertaken by Peter Cott.

The Colchester Archaeological Trust is much indebted to the Association for Roman Archaeology for its grant towards the cost of the trials.

The Gosbecks Archaeological Park is managed by the Colchester Borough Council. There is no entry charge and it is open at all times. The site car park is off the Maldon Road, about half a mile towards the town from Colchester Zoo. For further information about visiting the site, please telephone 01206 853588.

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**LETTER**

Sir,

In your last issue I read with interest Paul Wilkinson’s account of the apparent discovery of a Roman fort near Faversham (which seems to be virtually the same paper, word for word, as the one already published in Practical Archaeology II). While the nature of the ditch as described by the excavator is at least consistent with a Roman fort we need to see the sections and photographs. The general shots illustrating the paper reveal nothing. Amphorae certainly confirm that wine was being consumed; whether by Roman soldiers or by drunken native tribesmen is hard to say, but there is no mention in the article of the discovery of military metalwork, nor of early (i.e. pre 43) coins such as have been found a very long way to the north-west at the fort/ vexillation fortress at Alchester, let alone at Chichester and Fishbourne in Sussex.

This is perhaps the place to add that while I believe there must have been at least some Roman military activity in Kent in 43 in order to secure the south-eastern corner of Britain before the end of that year, so far what has been found at Richborough and perhaps Faversham – and not forgetting the oft-quoted Bredgar hoard – is rather small beer (or should it be wine?) compared with what seems to be emerging in central southern Britain and as far north as Oxfordshire up against the borders of the Dobunni (Dio’s Bodunni). Clearly the full tale of the events of AD 43 is a very complicated one, which requires the most meticulous standards of excavation and recording. But we should not imagine that the Roman invasion of Kent or battles on the Medway are in any way established fact. None of the sources tell us where the Romans landed, though they suggest it was west of Boulogne, and Vespasian and the Second Legion got down pretty sharpish to clearing the Isle of Wight of enemies and smashing the resistance of the Durotriges of Dorset. Short of the unlikely find of an inscription from Kent, Sussex or Hampshire, only archaeology can provide the evidence we need.

Martin Henig
In his article Spotlight on St. Albans (ARA 5) David Thorold reviewed Verulamium’s expanded and now magnificent Museum of Roman Britain, certainly one of the finest exhibitions of Roman life in the country and a free entry venue to ARA members since 1997. The museum is certainly a cause for celebration and members are encouraged to visit it this summer. Its status was highlighted by a visit from HRH The Duke of Kent on 3rd February which was accompanied by a tour of the galleries and a civic reception.

The late Iron Age oppidum, and what happened here as the western empire collapsed in the early fifth century?, but have also given us unrivalled insights into the life of a major Romano-British town. In spite of these major archaeological campaigns, only a fraction of the town has been excavated, and the bulk of it still lies, unexcavated, beneath 80 hectares of park and farmland. Air photographs demonstrate just how high the potential of the site is, with densely occupied areas within the line of the inner, late first-century defences (the ‘1955 ditch’) and extensive ribbon development and industrial complexes further out.

The importance of Roman Verulamium has long been recognised, and in 1968 the whole area inside the third century town walls was scheduled as an Ancient Monument. Scheduled Ancient Monuments are sites of national importance and in theory receive statutory protection. It is an offence to damage or destroy them. In Verulamium, the half of the Roman town that underlies the Park, this protection is rigorously upheld by English Heritage as part of its statutory duties. Any ground disturbance here, even very minor works, requires Scheduled Monument Consent from the Secretary of State. The situation in the northern half of the town is very different. Here, with the exception of the Verulamium theatre and the area of shops adjacent which have been laid out as a visitor attraction, the site is regularly ploughed. The reason for this is that when the area was scheduled as an Ancient Monument, the land was already being ploughed, and under a class consent, ploughing was allowed to continue.1

