THE ASSOCIATION FOR ROMAN ARCHAEOLOGY

ANNUAL DINNER WEEKEND – ROMAN WILTSHIRE

SATURDAY 16th and SUNDAY 17th MAY, 2009

I/We would like to book ( . . . . . . ) place(s) for the Annual Dinner Weekend – Roman Wiltshire.

Name(s): .............................................................................................................................................................

Address: ...............................................................................................................................................................

........................................................................................................................................................................

Postal Code: .......................................................... Telephone: .................................................................

Membership Number(s): .................................................................

Please tick and indicate numbers if you require the Main Course Vegetarian alternative. □

Cheques should be made payable to: ‘The Association for Roman Archaeology’.

All bookings, with full payment of £109.00 (single) or £218.00 (double), to be sent to:

The Director, The Association for Roman Archaeology,

75 York Road, SWINDON, Wiltshire, SN1 2JU.

to arrive NO LATER than Saturday, 2nd May, 2009.

For those not participating on the Sunday tour, please deduct £15.00 per person and tick box. □

(A SEPARATE CHEQUE WITH EACH BOOKING FORM WOULD BE APPRECIATED).

THE ASSOCIATION FOR ROMAN ARCHAEOLOGY

ANNUAL DINNER WEEKEND

Optional Black Tie Dinner

ROMAN WILTSHIRE

Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th May, 2009

Overnight accommodation will be at

THE HOLIDAY INN, Basingstoke

Single occupancy (fully inclusive) £109.00 each

Twin share (fully inclusive) £218.00 per pair

For those not participating on the Sunday tour, please deduct £15.00 per person

Meet together for the Drinks Reception at 7.00 pm

The Annual Dinner is to be held at the Holiday Inn in Basingstoke and is planned as a Black Tie Gala Dinner (Lounge Suit optional). Members should arrive and book in to the hotel after 3.00 pm. An after dinner talk will concentrate on aspects of Roman Wiltshire, which contains an extensive and spectacular number of Roman sites, only a few of which are actually visible above ground. An illustrated presentation will provide a perspective of the history and development of Roman culture in the area of the county.

Checking out of the hotel after breakfast the following morning, the weekend will incorporate a Sunday self-drive tour in Wiltshire. We will be visiting a spectacular Romano-British settlement on Salisbury Plain, guided by our guest leader Richard Osgood, Field Officer for historic monuments on land controlled by the Ministry of Defence, who have kindly agreed to the day’s visit. Members are advised to bring, or purchase en route, packed lunches for the Sunday. After leaving Salisbury Plain we will head north towards the Kennet Valley to view another significant site before descending down to Littlecote Park where the Director will take us around the conserved remains of the Roman site, before going into Littlecote House for afternoon tea and to visit the museum gallery containing finds from the excavations.

It is expected that the day will end at around 4.30 to 5.00 pm.

Last Bookings accepted on Saturday, 2nd May 2009.
This conference is a promotion between The Association for Roman Archaeology, The Department of Portable Antiquities and Treasure, and The Department of Pre-History and Europe at the British Museum.

The rationale for this event is to challenge the long accepted overview made by Sir Ian Richmond in The Roman Villa in Britain, published in 1969, that the Latin word villa is a farm and that it is primarily an economic term, indicating that the place so designated is an agricultural establishment. Since its publication, this comment has imposed on field researchers the idea that well appointed buildings in the Romano-British landscape must be directly associated with agricultural activity, thereby restricting alternative theories into the functions which may have appertained to certain significant sites. The intention of this conference is to suggest that substitute interpretations can be securely advanced, based on the available archaeological evidence, identified during excavation and by later post excavation analysis and re-assessment.

It is hoped that among the subjects raised by speakers and discussed under ‘any questions’ will be: Unconventional Architecture, Changes in Function, Unusual Origins, Topographical Locations, Politically Motivated Structures, Socio-Religious Functions, Rural Leisure Retreats, Multiple Tenancies.

Ten presentations have been accepted for the event – five on each day (three in the morning session 10.00 am to 1.00 pm and two in the afternoon) with 30 minutes for tea break at 3.30 pm. Each day will end at 5.00 pm.

Registration 9.30 – 10.00 am on the Saturday morning in the foyer of the BP Theatre in the Clore Education Centre at the British Museum. Tea and Coffee will be provided for those registering for the conference. Delegates must be seated by 10.00 am.

Included among the principal sites to be discussed will be:

- Bignor, West Sussex.
- The Castor Praetorium and Cotterstock, Northamptonshire.
- Gayton Thorpe, Norfolk.
- Lullingstone, Kent.
- Whitley Grange, Shropshire.
- Budbury, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire.
- Dinnington and Yarford, Somerset.
- Great Witcombe, Gloucestershire.
- Piddington, Northamptonshire.

