temples at Epidaurus, Cos and Athens. The religious and healing processes here in the late Roman period were clearly a complex matter, involving a syncretisation of Mars and Nodens, the use of incubatio or ‘temple-sleep’ and an association with dogs. Victorinus the dream interpreter and Titus Flavius Senilis, the priest are referred to in the inscribed mosaic, now lost. Here Gerald Hart’s conclusions on the evidence of specific therapy in iron deficiency are also discussed. The other great healing temple complex, to Sulis Minerva at Bath, utilising the continuous delivery of vast quantities of hot water from the sacred spring, remains an almost miraculous phenomenon today. We are reminded of the statue base set up by Lucius Marcus Memor, a haruspex or ‘gut-gazer’, the anatomical ex-votos such as the pair of breasts made from elephant ivory, and the hundred or so lead ‘curse-tablets’ whose language provides an insight into concepts of pathology in appeals for divine justice. This section of the book concludes with two interesting references. First from Frankfurter’s Religion in Roman Egypt (1961, 1998) and the continuity of healing cults into the Christian era at Canopus and Menouthis, where the incubation cults of Isis were taken up by Saints Cyril and John. The second refers to Christ’s healing at the Pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem, and the recent archaeological rediscovery of this complex adjacent to a temple of Aesculapius. These tantalising references to Christian healing in the Roman world could perhaps have been expanded further.

It is the section on medications, cauteries and operations which brings us into the world of ancient surgery and the remarkable arrays of medical instruments – the doctors’ instrumentaria, which have been studied from a number of archaeological provenances throughout the Empire. The works of Celsus provide the literary basis for what we know. But there are also the tombstones, the votive reliefs and the wall paintings like the Pompeian scene of the arrowhead being removed from Aeneas’s thigh, which expand the picture. Nevertheless, it is the instruments themselves, mostly of metal, from spring forceps to catheters, rectal and vaginal speculae, the iron curettes used to manipulate fractured and diseased bones, and the cupping vessels (cucurbitae) used in blood letting, which constitute the most important and fascinating evidence. Ralph Jackson, the leading British authority on the subject, has shown that a careful analysis of the means by which these objects were retrieved from circulation, is essential. What are the present contexts of these finds? Are they site finds such as ritual deposits, grave furniture, or ‘disaster’ finds? The first-century ‘doctor’s burial’ at Stanway in Essex provides a good example of the second of these. The astounding discoveries of burnt or collapsed houses at Marcianopolis (Bulgaria) and Rimini (Ariminium), Italy, examples of the third category, await full publication. Some readers will have heard Ralph Jackson’s paper given at the ARA AGM at the British Museum in 2003 where he discussed the ‘house of the surgeon’ at Rimini, where over a hundred instruments, drug boxes and glass vessels were discovered, many of types not seen before. The author selects exactly those surgical instruments which illustrate special operations, so that even a beginner can come away with a mental picture of an actual medical profession practicing at different levels.

This all comes into clearer focus in the final chapters on ‘meeting the Roman patient’ and ‘physicians and healers’. Here we are introduced to the modern analytical techniques used by archaeologists as they determine disease, life-spans, causes of death and diet, with examples ranging from Herculanium to the Poundbury cemetery in Dorset. The section on dentistry and trephination is rather amazing and the practitioners of those arts deserve our admiration. It ends with a telling quote from Calvin Wells on how the pattern of disease and injury is invariably the expression of stresses to which any group of people is exposed, a response to everything in their environment and behaviour.

Indeed, each chapter of the book starts with an apt quotation. There is a very useful bibliography of mainly English secondary sources. All the black and white photographs and the 34 deliciously clear colour plates are extremely well chosen, including those of living plants from the Chelsea Physic Garden, or from Wolfson College, Oxford. The plant drawings are well-done too, but some of the line drawings of objects and particularly of inscriptions (e.g. figs. 60, 62, 70 and 94) look like crude and hurried sketches on the back of an envelope. Some of the captions are scrambled and one photograph is upside-down. Some of the maps, especially figs. 45 and 81 of Britain, fall into a similar category with absences of scale, keys and with Roman roads which defy belief. There are also a number of typographic errors. It is understood that this Tempus book has already proved a best-seller and will need reprinting. Can we therefore ask the publisher to remedy these blemishes, which look like the result of cost-cutting and minimal editorial proof-reading in the first place?