The Monuments at Risk Survey, commissioned by English Heritage, identified ploughing as the single most damaging activity as far as archaeological sites are concerned, with 30% of damage to archaeological remains being attributable to the effects of agriculture. What is more, the great bulk of this damage had been caused since the 1970s. This certainly seems to be the case at Verulamium. As early as 1973 large quantities of Roman pottery and building debris were regularly being ploughed up. A field walking survey carried out in that year located distinct concentrations of building debris, several of which could be seen to directly overlie Roman buildings visible from the air. Fourteen years later, in 1987, a further field walking survey was undertaken, based on the same grid as that used in 1973 so allowing direct comparisons to be made. The results were extremely disturbing, although hardly unexpected. The concentrations of debris observed in 1973 had increased in extent, and new ones had appeared. The average size of individual pottery sherds had also increased demonstrating conclusively that this was not material ploughed up in the past simply being moved around in the ploughsoil. It was new material, derived from freshly disturbed deposits, a point incidentally confirmed by the fresh appearance of much of the material. Finally, whereas in 1973 most of the concentrations of debris were made up of a mixture of flint, tile and pottery, fourteen years later differential distributions of material were observed. Deposits of bone, shell and pottery were found adjacent to deposits of building debris, not mixed with them and implying the destruction of in situ midden deposits lying outside buildings. To take one particular example by way of illustration, in 1973 a concentration of building debris (flint and tile) was recorded on the site of two Romano-Celtic temples visible on air photographs. By 1987 not only had this concentration increased in extent, but within it there were now separate concentrations of tesserae and domestic rubbish. This suggests very strongly that whereas in 1973 the plough may only have been hitting demolition deposits of building debris over the temples, fourteen years later tessellated floors within the buildings and midden deposits outside them were being destroyed.
Since 1987 ploughing has continued unabated. Visitors to the Roman theatre have been appalled by the amount of Roman debris clearly visible on the surface of the ploughed fields. Finally, in January of this year and in response to growing public concern, English Heritage commissioned the excavation of over 300 pits across the whole of the ploughed area in order to establish the depth of ploughsoil. The excavation of the pits was supplemented by a sample geophysical survey. This exercise revealed Roman levels often within 20 cm (8 inches) of the surface, sometimes with clear plough furrows cutting through floor levels, and even through the mortar bases for tessellated or mosaic pavements. Large chunks of freshly broken tile, pottery and mortared flints littered the topsoil.

But still the ploughing continues. What is the value of scheduling a site as an ancient monument if it cannot be protected, even in cases where there is clear evidence for serious and continuing damage? Verulamium is a site of prime importance to our understanding of Roman Britain. Quite apart from the quantity, quality and variety of its buildings, the town is one of the very few sites in southern England where there is evidence for a degree of continuity from the late Roman to early Saxon periods. This evidence, often in the form of beam slots and insubstantial surfaces, is particularly vulnerable to plough damage, yet even now, how much remains? What is more, unless the current destruction is halted, how much of the more substantial buildings which were so clearly visible from the air twenty-five years ago will remain for future generations? Surely the time has come for English Heritage to find the means to stop the destruction of this irreplaceable part of the nation’s heritage.

1 Ancient Monuments Act (Class Consents) Order 1984 (No. 229).
Julie Hurst’s Stained Glass Panel

Julie Hurst is a keen ARA member living near Witney in Oxfordshire. She works as a professional guide in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. This is the oldest public museum in Britain and as the university museum, has a fine Roman collection in its Department of Antiquities.

One of her great interests is making stained glass panels and windows which are commissioned and often exhibited. They often have a historical or archaeological theme in their iconography.

Her most recent work is a ‘Roman Panel’ which is offered for sale by the ARA through a highest bidder auction. The entire final sale price will be donated to the ARA funds.

The panel is square, measuring 46 x 46 cms. The design first came to mind when Julie was listening to Dr. David Neal’s fascinating lecture about the Roman Mosaics of Britain Project at the ARA’s 1999 AGM in Oxford. She realised that she had never used a Roman theme in her stained glass before. The design gradually developed from various ideas and sources. The central roundel refers to the Imperial Roman eagle. This is surrounded by panels depicting ghostly figures engaged in a Bacchic dance, based on those depicted on the great Mildenhall silver dish. Between these are smaller panels at the cardinal points with real vine leaves (an attribute of Bacchus) fused between glass. Surrounding these are further panels containing fused and painted glass mosaics.

Most of the techniques used are those of the medieval craftsman: kiln-fired painting using oxides, enamels and silver stain, some pieces needing multiple firings; acid etching and frosting, and last of course, leading. Fused glass was produced in the Roman period, and fourth-century gold glass is the inspiration for Julie’s current project.

Auction Details

The Stained Glass Panel has been kindly donated to the ARA to assist in fund raising. The Board decided that the fairest way of conducting the sale was for a postal auction with the Stained Glass Panel going to the highest sealed bid. There is a reserve price of £300.00.

The postal sealed bids should be sent to the ARA Treasurer:

Mr. Don Flear
48 King Edward’s Road
South Woodham Ferrers
Chelmsford
Essex CM3 5PQ

and should arrive no later than Thursday 31st August 2000. Please write ‘Stained Glass Panel’ in the top left hand corner of the envelope.

In the event of equal offers the bidders’ names will be placed in a ‘hat’ and a draw will be conducted by the ARA board. The winner will be notified as soon as practical after the closing date but no later than 30th September 2000. The winner’s name will also be announced in the next edition of ARA. Only one bid will be accepted from each member.