There is already a great deal of interest being expressed by intending delegates for this event and places will be limited to the seating capacity of the BP Theatre only. Consequently, tickets will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

BOOKING FORM
ROMAN VILLAS IN BRITAIN – A RETROSPECTIVE REVIEW
SATURDAY 13th and SUNDAY 14th JUNE, 2009

I/we would like to reserve . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . place(s) for the Roman Villas in Britain Conference.

Name(s): ...........................................................................................................................................
Address: .............................................................................................................................................
Postal Code: ........................................... Telephone: ........................... Membership Number(s): ...................................

Charge for the two days:
Discounted Reservations received by 31st March, 2009:  
Members of the ARA  £50.00  
Non-members of the ARA  £65.00
Reservations received from 1st April 2009:
Members of the ARA  £65.00  
Non-members of the ARA  £80.00

Please return Booking Form, together with cheque only, please, payable to The Association for Roman Archaeology for the total amount, to:
The Director, The Association for Roman Archaeology, 75 York Road, SWINDON, Wiltshire, SN1 2JU.  
(A SEPARATE CHEQUE WITH EACH BOOKING FORM WOULD BE APPRECIATED).
THE ASSOCIATION FOR ROMAN ARCHAEOLOGY

LONG WEEKEND SUMMER TOUR – 2009
Friday 14th to Monday 17th August, 2009

FORTS OF THE SAXON SHORE

Accommodation at the Holiday Inn, Ashford, Kent
Non-refundable deposit of £50.00 per person with Booking Form
Balance to the Director's Office by Thursday, 16th July, 2009

Tour Cost:  Double – couple sharing twin room  £365.00
           Single – including single supplement  £242.00

This weekend tour is being planned as the first in a series of three, looking at the sequence of coastal forts along the shores of Norfolk, Kent, Sussex and Hampshire; ending with a visit to Northern France to investigate the similar counterparts along the French coast.

The weekend will be based at the Holiday Inn at Ashford, meeting together at a reception on the Friday evening before dinner. The first evening will include a talk on the problems of interpreting what function the forts where actually intended to fulfil.

Among the sites to be visited will be: Reculver; Richborough; Dover; Lympne and Pevensey.

Some of these sites were visited on our highly successful tour to Roman Kent in 2002. Richborough has, since our last visit, been the subject of further excavations and surveys carried out by English Heritage, under the direction of our old friend Tony Wilmott. Dover and Reculver are, of course, prominent areas which have been extensively excavated and published by our stalwart member Brian Philp.

Though extensively damaged by coastal subsidence the tumbled walls at Lympne are nevertheless spectacular and are in a very scenic location. Pevensey is the odd site among the other standard rectangular forts, being more oval in form, but is nonetheless in a fine state of preservation and originally was sited at the end of an isthmus well out into the sea, but is now way inland.

STUDENT MEMBERS’ TRAVEL FUND
Student members between the ages of 16 and 21 who are pursuing a subject related to Roman civilization, may apply to the Director for details. Successful applicants pay the basic £50.00 deposit and the Student Travel Fund subsidises the balance.

BOOKING FORM
FORTS OF THE SAXON SHORE
FRIDAY 15th to MONDAY 17th AUGUST, 2009

I/We would like to reserve . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . place(s) for the Long Weekend Summer Tour in August.

Name(s): .......................................................... ..........................................................
Address:  ..........................................................................................................................
Postal Code: .............................................. Telephone: ...........................................
Membership Number(s): .................................. Deposit enclosed: ................................

Please return Booking Form, together with the non-refundable deposit of £50.00 per person, to:
The Director, The Association for Roman Archaeology, 75 York Road, SWINDON, Wiltshire, SN1 2JU.
Balance of full payment to be received by Thursday, 16th July, 2009.
Cheques payable to ‘The Association for Roman Archaeology’ (A SEPARATE CHEQUE WITH EACH BOOKING FORM WOULD BE APPRECIATED).
BOOKING FORM
WALKING TOUR OF ROMAN LONDON
SUNDAY, 20th SEPTEMBER, 2009

I/We would like to book (.............) place(s) on the Self-Travel Day Walking Tour of Roman London.

Please find full payment of £............. enclosed (at £20.00 per person).

Name(s): .................................................................

Address: .......................................................................

Postal Code:.................................................... Telephone: ................................

Membership Number(s): ..............................................

Cheques should be made payable to: 'The Association for Roman Archaeology'.

All bookings (with non-refundable Full Payment of £20.00 per person) to:
The Director, The Association for Roman Archaeology, 75 York Road, SWINDON, Wiltshire, SN1 2JU.
to arrive NO LATER than Saturday, 5th September, 2009.
(A SEPARATE CHEQUE WITH EACH BOOKING FORM WOULD BE APPRECIATED).