The author has certainly highlighted some of the resonances between ancient and modern medicine throughout this fascinating book, integrating HIV and CJD with her discussion of plague-diseases. She ends it with another telling insight, an epilogue on modern medicine and what it owes to the innovations of Roman doctors, but also a reminder of the return of tuberculosis and poliomyelitis and the onset of hospital-acquired infections such as MRSA. Clearly the author is as much in tune with the achievements and hazards of modern medical practice as she is with Roman medicine.
The Yorkshire Museum at York is the venue for *Constantine The Great—York's Roman Emperor*, a major new international exhibition staged by the York Museums Trust that coincides with the 1700th anniversary of the proclamation of Constantine in York (*Eboracum*) as emperor, which took place on 25 July, AD 306. The exhibition runs from 31st March to 29th October 2006.

This must be counted as the most important archaeological-historical loan exhibition to have been held in a British provincial museum ever and is the cultural highlight for York in 2006. The wealth of material on display from late Roman Britain and the Continent is quite stunning. It is displayed to the highest modern standards and all those who have been involved in bringing together such a marvellous collection, particularly the Curator, and Keeper of Archaeology, Elizabeth Hartley, must be congratulated. The ARA visited the exhibition as part of its Brigantia Summer Tour, 2006, based near York. On this occasion we invited Martin Henig to be with us because he has been another of those who has worked tirelessly towards this exhibition, particularly through his vital contribution to the magnificent catalogue, of the same name as the exhibition, which accompanies it. Details of the catalogue are given at the end of this article.

Constantine the Great, the Roman emperor responsible for promoting Christianity, and arguably the most influential figure in the growth of the Church, is the focus of the exhibition. Constantine I was born at Naissus in Serbia, the son of the Emperor Constantius I and Helena. In 293 Constantius married Theodora and moved to Trier in Germany (*Augusta Treverorum*), which he made his imperial base. Constantine was proclaimed emperor by his troops on the death of his father Constantius, while both were on a military campaign.

Constantius's second in Britain (Fig. 1), to defeat the Picts. We do not know exactly where this event took place in York. Many have assumed it happened on the site of the legionary fortress, the headquarters of the northern military command, although it is more likely to have been at the imperial palace, the seat of the imperial court whilst at York, elsewhere in the city. So the story of Constantine began in York. Had he not been in York when his father died he would not have been handed the greatest prize, the right to succeed to his father's title. Although we do not know exactly what happened on that day, it is clear that Constantine was extremely well prepared for the role he was taking on and he seized the opportunity offered him. His father had been promoted to the position of Caesar, a junior member in the imperial college in 293 when Constantine was just over 20. This elevation ensured Constantine a place at the imperial court, but not his father's court at Trier in the West, but that of the senior emperor, Diocletian, head of the Tetrarchy, based principally at Nicomedia in Asia Minor, as a hostage for his father's 'good behaviour'. Here he would have received the training suitable for an imperial heir. He was taught rhetoric by the Latin orator

and poet Lactantius, campaigned with Galarius in Mesopotamia, and travelled with Diocletian through Palestine and Egypt, and probably even to Rome. Thus trained for high office he seized the opportunity in 306, and escaped from the court of Galarius, Diocletian's successor, and joined his father in Britain.

Under Diocletian the Tetrarchy did its work of re-establishing order and a measure of external security within the Roman world. However, as a system, it was doomed to failure by the ambitions and dynastic rivalries of the individual co-emperors. One by one Constantine eliminated all his colleagues up to 313. He then ruled jointly with Licinius until the latter was defeated. By 324 Constantine had extended his power and become sole emperor of the reunited Roman world. Nevertheless, he attributed his success to Divine favour following his decision to embrace the Christian religion. This occurred when he saw in a dream the Chi-Rho (the Christian symbol combining the Greek letters X and P, the first two letters of the name of Christ, see Fig. 2) in 312 on the eve of the Battle of the Milvian Bridge, where he defeated Maxentius, just outside Rome. This conversion and Constantine's personal 'belief' should not be seen in modern terms, that would lead to a misunderstanding of the nature of the connection between religion and the state in the ancient world. In the Roman Empire there had always been a tight bond between politics, the state and
round the Roman world.