Photocopy Acceptable

Stained Glass Auction

Name: ____________________________
Address: _________________________
Post Code: ________________________
Telephone No: ____________________
Membership No: _________________

I BID £ ________ for the Stained Glass Panel
The considerable interest generated by the discovery of the large Roman site on Blunsdon Ridge in north Swindon, which saved it from development, has rekindled an interest in the identification of rural sanctuaries in Britain, especially those associated with water shrines. Because of the limited excavation, it still remains to be confirmed that the Swindon site was a sanctuary although certain features revealed can logically be interpreted as having had a religious function, certainly during the late Roman period. When the site was first identified during building operations it was thought to be a lavish villa. However, there are some well known villas which can, on detailed and objective investigation, be re-interpreted as having functioned not as farming units, but as sanctuaries, with extensive accommodation for pilgrims.

To develop this argument we shall consider two well-known and traditionally accepted villas in the West Country and compare them with undoubted sanctuaries both in Britain and on the Continent, and put forward the suggestion that the function of one of the most famous sites in Britain, Chedworth in Gloucestershire, should be reconsidered. In 1983, our President, Dr. Graham Webster gave his presidential address on this theme to the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, when he suggested that the villa could well be a Tempelbezirk of the types recognised on the continent. (Webster, G. 1989). Perhaps the time may now be appropriate to resume the argument, for not only has the Blunsdon Ridge excavation provided more information but the villa at Chedworth itself has been the subject of further exploratory work in recent years (Cicary, R. et al., 1998).

Most Romano-British farming villas were sited on relatively open or gently undulating landscapes, with easy access to their field systems. They were also predominantly aligned to the south or south-east to maximise sunlight.

At Chedworth, however, the main courtyard buildings face due east and appear to be almost wedged into the upper reaches of a narrow and steep-sided valley, a most illogical location for a farming villa. Though protected from most winds its shaded position denies sunlight to the buildings for long periods of the day, even on summer afternoons and evenings. The site appears to have been deliberately selected to provide a vista down the course of the river Coln, and because it has a perpetual source of water. There is, therefore, far more to learn from this magnificent site than is generally appreciated by its modern visitors.

The remains of other little-known and even less-understood buildings lie within a half-mile circuit of the villa. One, only 150 metres to the north-west, at the head of a narrow combe, is known as 'The Capitol.' It was partly explored during the construction of a railway cutting in 1869, when it was referred to as being a circular temple. Fragments of columns and a small stone niche were recovered at the time. A second, far more impressive structure half a mile
to the east, is also recorded as a temple about 15 metres square with a columned portico, constructed on a huge platform of massive masonry blocks projecting from the hillside above the river. It was revealed by St. Clair Baddely in 1926, who found fragments of large stone columns, part of a carved architrave and a relief depicting a hunter god. If Chedworth was a villa, it would be most unusual for temples to be located in the area of its field system. Three other substantial buildings are also indicated to the north and east, which also seem to respect the river valley, (RCHME 1976).

If we consider the main buildings displayed today at Chedworth, there are striking aspects of them which preclude their use as an agricultural villa, even if seen as two separate family units, or a "bi-partite" villa. The north wing is dominated at its west end by a large range of baths, which have been rebuilt and modified on a number of occasions, including in the latter half of the fourth century, a time when most villas' baths were either being reduced in size or demolished. Likewise the northern end of the west wing is taken up by a second large and well-equipped bath-suite. The south side of the complex, the greater part of which has remained buried for well over a century, has in recent years been partly explored. This has shown a striking similarity to the disposition of rooms in the opposite north wing, both ranges consisting of a series of roughly square chambers with interconnecting service corridors. Together they resemble the distribution of rooms in a Mansio (a government rest-house for the cursus publicus). Both wings were linked by an elaborate corridor which crossed the central terraced gardens. It was most probably designed to provide a direct covered access from the guest rooms in the south wing to the baths in the north wing. The regular plan and proportion of the Chedworth building is far more reminiscent of the official mansiones, (for example, as at Chelemsford and Silchester), and of the guest house of the sanctuary at Lydney, than any known Romano-British villa.

Another unusual and very significant feature is the well-proportioned latrine, projecting from the south wing. This is not a chamber one normally expects to find on a villa, but a relatively common feature on sites accommodating large numbers of people. Interestingly, such facilities have been identified at Great Witcombe and Lydney, sites to which we shall refer shortly. Finally, standing on an elevated position in the north-west corner of the site, between the two bath-suites, is an undoubted water shrine (a small uninscribed altar was found buried in the late floor levels of its apse in 1865), the overflow from which supplied the baths in which the 'guests' must have immersed themselves. Dining rooms, large baths, latrines, extensive accommodation, sleeping chambers and shrines are the typical facilities expected at major sanctuaries - all these elements are present at Chedworth. There is also a lack of archaeological evidence for any villa-associated agricultural activity during the period of peak prosperity. For example, there are no barns, byres, malting furnaces nor stock-yards, whilst the majority of the 'agricultural implements', so labelled in the site museum, resemble gardener's tools.