THE ASSOCIATION FOR ROMAN ARCHAEOLOGY

SELF-TRAVEL DAY TOUR

WALKING TOUR OF ROMAN LONDON

Sunday, 20th September, 2009

Tour starts at 11.00 am from the Museum of London entrance

£20.00 per person

The Tour will be limited to 50 members

Surprisingly, we are still being asked for repeats of our ever popular walks around Roman London, the last one being four years ago in June 2005. Certainly, the guest speakers at the last AGM in the British Museum highlighted the religious aspects of our Roman capital and stimulated several members present to want to stroll through the streets of London again, with the indomitable Mike Stone. Starting from the Museum of London entrance, we then proceed to follow the visible fragments of ancient Londinium, to include the city walls; part of the Cripplegate fort; the amphitheatre beneath Guildhall Yard; the site of the great basilica and forum; the Huggin Hill Baths site; the site of the late third century palace on St. Peter's Hill; the mithraeum and the Billingsgate Baths (opened specially for our visit), with Jenny Hall, Curator of the Roman Collection in the Museum of London. If time and weather permit, we may visit other locations as well.

The tour ends at the city wall near the Tower of London. A lunch break will be taken near the historic taverns on the south bank at Southwark.

There is considerable walking for several hours, so members are advised that the tour could prove arduous for some. Information sheets about the sites to be visited, with plans, will be distributed at the start of day at the museum. Be prepared for the possibility of inclement weather.
VISIT TO THE GREEK AND ROMAN SITES
OF LIBYA – APRIL 2008

We visited Libya in April this year. David Evans (ARA Hon. Treasurer) suggested it might be useful to record our impressions for the membership, and also provide some background information for those considering going on the ARA tour in 2009.

Our interest is primarily in history, rather than archaeology per se, so we are not able to provide a detailed report. In addition, while the guides provided a wealth of information we did not take notes, being too occupied with looking and taking photographs. On some days the wind would have made note taking difficult (see below).

Reactions to the sites in Libya may well be determined by your attitude to restoration. My own preference is for unadulterated ruins, I prefer the apparent randomness by which some buildings, such as the Greek temple at Segesta, or the Roman Basilica at Trier, have survived so well, whereas many more famous buildings, such as the temple of Artemis at Ephesus, survive only as their foundations. The Libyan buildings, such as those at Leptis Magna and Sabratha (see Fig. 1), now commonly seen in magazines, were restored (or rebuilt) during the Italian occupation during the 1920s and ‘30s. However, that restoration appears to have been carried out quite sensitively (in contrast to the hideous perspex columns we saw last year in Rome close to the Colosseum), or perhaps time has softened the work. The mosaics are a different matter. Those on display have not been restored but have been preserved in situ.

Several museums also boast impressive displays of statues found on site.

The sites we visited were largely those on the ARA itinerary for 2009, and below we give a brief summary of our impressions of each site.

Tripoli Museum
Our lasting impressions are of the mosaics.

Ptolemais
Our first outdoor visit coincided with a hot wind, the Ghibli, blowing from the Sahara taking the temperature to 42°C. Curiously, despite the wind being hot, it still had a cooling effect, so the site visit was not as uncomfortable as might be expected. The main features of interest were the nine underground cisterns which provided the largest storage capacity yet found in North Africa. There is also a small but well-filled museum, exhibiting objects found on the site. The most impressive were some very fine Hellenistic mosaics which, at first appearance, looked like paintings (Fig 2).

Apollonia
Our hotel, from which we were to visit Cyrene, was next door to the site of Apollonia, the port of Cyrene. In the late Roman period Apollonia became the administrative centre of Cyrenaica and the Governor’s palace may be seen, together with the remains of three churches, two of which had baptisteries for full (adult) immersion. A feature of all sites were columns made of four materials, local sandstone, a green striped marble imported from Thera, red/pink tinged granite from Aswan and white Carrera marble.

Storage pits were also evident, apparently for garum as well as olive oil, both for export to Italy. Areas of the shore which had been quarried were also visible.

Cyrene
The first visit was to the temple of Zeus, the restored Doric columns were from the originals. The city suffered two great calamities in the Roman period. First the great Jewish revolt of AD 116-117 and then the earthquake of AD 365. The damage was largely repaired after the first, but not after the second. I had asked the guide at Apollonia, a retired archaeologist, the estimated population of ancient Cyrene. He reckoned that the ancient Greek colony may have numbered 20,000-22,000, but at its greatest extent the Roman city may have had a population of c. 700,000. This would be consistent with Gibbon’s report that during the revolt of AD 115-117 no less than 150,000 Greeks were massacred. I had suspected that figure to be exaggerated, but the city covers either an area of 66km² or has a circumference of 66 km (notes would have been useful), so that figure may be correct. The guide told us that around 80% of the site has yet to be excavated.

Also very impressive were the gymnasium and the extensive baths. The whole site, on a hill with panoramic views of the surrounding countryside, is one of the best we have ever visited.
Some toes of a massive statue of Zeus are on display in the museum. It seems the temple may have been built around this statue.