How did the events of 306 affect York? It had been legionary fortress, *colonia* and capital of lower Britain for a century, and had become the capital of one of four provinces which made up the Diocese of the Britains in 296. This province was probably known as Flavia Caesaris, and hence named after Constantine's father Flavius Constantius as Caesar. It thus seems no accident that the larger-than-life-size marble head of Constantine (Fig. 3) should have been discovered in York near the headquarters building of the fortress. The hall of this building was rebuilt under Constantius or Constantine and a statue of Constantine is likely to have been placed there. We also have still standing the monumental remains of the corner-tower of the fortress (the Multangular Tower) with its connecting curtain wall, which fronted the river. The magnificence and sheer scale of this frontage when complete suggest it was built with imperial patronage, suitable for the high status of York and its position as a place where emperors resided and major events took place. The closest we can now get to the power and prestige of Constantine is through such imperial images and monuments. From Trier, the afterglow of imperial splendour can be felt through the remains of his great audience hall, the 'Basilika' or Aula Palatina (Fig. 4). There are also the surviving fragments from one of the painted ceilings of the palace; the portraits and figures of philosophers, dancing cupids and female personifications depicted are of the highest quality, rich and strong in colouring and strikingly three-dimensional in their modelling. From Rome, Constantine's colossal marble head (Fig. 5) – one of the surviving fragments of a huge portrait statue, the bays and apse of his Basilica and the Arch of Constantine alongside the Colosseum, are all lasting tributes to his power.

Fig. 3. Head of Constantine from Stonegate, York. Marble, fourth century; height 42 cms. Yorkshire Museum. Photo: © York Museums Trust.

Fig. 4. The 'Basilika' or Aula Palatina, the audience hall of Constantine's palace at Trier, built entirely of brick, interior originally faced with marble veneer, with mosaic and opus sectile floors over hypocausts, exterior originally faced with pink plaster. c. 305-10. Length: 67 m, height: 30 m. Photo © Fotokunst Schwalbe, Trier/Mosel.

Fig. 5. Colossal marble head from the 10 m high seated statue of Constantine that occupied the west apse of the Basilica of Maxentius-Constantine in Rome. c. 315-30. Museo del Palazzo dei Conservatori, Rome. Photo: © J. Wood.

The personal effects of Constantine and his family, such as regalia, jewellery and arms and armour do not survive. But associated with him and his father are high-quality gifts, produced for those in their entourage and supporters, civilian and military. Many of these donatives, given as public displays of largesse, were
inscribed with the name of the emperor or displayed his portrait. Among the surviving items are jewellery, medallions (Fig. 1) and plate (Fig. 6). Constantine celebrated his accession day (dies imperii) annually, but with special

magnificence at the opening and closing of the fifth, tenth, twentieth and thirtieth years of his reign. On each occasion there would have been great processions of the emperor and his family, speeches, chariot races in the circus and the dedication of buildings, statues and monuments. The Arch of Constantine was dedicated in 315 during his visit to Rome for the start of his tenth-year celebrations. Although we lack details of Constantine’s visits to Britain after his accession, coin evidence suggests they took place on more than one occasion during his first ten years in power. Almost certainly, York would have been one of the places to experience again an imperial adventus and period of residence of the imperial court. What effect his elevation in York had on Britannia as a whole is very difficult to determine. However, major finds in Britain of treasure and works of art over recent years provide evidence of the great wealth and prosperity sustained through the relative peace brought about by Constantine and his father before him. Constantine was emperor for 31 years, until his death in 337, the longest surviving emperor since Augustus, the first emperor. He chose to reinvigorate his empire by looking back to the imagery and artistic tradition of the age of Augustus, and later in his life he looked further back to Alexander the Great. With this sense of history and his role within it, Constantine moved cautiously during his long reign, being careful not to enforce sudden change and mindful to foster tolerance in religious belief and practice. As we have already seen above, he legitimised Christianity and ordered the building of churches such as the great Basilica of St. Peter’s in Rome, other churches in the city and in Constantinople, and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, while at the same time allowing Judaism to be tolerated and the old gods of Rome, with some modifications, to continue. In 325 he presided over the first ecumenical council at Nicaea (modern Iznik in Turkey), at which the words of the Nicene Creed, which are still repeated today with little change, were agreed and set down. The combination of endorsing new modes of thought, while allowing the classical traditions to continue, brought full expression of ideas and artistic imagery. Thus he played an active part in creating a golden age throughout the empire. When he died in 337 Constantine had changed the course of history. He had reunited the divided Roman Empire, encouraged a new religion, reorganised the army, restored the civil powers of government and the Senate and created Constantinople as the ‘New Rome’ for the empire on the site of the Greek city of Byzantium. Without Constantine the history of Europe would have been strikingly different.