Chedworth has also produced a curious assemblage of religious objects, such as carved stone figures, a number of small altars - more than on any other villa site in Britain - and a bronze thumb identified by Graham Webster as being from a Sabazius cult hand. There are also the de-paganized stones from the water shrine, dramatically etched with Christian
chi-rho symbols. Would the early Christians have bothered to do this had the spring not had a pagan significance?

The satellite buildings surrounding the Chedworth villa probably included other shrines or temples in woodland clearings, the whole area being, as Webster suggested, a Tempelbezirk of the type known on the continent, consisting of a series of shrines around a central accommodation and bathing complex, the very structural features and facilities provided at Chedworth.

South of Gloucester lies the beautifully located but enigmatic villa at Great Witcombe. Since its discovery and excavation by Samuel Lyons in the early nineteenth century the building has been interpreted as the main house of a country estate. However, the plan of the building, its precarious location on a steep, waterlogged hillside, and, as at Chedworth, the lack of agricultural structures again convincingly argue for this site to be a water sanctuary (Walters, B. 1993; Leach, P 1998). The central axis of the complex consists of an imposing and exceptionally wide elevated corridor, open-fronted, with a range of columns high above the central courtyard. In the fourth century it incorporated a projecting central and columned façade linked to an octagonal tower at the rear.

The whole area was floored in the fourth century with polished limestone opus sectile tiles. The whole design resembles a temple, not the villa triclinium with which it has for too long been identified. Immediately behind the octagonal room rises a prolific spring which passes directly beneath the centre of the building, flowing through drains beneath the central courtyard. The heavy buttresses against the walls of the east wing have led to its identification as a granary attached to a barn on a lower level. A more appropriate interpretation would be that the buttresses and heavy interior foundations of the so-called “granary” are in fact structural supports for an ornate stair-galleried entrance hall to the elevated shrine on the central axis. Later in the fourth century the baths in the south-west corner of the courtyard were greatly enlarged, incorporating two large pools, which were clearly intended for use by more people than one would expect to inhabit a villa.

The greatest sanctuary in Britain dedicated to a water deity is, of course, that of Sulis Minerva at Bath, with its temple, sacred spring and vast baths. Almost certainly adjacent pilgrim guest-houses still lie buried beneath the modern city.

The finest example of a rural healing sanctuary in the west of Britain is the late fourth-century hilltop shrine to Nodens at Lydney, Gloucestershire, north-east of Chepstow, re-excavated by Sir Mortimer and Tessa Wheeler in 1928-29 (Wheeler, R. E. M. & T. V. 1932). Here have been exposed the impressive remains of a temple with side chambers, a large guest-house, extensive baths and an abaton, a series of sleeping chambers where the god would visit the sick in their dreams. Lydney cannot be the only example of a temple complex with a villa-like guest-house in Roman Britain, and others will in time be recognised.

In the southern Eifel near Trier in Germany, in an area called Wallenborn (bubbling spring), lies the extensive Gallo-Roman sanctuary at Heckenminster, its main period of activity dated to the second and third centuries (Binsfeld, W. 1969). Three temples, one of which is the source of the waters, are accompanied by extensive residential apartments for pilgrims and the mandatory range of baths, all constructed on a series of hillside terraces. A small theatre has also been identified on the site. The complex resembles what today might be referred to as a health resort or spa. It was designed to accommodate the pilgrims in comfort, with communal dining areas in pleasant and peaceful country surroundings, well away from the noise and smells.
of the towns, where they could seek 'cures from the waters'. A smaller, but well-appointed sanctuary lies at Hochscheid in the Hunsrück, and is dedicated to Apollo and a local Celtic goddess Sirona (Weisgerber, G., 1975). Four spring lines, the head waters of the Koppelbach, flow through the site, one of which rises in the centre of the temple (Building I, Figure 3). This stream was diverted into a rectangular stone-lined cistern - not dissimilar to the one found on Blunsdon Ridge. A substantial courtyard guest-house (Building II) lies detached from a large bath-house (Building III). A fourth building of cob-wall construction on a stone foundation is of unknown purpose, but may have been a priest’s house.

An important god of healing to the continental Celts was Lenus Mars, who had major sanctuaries at Trier and Pommern. It may be significant, that among the small votive altars at Chedworth is one with a crudely executed figure and a dedication inscribed to that god.