Finally, we saw the still-flowing spring of Apollo, which some sources suggest the Delphic oracle proposed as the site for the colony, while others state that Cyrene was the third site occupied by the settlers, who were recommended to settle there by the local people who knew of the spring.

**Qasr Lebia**
The museum here is dedicated to the mosaics which made up the floor of a late Roman church. Ten of the 12 panels remain and are on display in the museum. It is tempting to see in the transition from the very fine mosaics of the Hellenistic period, through the coarser, but still impressive mosaics of the third and fourth centuries, to the rather naive pictures exhibited here, a decline in standards or ability (Fig. 3). However, this was perhaps a small church in an obscure town, hence the budget for decorating the church is likely to have been limited. The outstanding contemporary mosaics at Sabratha show what the artists of the late Roman period were capable of.

**Leptis Magna**
The site suffered considerable destruction from the earthquake of AD 365, and the pagan temples were not rebuilt. Most of the famous buildings were erected by Septimus Severus and his son Caracalla, to honour the city in which Septimus was born. The main buildings of note are the market place, extensive baths, basilica (Fig. 4), theatre and amphitheatre. The outline of the hippodrome can be seen, but most has been washed away by the sea.

Here too, about 75% of the site is still covered by sand. We were told that excavation ceased in 1975. This does not square with information presented at Ptolemais at which archaeologists from the University of Warsaw were active in the early part of this decade. Nevertheless, there was no evidence of any current excavations on the site, although since it covers such an extensive area, work may have been going on away from the areas visited.

**Sabratha**
Sabratha is a beautiful site, including the restored theatre, forum, basilica/church and extensive baths. The basilica was converted to a church in the late Roman period. Perhaps the most impressive are the mosaics from the late Roman church, removed and exhibited in the on-site museum. An example of one part of the floor is given in Figure 5. There are also some remnants of very fine mosaics (Fig. 6), similar to the Hellenistic fragments in Tripoli museum, including one of Bacchus and Ariadne. Some of the most impressive mosaics are currently on tour in Europe. If anyone has the opportunity to see them we recommend doing so. Sabratha also has very fine and extensive baths.

Another particularly interesting feature is the surviving evidence for the way in which rainwater was collected from the roofs of houses and stored in cisterns; we were shown one domestic cistern around 8 m deep, with hand holds still visible to enable climbing into the cistern to clean it.

As with Apollonia and Leptis Magna, from the late Roman period a wall is evident, which only encloses a small proportion of the city. As we have seen in other Roman cities, (for example – Side in Turkey) in the late period the Romans were indiscriminate in their plundering of ancient buildings to erect walls or
domestic buildings, as can be seen in the Agora. Even sections of fluted columns can be seen built into a wall. **Overall impression** One can be left with an impression of a society in retreat. Particularly in the case of Apollonia, with only a small portion of the city enclosed by a wall, and three churches close together built using columns from earlier pagan buildings. An image of a society clinging on, inspired more by their Christian faith perhaps, than by former military prowess.

And what of other aspects of visiting Libya? Basically, have no concern. We wondered if, as a result of Libya being isolated for so long we might encounter some hostility. We did not. The guidance we had from the tour operator was entirely accurate, we were not bothered, even when walking through markets, but people were extremely friendly and helpful when approached. We were also surprised at how many spoke English, especially when we were told that the teaching of foreign languages in state schools was stopped after the revolution. This, incidentally, is why you need to have the information in your passport translated into Arabic. After 30 years of revolutionary policy many of the officials cannot read anything other than Arabic. In recent years it has been possible to have private tuition in foreign languages, and this explains how many people can speak English.

As reported above, visiting in April may lead to encounters with the Ghibli. Apparently this is not a problem at other times of the year. October was recommended to us as the best time to visit.

The one disadvantage is the need for a lot of travel. Apart from the flight to Benghazi, distances from Tripoli to Sabratha and Leptis Magna are around 70 km and 110 km respectively, while the distance from Benghazi to Cyrene is about 170 km. However, if you stay in Apollonia, Cyrene is only 15 minutes away.

Mr. J. and Mrs. L. T. Webb.

**SHORT STORY – JOURNEY’S END**

I was visiting sites on Hadrian’s Wall – an area which has drawn me back many times – for its atmosphere affects me always with its upstanding remains of the wall forts, some excavated, some partially and some just grassy humps and mounds in fields. There were several forts built far forward of the wall – as listening posts if you like – in hostile territory. One such was High Rochester or Bremenium to give it its Roman name.

It was dug in Victorian times – poorly in my opinion. However, I climbed the steep slope up to its ramparts expecting to see much but once inside, there was desolation and ruin, made worse for me by a booklet published by a chap called R. Embleton who states and I quote: “Bremenium is one of the finest forts in Britain and is of great strategic interest”. I could agree with the second part of his statement but certainly not the first.