Religious observances formed a significant part of the lives of ancient peoples of all cultures, including the Romano-British. The help of the gods was sought for a variety of problems but the most common appeals were for a regaining – or the continuance – of good health. Medicines were probably not very effective and physical pain and suffering must have been extensive in all classes of society. Consequently the patronage of healing sanctuaries would have been widespread, forming a major contribution to the resurgence of pagan religion in the fourth century, as exemplified by the late embellishments at Lundy.

Chedworth today is one of the best preserved and better known Roman sites accessible to the public in Britain. Unfortunately, having been originally excavated and presented to visitors in the nineteenth century as a 'farming villa', a more analytical approach to the interpretation of the site is now required. As we enter the new millennium, a more open assessment of the considerable evidence at Chedworth should be made. At the peak of its prosperity, it seems to have formed the residential centre of a rich and important rural sanctuary, probably dedicated to a healing water god. Only in its declining years, with the victory of Christianity over the old religions, did it possibly become a decaying farm in the twilight of Roman Britain.

**Sources:**

**Chedworth:**


**Heckenmünster:**


**Hochscheid:**


**Leyden:**


**Great Witcombe:**


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**Snippets**

**A LARGE ROMAN SETTLEMENT FOUND AT CAMBRIDGE**

Excavations prior to University expansion at a site off the Madingley Road in Cambridge, have uncovered part of a large and quite complex 3rd and 4th century Roman settlement, which may be part of the same township located at Gravel Hill in the nineteenth century. Evidence for a large number of timber buildings, cemeteries and field systems has been traced. An area with a shrine produced several balances which suggests that markets were held in the vicinity. Amongst the smaller finds was a terracotta flagon fragment with its spout ornamented with a female head wearing an elaborate ring-ornamented headress.

Cambridge Evening News. 23/03/2000
MORE MOSAICS
TEMPORARILY UNCOVERED AT CHEDWORTH

by Anthony Beeson

Archaeologists from the Cotswold Archaeological Trust have been uncovering and then reburying mosaics not seen for many years at Chedworth, in order to assess their state of preservation.

Amongst those sampled were pavements in rooms 5b, 6 and 25a during March, whilst that in room 28, of which nothing was known beyond its basic colour scheme, was trenched in April. The three mosaics in rooms 5b and 6 are in the west wing and adjoin the famous Bacchic triclinium pavement. Perhaps 5b was the most interesting (Fig. 1).

Sporting an attractive pelta or shield design, it had previously floored a larger chamber, but at a later date the room had been reduced in size by the insertion of room 6, which had itself been floored with a new and attractive mosaic bordered by a swastika meander pattern. The presence of a blackened tile hearth on the worn surface of this floor suggests the longevity of occupation at the site into sub-Roman times when the hypocausts were no longer in use, and a simple open fire was thought acceptable (Fig. 2). An interesting feature of the repair to the original pelta mosaic, necessitated after the insertion of the east-west wall of room 6, is the attempt by the mosaicist to introduce a braided effect in the plain white tesserae used. Another mosaic inserted at this time replaced the pelta mosaic outside room 6, and was a simple panelled mat design in red and white (Fig. 1). A small section of the mosaic in room 25a was also uncovered. A central geometric panel in grey and red is bordered by coarser tesserae laid in three bands of red on a white ground (Fig. 3).

The most exciting discovery was in room 28 where the mosaic had not been seen since the original.
EXCAVATION OF THE COURTYARD GARDEN AT CHEDWORTH

by Anthony Beeson

An excavation to determine the layout of the Roman courtyard garden at Chedworth was undertaken in April.

A team of archaeologists led by Dr. Maureen Carroll of Sheffield University conducted what is, for Britain, a unique excavation, in so far as it is the first one to concentrate solely on a garden area within a Roman building in search of evidence for its planning and planting. It is hoped that environmental analysis will shed light on the kinds of plants growing in the vicinity of the garden. The courtyard garden at Chedworth has never been built on and is undisturbed since Roman times, so it is hoped that it will reveal many secrets.

This year’s excavation in front of the centre of the west wing revealed a layer of spoil from the Victorian excavations covering a scatter of Roman roofing slabs. Below this, a late Roman paving of rough slabs overlay what had previously been garden soil. The latter preserved little in the way of features, suggesting that the area sampled

was laid to grass in Roman times. A ditch-like water channel was discovered heading across the lawn in the direction of the south wing (Fig. 1). It is believed that it was buried in Roman times and if lined in any way had been robbed out at a later date. One broken conduit block, similar to others found near the nymphaeum and baths, was found in situ but broken.

It is hoped that this is only the first of a programme of future excavations to be held in the garden courtyard.

Fig. 1. View of the garden excavation in front of the west wing. The water feature is being excavated and appears as a trench across the site. A small sounding investigates the porticus wall beyond and rooms 5–6 appear mid centre to right.

Fig. 2. Part of the mosaic of room 25a.

Photo: © Anthony Beeson.

Fig. 3. Remains of the open guilloche border in the centre of the northern part of room 28. An adjoining circle can be glimpsed to the left. A similar, if less elaborate border, occurs at one end of a mosaic found at the guest house of the Lydian temple.

Photo: © Anthony Beeson.
Dorchester, Dorset in the early 20th century was the scene of some epic archaeology. In the 1930s at Maiden Castle, Sir Mortimer Wheeler was conducting his innovative campaign on the hillfort while later in the decade the Dorset County Museum’s curator, Lt. Col. D. D. Drew, was initiating one of the first systematic rescue/research excavations on a Roman town in Britain, a precursor of more recent development archaeology and as significant in its way as the work of Gen. Pitt Rivers on Cranborne Chase some 40 years before. The War curtailed this work in Colliton Park which still remains unpublished, the only long-term result being the display of a well-preserved Roman town house, now set behind the County Hall built on...
the rest of the site. In recent years the house has been given a new cover building, rather anachronistically, with stone tiles on a steel and glass frame, like a rustic version of the Centre Pompidou, but the mosaic pavements are at least now visible and better protected (see ARA 4 [1997], 14).

The latter part of the 20th century has seen very mixed responses to development in the town, with much careless destruction and the occasional significant investigation, of which many still remain unpublished. The high point was perhaps the publication in 1970 of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments’ Inventory on south-east Dorset, containing the survey of the ancient town. My own involvement in the study of my home town has been the observation of 74 sites within and around the town and initiating and directing the excavation of the Poundbury settlement and cemetery, a site which has been published but the research potential of which remains only partly exploited.

Roman Dorchester’s origins are obscure, its later development and status enigmatic, yet its walls contain an unusual cluster of rich late Roman buildings within a relatively small walled area. It lies amidst a dense area of native Iron Age settlement of which Maiden Castle is the single most significant defensive structure.

A Roman presence dates back to the conquest yet the military base presumed to lie here has yet to be identified. Major structures such as the elaborate baths, aqueduct and the amphitheatre appear also to originate in this early period. If a legionary base could remain unrecognised beneath Exeter for so long then perhaps surprises also lie beneath Durnovaria. Civil development is marked by the establishment of a road grid and system of built drains but little is known of civic or early domestic architecture. By the 4th century, however, the town is notable for the unusual number of rich houses decorated with mosaics, some of the finest occurring in the area of a new development proposed for the south-west quarter of the town. The cemeteries are largely unexplored but the large Late Roman inhumation cemetery at Poundbury produced, for instance, 20 burials of equivalent status to the stone and lead coffin burial recently found at Spitalfields, London.

Now Dorchester is faced by the most extensive redevelopment of the last century. The south-west quarter of the Roman walled area, which until recently was occupied by scattered buildings of the Dorset County Hospital, is to become a private housing estate, while another area to the east may become a retail complex. The Hospital area is known as the site of several major Roman town houses, as a result of finds during the construction of Victorian mansions and observations or excavations since the Hospital was expanded in the 1960s. The area is closer than the County Hall site to the ancient core of settlement and more significant for the study of the Roman town’s development. The other development will occupy some of the deeper areas of stratigraphy in an area near the public baths located in the 1970s and since test-excavated by Wessex Archaeology.

The Hospital area has produced hints of early settlement, sections of the street grid and evidence for industrial or craft activity. On topographic grounds Bill Putnam has proposed that the water distribution centre for the town may lie in the area, but the most notable finds have been the remains of a late town house and the evidence for Christian activity. Within the area of Somerleigh Court lies the site of an extensive house which, since the 19th century, has produced traces of at least eight mosaic or tessellated pavements within an area at least 35 m square, equal to the larger houses in Silchester. Two wings can be identified facing east onto an open court or garden with a wall and a street beyond, other wings or adjoining buildings being known to north and south. In the words of Steve Cosh, who has included the site in his forthcoming study of Dorset mosaics, part of the forthcoming publication with David Neal of The Roman Mosaics of Britain, this ‘must have been a richly ornamented house . . . especially the very grand porticus mosaic fronting two ranges’ (Fig. 1).

Fig. 1. Section of mosaic found in the Somerleigh Court area.

Photo: © S. Cosh.