That aside, I found the whole experience depressing with tumbled overgrown stonework making identification of features impossible. Whilst mooning around I was suddenly aware of someone looking over my shoulder – it was a chap in full Roman uniform. I asked him who he was – expecting something like George or Joe Bloggs thinking he was a re-enactor. He said his name was Rufinius and his tombstone was in a nearby church at Elsden but was far from its original position. I nearly said, “Get away and pull the other one” but something stopped me and I shuttered. At this stage it hadn’t sunk in as to who or what I was dealing with but I began to feel very cold. He said, “Can I tell you more?” I swallowed hard and said “Yes.” I sat down on some protruding stonework.

He went on, “My wife was a lady of high rank being a Senator’s daughter” and he told me what his wife’s memorial stone said and his as well. Apparently it was the only one in Roman Britain detailing his life as a Roman officer. I only remember snippets of what he told me as by now I was transfixed with fear. He, or it, told me of his long service in the Roman army which had taken him from Mauritania, Egypt. Then he held two posts as a civil servant in charge of the Flaminian Way (Roman road in Italy), then in charge of the corn dole in Rome and then as a sub-contractor of public works in Rome. Then came his last posting to a place the Gods forgot – Bremenium in Britannia. He was a member of the XX Legion. The XX had moved around Britannia and some parts of the Legion were posted to the Wall. Rufinius was posted to Bremenium as Commanding Officer – the cohort was the I Vardullorum Milliara.

Now, as I said earlier I cannot elaborate, but he did go into much more detail, but what did stick in my mind was this. I did manage to blurt out what was his wife doing at a benighted place such as Bremenium. Well, it appears that men of high rank were allowed to have their wives with them, whereas the ordinary soldier was not even allowed to marry until they had done their twenty-five years service, although it was common practice for many of them to have what we
would call common law wives in the local villages. The Commander’s house was the only building in a fort to have heated floors.

His wife’s name was Julia Flaminia Clarisma but, while she was a loyal wife and put up with the constant rain and low cloud which would envelope the fort in a white clinging mist like a wet blanket, she was constantly asking her dear husband to get another posting. He could not, for it was a matter for the General in charge of the Wall at Stanwix (Carlisle). Then he said that Julia contracted a very bad chest infection which worsened quickly. I looked at him and he was weeping. She died in his arms.

He said thereafter all the spirit went out of him. He ordered a tomb to be erected in the cemetery that lay alongside the road from the fort and had the inscription about his wife carved on it. He told me that after Julia’s funeral he could not regain the air of authority that a Commanding Officer should have, so he applied again to Stanwix, the headquarters fort on the wall, for a replacement. Eventually his request was granted and the day when his replacement was due to arrive he lay down on his bed and cut his wrists – letting the blood drip into two bowls.

I dared to ask him, through chattering teeth, why his restless spirit still roamed the fort. He said that robbers had destroyed their tomb and he didn’t know where his wife’s remains were. I couldn’t say a thing. By now it was raining hard and I was wet through and freezing in spite of it being a mild day. I looked up at him – it was gone! Oh my God. Oh my Lord, The figure had looked as solid as you or I.

I fled the ruins. I shan’t go back to that melancholy place which had been the end of his long journey. Mine I hope, is not over yet. When I got back to my hotel I had a hot bath and a couple of stiff whiskies. Then it sunk into my addled brain that he had been speaking in Latin, and I had never been taught Latin at school, but I had understood him. Later, when I had calmed down, I asked tentatively at the bar if anyone knew if High Rochester was haunted but no one knew. “Why do you ask” said one of my fellow drinkers. I shrugged and replied that I had been up there and found the place had such a melancholy atmosphere and it gave me the creeps.

I wonder if Rufinius approached me in the hope that I would do some research to find out where his dear wife’s remains are now!

Howard Gibbs

NEW FIGURED MOSAIC FOUND NEAR KEMBLE

Paul Ballinger and John Carter have discovered a new and exciting mosaic during a sweep of a ploughed field between Kemble and Cirencester in Gloucestershire. The ploughing unfortunately must have damaged the mosaic as they were first alerted to its existence by a line of tesserae on the top soil. Opening up a metre square hole they discovered part of a floor decorated with an animal and a section of guilloche border. The latter appears to be gently curving. If this is indeed the case and it is not simply an ill drawn straight line then this may be another example of an Orpheus mosaic with a parade of beasts and birds circling the musician. So far this is the only part of the floor to have been uncovered. From an initial look at the photograph released to the press I would say that the uncovered section shows the front left leg of a griffin with the right leg probably raised. The paw looks leonoid but also has bird-like features. The leg appears too long and sinewy for a lion or panther. It is also very straight and upright which makes me think it probably is not by the Woodchester Orpheus artists who seem to have more slanted movement in their plodding figures’ limbs. There are a couple of curving lines on the torso that may be the lower part of a wing.