Continued
Observations in the area have also produced traces of at least four more pavements and at least five buildings, while limited excavation in 1999 has revealed another building. But one of the most notable finds is the treasure of early Christian silver spoons (Fig. 2) and coins of the early 5th century found a century ago north of Somerleigh Court. The exact context of this find remains unknown but traces of tessellation have now been identified close by and part of a substantial timber structure cut into a road surface, a sign of late settlement after the decay of urban life. Yet more evidence of very late Roman activity comes from the garden south of Somerleigh Court where excavation in 1970 produced a building containing a fine series of bread ovens dated by coins of the late 4th and early 5th centuries and by pottery dating to the very end of the local Black Burnished Ware industry. Apart from late official belt fittings, the most important find from the area is a pair of delicate compasses marked with a Christian symbol (Fig. 3), identified by Martin Henig as used for the production of written documents. Another exactly similar pair, presumably also of Roman date, comes from Cirencester but, perhaps most significant, compasses of the same general type are amongst the finds from the monastery at St. Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury. This is a fascinating object in the context of an area which has produced a cluster of villas decorated with mosaics, the designs of which contain allusions to both pagan and Christian beliefs. This distinctive local art form not only alludes to literature, but, at Frampton near Dorchester, a pavement actually includes lines of poetry. Furthermore, Ken Dark has suggested that the style of illustration in some surviving late Roman manuscripts shows links with the local mosaic designs, raising the astonishing possibility that such documents were produced locally. Did late Roman Dorchester not only contain a local school of mosaic work and painting but also a scrip torium producing copies of classical or even Christian texts?

The occurrence of such a find within an area of the town which has also produced other Christian objects adds to its interest, but there is yet more archaeological evidence which points to the potential of this area. The records of 19th century antiquaries, confirmed by my own observations, show that at an early date, structures were built above the Roman buildings at Somerleigh Court and that the area has produced some of the few items of mid-Anglo-Saxon metalwork from the town. Post-Roman continuity would link this site with Poundbury, outside the walls, where an apparently Christian cemetery of late Roman date is succeeded by an extensive multiphase settlement of sub-Roman date, respecting the most important funerary monuments.

Together these traces from the last centuries of Durnovaria and the origins of Anglo-Saxon Durnwaraanacester hint at the growth of an early Christian community which might have developed into an otherwise unrecorded early monastic foundation, aspects of the complex lying both within and without the defences. As the Poundbury site is now largely destroyed or buried, much of the evidence would now lie within the walls of the area of the Old County Hospital. Such a site deserves better than to be merely ‘preserved in situ’ after intersection by drains, foundations and terraced buildings. Dorchester’s famous Men of Letters would surely have called for a return to that lost pre-war archaeological initiative and supported the proper investigation of a site with potential to uncover something of their Roman predecessors.

**BOOK REVIEWS**

**Cleopatra**  
by Pat Southern  
£17.99

Review by Martin Henig

One of the ironies of history is that Octavian's gloss on his defeat of Ptolemaic Egypt as the triumph of Roman virtue over Eastern tyranny did not continue to resound through history in the way he meant it to do. He could not have known that Plutarch's life of Cleopatra would give the last independent ruler of Egypt such a hold on European imagination nor that eventually Shakespeare would for all time show a princess of 'infinite variety' who, partnered with her Roman lover Mark Antony, forever placed love above the prosaic concerns of
Empire and even of life itself.

For those of us who first and foremost experience the end of the story through the plays of Shakespeare and Dryden and know of Cleopatra’s ‘salad days’ liaison with Julius Caesar mainly through Shaw’s charming comedy ‘Caesar and Cleopatra’, here is the unexpurgated, unvarnished account of the remarkable story of a lass unparallel’d’. Surprisingly Cleopatra’s tumultuous life and times are not too well known to the ordinary reader beyond the dramatic highlights mentioned above and Pat Southern has done us all a great service by writing this biography. My only real criticism is that as so much research has been lavished recently on late Hellenistic art, it is a pity that there is no separate appreciation of Cleopatra’s lavish patronage which included such treasures as the remarkable cameo dish in Naples known as the Tazza Farnese. It was her ostentatious use of wealth that perhaps provided her most enduring legacy to Romans of luxurious taste. But that is perhaps to ask for a longer and different book. I recommend this book warmly to members of the ARA.

**The Roman Art of War**

by C. M. Gilliver


Review by Graham Soffe

This scholarly but remarkably readable book is the latest in a number of recent books on the Roman army which reflect the continued and even increasing interest in the first and probably the greatest ‘professional’ army the world has seen. Rome provided no formal system of training in the military arts for her officers and generals, so how did these men learn to command? How did they set about planning their campaigns, and what techniques of warfare were used in different situations? These are the questions Kate Gilliver goes a long way to answer in this well illustrated book based originally on her London University PhD thesis.

In comprehensively studying the military theory of the late Republic and early Empire, the author not only looks at the Roman literary sources but also those of contemporary non-Romans such as the Jewish historian Josephus and the Greek Polybius, who both expressed admiration for the discipline and training of Roman armies. It is worth remembering that although Vegetius’ great general treatise in Latin was written in the 4th century it is an epitome of earlier works, mostly now lost, of the early period. Although we may now mourn the loss of the Elder Pliny’s *How to throw the javelin from horseback* we still have the Frontinus’ *Strategems* and the campaign commentaries of Julius Caesar.

It certainly helps to have some knowledge of Roman history, politics and archaeology to make full use of this book. The first part explains how the army was organised, the second focuses on the army on the march, all illustrated with texts, diagrams, maps and photographs of monumental relief sculpture not only from Trajan’s Column but many other pieces from throughout the ancient world. The chapter on the army at rest, in other words the ubiquitous campaign camps, certainly makes interesting reading to one who spent months surveying and planning those revealed from the air as crop marks in Britain. In a way it is refreshing to rethink this subject away from the rather overwhelming archaeological data. It is fascinating to see the daring hypothetical reconstruction of the Reck Cross marching camp, Stainmore, based on Pseudo-Hyginus’ methodology. The final sections on open combat – pitched battle and violent confrontations – siege warfare, including Masada of course, are equally as informative as the rest. The book ends with a catalogue of Roman military treatises, a translation of Arrian’s *Order of March against the Alans*, a glossary, bibliography and index.

**THE ROMAN INVASION**

Continued from Page 3

of AD 43 discussed the political circumstances of the invasion. Dio tells us that Verica persuaded Claudius to intercede in Britain. Claudius’s major triumph of the campaign as proclaimed on his arch in Rome, was diplomatic, the acceptance of a client relationship with Rome by eleven kings. In addition to the already attested Claudian supply bases at Chichester and Fishbourne, Andy Russell illustrated the recent discovery of another possible Claudian timber warehouse at Bitterne, Southampton.

The case for a Kentish landing (led by Professor Mike Fulford) came on two fronts. First, Gerald Grainge pointed out difficulties in sailing west along the Channel. Then there was the problem of the two rivers. After the defeat of the two princes Dio’s account states that the Romans came to a river which they fought across with great difficulty. Nigel Nicolson strongly argued for this being the Medway, particularly as he had recently put up a monument on its banks to commemorate the battle. However, Dio does not name the river and only the second river, the Thames, is named. David Bird (with Ernest Black) suggested the River Wey or even the upper reaches of the Thames as likely, on the basis of topography and Dio, our only written source, which fitted better with a Chichester-based landing.

All in all this was a conference which made us rethink old ideas; long may that process continue into this present century.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY AND FURTHER READING:**


THE ROMAN ART OF WAR  The Roman army is recognised as one of the most effective fighting machines that the world has ever seen. However, the senior officer corps of the Roman army was essentially amateur, made up of aristocratic men pursuing political careers. A mediocre general could get by with essential published knowledge and with the advice and experience of his officers; the great general would know when to move beyond the recommendations of textbooks and trust to his own imagination and inspiration.

Kate Gilliver provides the first comprehensive study of military theory in the late Republic and early Empire. She draws not just on the ancient texts but makes use of other contemporary literary evidence and on the wealth of archaeological evidence for military activity. Dr. Gilliver looks in detail at all aspects of the Roman army. This book contains a fine range of illustrations, an Appendix of all the key Roman military treatises, a translation of Arrian's 'Order of March against the Alans' and a full Glossary of key technical terms.

THE LATER ROMAN EMPIRE  Study of the later Empire usually fades away around the year AD 200. The later Empire is then changed drastically by the Arab expansions of the seventh century. The core of the Later Empire therefore lies somewhere between AD 150 and 600 and it is on the material evidence of this period that this stimulating new study concentrates. Richard Reece writes with refreshing originality. He looks in detail at official sculpture and representation, portraits, painting and mosaics, illuminated manuscripts, churches, silver, coins and the economy, and other material culture. The text is complemented by almost 100 illustrations. There is a brief historical summary and a glossary of early Christian terms and ideas. This book is invaluable for history and archaeology students and will delight anyone with an interest in the past or in travelling in the Mediterranean area.

COMPANION TO ROMAN BRITAIN  Of all the provinces of the Roman Empire, Britain is probably the best studied and the best published. But the sheer quantity of the work done by archaeologists and historians alike means that facts and inferences have become confusingly conflated; the basis for certain claims is not always apparent. This book seeks to provide that basis, rather than a particular point of view. Guy de la Bédoyère provides detailed information on individuals, organisations, places and events. Individual chapters are devoted to the Roman army; civil administration and organisations; imperial dedications; building dedications; milestones; posts and occupations; gods, goddesses and cults; people of Roman Britain; women; coins. Appendices and an extensive bibliography complete an invaluable and well-illustrated work of reference.

THE ROMAN ART OF WAR  – Kate Gilliver

THE LATER ROMAN EMPIRE  – Richard Reece

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