Time will tell no doubt, and hopefully at least an enlargement of the sounding will take place even if a full excavation is not possible. If, as it appears, the guilloche border is curving, then it should of course be possible to calculate the size of this section of the floor at any rate. Press claims that it approaches in size the Woodchester pavement should be discounted before further investigation takes place.

The white ground behind the figure is enlivened with an ivy scroll. The only real alternative at the moment to this being an Orpheus mosaic is that it shows two panthers or griffins like chimaeras either side of a cantharus and set either in some circular design or in a badly delineated rectangle. The famous frieze from the forum of Trajan in Rome showed winged chimaeras with raised paws receiving libations of wine. The finding of figured mosaics in Britannia is always an event to celebrate and this example appears particularly intriguing.

Comment by Anthony Beeson.

The figured mosaic section as found by Paul Ballinger and John Carter.

Photo: © Paul Ballinger.

Metro – 22.01.2009
THE HEAD IN THE RIVER

In 1907 a life-size bronze head was recovered from the River Alde in Suffolk, by two boys mud-larking (Figs. 1 and 2). It is thought to represent the Emperor Claudius, and formed part of an equestrian statue that had been standing in Colonia Victricensis, present day Colchester, prior to the tribal revolt of AD 60/61, led by Boudica, queen of the Iceni.

The statue head had been hacked from the main body of the bronze to become a portable object of plunder during the sacking of the colonia, returning with the rebel looters to an Iceni territory.

If it is assumed that any plundered metals were forged into weapons by the victorious tribesmen, then why not this head? How did it end up in the silt of the River Alde?

Explanations for the head’s riverine deposit are few. Hidden from Roman eyes once the rebellion failed, it has been put forward as a votive offering given to the river. This religious aspect, I suggest, can be taken a step further. The Celts revered the human head; it was seen as the seat of spiritual power, and having decapitated an enemy, they were known to attach the head to their waist or to their property. The Iceni saw, in the bronze head of Claudius, an image of the dead Emperor who had now been captured. With this reverence in mind, I suggest that the head, being far too important to discard, was displayed as a trophy and stuck onto a stake which had been driven into the riverbed.

Within a short distance of the discovery point, an ancient causeway, today a footpath, crossed the river and adjacent water meadows. This possibly linked the Iceni to the tribal territory of the Trinovantes, and being an ideal location to display the prowess of the Iceni, human skulls might well have lined the causeway, with the image of the Roman Emperor used as a focal piece.

With the rebellion defeated, the untended staked bronze, weathered and heavy, soon fell into the concealing silt of the river, not to be seen again for almost 2,000 years.

A note of interest – Arthur Godbold, one of the boys who found the bronze head, having taken it home, proceeded to whitewash it and stuck it on a post in his garden, for passers-by to witness the find!

Kevin Cooke.

EARLY BUST OF JULIUS CAESAR FOUND

A marble bust dated to around 46 BC and tentatively identified as that of Julius Caesar has been found in the River Rhone by divers working on an underwater site at Arles in France.

The life-size portrait is claimed to be the oldest representation of Caesar known, dating from just before his stabbing in the Senate in Rome. Caesar founded Arles in 46 BC, two years before the assassination. The identification of the balding, figure has been challenged by other archaeologists.

Daily Mail – 15.5.2008

ABONA AUSTRALIS; AN UNKNOWN FORT AT SEA MILLS?

The tantalising prospect that Abona (Sea Mills) on the Avon, at Bristol, once had a large legionary fort on the southern side of the river opposite to the known site and harbour, has been raised by David Higgins in an article in the CBA’s Archaeology South West.

The idea originated with the late Keith Gardner and was based on an RAF aerial photograph (CPE/UK/2472 of 9th March 1948-3003). The interpretation of the photograph shows a fort approximately 360 × 323 m (400 × 350 yards) about half the size of a legionary fortress like Caerleon, in the undeveloped fields opposite the Bristol suburb.

Interestingly, this putative fort lies at the end of the Roman road to the heavily walled complex at Gatcombe in Somerset, that Gardner also traced. The photograph even gives a hint of an amphitheatre outside the walls of the fort. The article postulates that the known Sea Mills site became the working port whilst the southern site grew into the ‘respectable suburb’. The same issue of the journal contains a review of Sea Mills dock, by James Russell.

ARA TOUR OF CLASSICAL AND ROMAN LIBYA

Members will notice the substantial difference in the final cost of this tour compared with that given provisionally in the last edition of ARA NEWS (issue 20). A great deal of this is due to the present international financial downturn and the poor state of the pound sterling against other currencies. This was not foreseeable when we went to press with last year’s notice. Nevertheless, the tour is still extremely good value for the money and travel details for this type of tour have to be arranged through an experienced and reputable tour agency. Members should also be aware of all the services provided on these ARA tours. There are similar ones with other companies, which are much more expensive, and others which are much cheaper advertised in the national press; quite frequently these do not provide quality hotels at prime locations and very often no transport to sites with a qualified English speaking scholar to explain specific details. Such budget priced tours should not be compared to those arranged by the ARA.

Winchester University, with whom many members are already acquainted; if Tony is unable to join the tour another professional specialist on Libya will be appointed.

However, we must point out that the tour will be strenuous and fast moving on the sites, with some areas of rough ground and a great deal of walking. Members who may have a physical problem should be aware of this, as we have experienced difficulties in the past with parties being held up or delayed.

Without question the ancient sites in Libya are breathtaking, and in the main, being set along the coast, very often with a backdrop over the Mediterranean, the majestic splendour of the architecture of the ruins is truly enhanced. This is undoubtedly a journey of a lifetime. In ancient times North Africa was exceedingly rich in grain, and later for the Romans, in olives. Its principal cities, especially those along the coast, developed with the Saharan trade from the south, which brought gold, ivory, slaves, and for the Roman circuses, show animals from central Africa. The early trade was developed by the Phoenicians whose coastal settlements would grow into splendid cities like Leptis Magna which in AD 109 was raised to the rank of a Roman colonia and in the reign of Hadrian was graced with a public baths built on an imperial scale. It was however in the reign of its most distinguished son Septimius Severus that the city was graciously endowed with magnificent buildings. Severus was born at Leptis and died in York, but he lavished on the city wealth and artistry far beyond its true status, both economically and politically. Some distance outside the central area of the city on its western fringe is the famous ‘Hunting Baths’ its vaulted roofs being preserved by the drifting sands. A wall painting in the principal hall implies that the baths were erected for a guild of hunters, whose trade was...
drive to Apollonia, visiting en route the Greek city of Tocra and later ancient Ptolemais (Tolmeita) with its splendid ruins including the columned Palace, the theatre and the underground Cisterns. Then on to Apollonia for dinner and overnight stay at the Al Manara Hotel, which is close to the magnificent ruins of Apollonia overlooking the glittering waters of the Mediterranean. The site was one of the most important ancient ports along this coast.

Day Four: After breakfast we board the coach for a visit to Cyrene set in the lush pine covered slopes of the Jebel Akhdar highlands. Founded as a Greek colony, it is second only to Leptis Magna for its archaeological significance, becoming one of the largest of the ancient cities in North Africa, reflecting the influences of its Greek, Roman and Egyptian rulers. Included in the visit will be the Sanctuary of Apollo, the Greek Baths, the Forum, Temple of Zeus and the Triumphal Arch. Return to Apollonia for dinner and overnight.

Day Five: We return to Benghazi via Qasr Libya, famed for its collection of Byzantine mosaics. At Benghazi we fly back to Tripoli and the Hotel Thobacts. There will be a short tour in the city before dinner.

Day Six: After breakfast, depart for a full day visit to Leptis Magna 100 kms east of Tripoli, one of the best preserved cities from the ancient world, hidden for centuries beneath the drifting desert sands, with its famed Baths of Hadrian, the Severan Basilica, the Arch of Septimius Severus, the Street of Columns, the Punic and Roman Markets, the Theatre overlooking the sea, the Amphitheatre and the famous Hunting Baths.

Nothing can be understated here as Leptis Magna offers a unique insight into the power and wealth of the Roman Empire. After visiting Leptis Magna, we will stop en route back to Tripoli to visit the lovely Villa Selene with its fine mosaics, overlooking the Mediterranean.

Day Seven: Sightseeing around the capital including the National Museum located in the formidable 'Red Fort', with its vast collection of artefacts from the Punic, Greek and Roman periods. Then by coach out of the city to the beautiful ruins of Sabratha one of the great trading cities of the Carthaginians and later of ancient Roman Tripolitania. The Roman theatre is one of the finest in the Roman Empire, standing elegantly above the backdrop of the sea. There is also the museum with a fine collection of mosaics from the city. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day Eight: With all luggage packed for transfer, we make a morning visit to the Janzur Museum, en route to the airport for the British Airways flight back to Heathrow, departing at 2.00 pm and arriving back at Heathrow around 6.00 pm.

For details on making a booking see the Reservations Information on page 22.

See the front cover for a picture of the Arch of Septimius Severus at Leptis Magna.
THE ASSOCIATION FOR ROMAN ARCHAEOLOGY

TOUR OF CLASSICAL AND ROMAN LIBYA

Friday 20th to Friday 27th NOVEMBER, 2009
(Accompanied by Professor Tony King – Winchester University)

£1,750 per person sharing twin room
(single supplement £310)

An eight day tour visiting the major classical sites and museums in Libya.
The tour cost will include outward and return flights London – Tripoli;
internal flights (to Benghazi); coach transport to sites;
full board accommodation in first class hotels;
fees to main sites and museums; services of an English speaking guide.

Additional individual costs:
Entry visas – £53.00
(members will be individually contacted about visas nearer time of departure)
Insurance cover
Entry to any additional sites not included in the itinerary

The ancient sites in Libya are spectacular beyond belief and at present the country is not
overwhelmed by tourists, as they are in Egypt for example, so the present is a good time to
visit. Reports received from members who have already toured the area are very encouraging,
the food is good, the hotels first class and the people are very friendly and football crazy.
Interested members should be aware that Libya is a strict Muslim country and is consequently
dry; no alcohol is available in the hotels or bars. It is hoped that we will be accompanied by
Professor Tony King, who many members met recently on our day tour to Somerset when Tony
explained his excavations of the massive villa at Dinnington. Tony is an authority on ancient
Libya.

For Itinerary see full details in feature article on pages 20 and 21.

RESERVATIONS: ANCIENT WORLD TOURS

PLEASE NOTE:
A NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT of £250 will be required, with final balance payable by
Thursday, 1st October 2009.

On this tour all bookings must be made directly with Ancient World Tours,
NOT THROUGH THE ARA OFFICE.
This can be done via Ancient World Tours website with individual payments
made either by Credit, or Bankers Debit Cards.

Ancient World Tours booking procedure:
You will not find this tour published on the AWT website as it is a special offer for ARA members only.
To book the tour we recommend you use the AWT website as follows:
Go to main page at www.ancient.co.uk and select the ‘Bookings’ option.
You will see a drop down box at this point where you can select the tour.
For this special ARA tour please choose: QUARA201109 as the tour code
and then follow the instructions from there.

For direct booking enquiries telephone 020 7917 9494 (Jan Shepard) QUARA201109 (ARA LIBYA TOUR)
DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS

The Graham Webster Research Fund is now our official funding channel in support of Romano-British research projects. This has been established in memory of Graham’s lifelong devotion to the subject and of his many years of enthusiastic tuition and encouragement to others entering the field of Roman studies.

Any member who would like to help build up this fund can make a donation using the form below. The form also includes a Gift Aid Declaration which we ask tax-paying members to sign, as this will increase the donation by approximately 23% with no further liability on the donor’s resources. We claim the additional percentage directly from the Inland Revenue from tax already paid by the member concerned.

THE GRAHAM WEBSTER RESEARCH FUND

I/WE WISH TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING DONATION TO
THE GRAHAM WEBSTER RESEARCH FUND

Name: ...............................................................
Address: .................................................................................................................................
...................................................................................................................... Postal Code:........
Amount in Pounds Sterling: £.................................
Date on cheque: ..........................................................
Cheques payable please to ARA Graham Webster Research Fund, and return with this slip to the Director.

GIFT AID DECLARATION

I wish The Association for Roman Archaeology to benefit from the Gift Aid Legislation by my making this donation to The Graham Webster Research Fund. This declaration applies to any donation I make from 1st April 2003.

Signed: ............................................................

Note: You must be a UK taxpayer and pay an amount of Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax equal to the tax we reclaim on your donation. If you are not a UK taxpayer, please do not sign this section of the form.

British Registered Charity Number: 1056599.

A GIFT FOR THE FUTURE

Many charitable organisations like our own have relied on bequests from members and other parties in support of the charity’s objectives. A bequest will help to ensure the continuation of the Association and its work. Legacies to the Association are not liable to Inheritance Tax, so the full amount of a bequest can be applied to the charitable aims and objectives of the Association.

If you decide that you would like to make a bequest to the Association, by making an addition to an existing Will, or in making a new one, we recommend that you seek the advice of a solicitor.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR ROMAN ARCHAEOLOGY

FORM OF BEQUEST

NOTE: This form is not in itself for signature, but gives a suitable wording for inclusion in a Will or Codicil, should you decide to benefit the Association in this manner.

I bequeath free of all taxes to The Association for Roman Archaeology, of 75 York Road, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN1 2JU, for the general purposes of its aims and objectives, the sum of £.........................., the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being of the said Association to be a good and sufficient discharge to my Trustees for the said sum.

British Registered Charity Number: 1056599.
Members may be interested in some newly published inexpensive paperbacks from Wessex Books, which provide a basic introductory background to our period of interest. Lavishly illustrated they have been compiled in such a way as to stimulate further interest in their subject matter and encourage readers, especially younger minds, to follow up with more extensive reading and visits to sites and museums.

*Iron Age Celts in Wessex* has been compiled by ARA member and long time supporter of the Association, David Allen, curator of the Museum of the Iron Age at Andover, and *Romans in Wessex* has been written by Michael St. John Parker.

Being part of a more extensive series these 32 page coloured volumes would make excellent gifts for any youngster showing an interest in their country’s past.

These books are on a special offer to members of the Association with free postage and packing.

Priced at £4.99 each, they can be obtained by post from:
WESSEX BOOKS,
2 Station Cottages, Newton Toney,
Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 0HD.

Cheques payable to WESSEX BOOKS, please.