The Catalogue Constantine the Great – York’s Roman Emperor is edited by Elizabeth Hartley, Jane Hawkes, Martin Henig and Frances Mee. (Lund Humphries and York Museums Trust, 2006, 280 pp. 250 colour and 20 black and white illustrations; hardback £50, paperback £25. Available from ashgate@bookpoint.co.uk and Margaret.gibb@ymt.org.uk).
ANNUAL DINNER AT FISHBOURNE ROMAN PALACE

The 2004 season commenced with the Annual Dinner Weekend which took place at Fishbourne and Chichester (Noviomagus Reginorum), West Sussex, on 19th and 20th June, continuing the tradition of holding this event at a major Roman centre. Members were accommodated at the Bishop Otter College Campus of University College, Chichester. The Roman-style dinner held in the north wing of Fishbourne Roman Palace was attended by about 70 members dressed in Roman-style costume accompanied by a re-enactment of the Emperor Trajan and Empress Plotina with an Imperial Army ‘escort’ of one soldier of the praetorian guard and four soldiers displaying legionary and auxiliary equipment. We are grateful to Douglas and Audrey Arnold, John Smith, John Brinded, Jonathan Charman, Richard Bridgeland, and Peter Johnson for a memorable display. After dinner members toured the Roman palace and garden. A fully illustrated account of this event by the late Sue Jones has been published in ARA News, 17, pp. 8, 17.

At the dinner, David Rudkin, Director of the Palace, welcomed ARA members and thanked them for their support of the major project of renewal and expansion at the palace site. This has involved the complete upgrading and repair of the north wing cover building which protects the principal remains open to the public, including the spectacular mosaics, and the refurbishment of the audio-visual room and sales area. A major feature has been the building of the new Collections Discovery Centre, opened to the public on 1st June 2006. This now houses the reserve archaeological collections of both Fishbourne and Chichester District Museum, in the Topps Tiles Bulk Store and Reserve Collections Store (Fig. 1). A Curator of Archaeology, Dr. Rob Symmons, has also been appointed. As part of an ongoing programme it is hoped to refurbish the site museum in due course. In addition to the ARA grant the project has been supported by a number of large donations including a grant of £2.54 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

CHICHESTER

On the following day members spent the morning concentrating on the Roman town, visiting first the Guildhall Museum in the massive chancel of the Greyfriars Priory Church to view the collection of Roman sculpture and inscriptions led by the Curator of Chichester District Museum, Dr. Ian Friel, together with Grahame Soffe and Bryn Walters. Anthony Beeson led a discussion of the remains of the Jupiter column and showed his published proposed reconstructions of its original appearance. At Chichester District Museum, members viewed the Roman collections and Ian Friel showed members items from the reserve collection, including the life-sized arm from the bronze statue found near Stane Street, just northeast of Chichester (Fig. 2). This had been discussed in the context of the other remarkable statuary from the region in ARA 8, 8-10, by Martin Henig and Grahame Soffe. Bryn Walters and Grahame Soffe then led members on a tour of Roman Chichester which included the famous Togidubnus dedicatory inscription from the temple to Neptune and Minerva on display at the Council House / Assembly Rooms.

Fig. 1. Interior view of the new Topps Tiles Bulk Store at Fishbourne Roman Palace, 2006. Photo: © Fishbourne Roman Palace/Sussex Archaeological Society.

Fig. 2. Life-size bronze arm from a Roman statue found near Stane Street. Courtesy of Dr. Ian Friel, Chichester District Museum. Photo: © Grahame Soffe.
in North Street, and the mosaic visible beneath the floor of Chichester Cathedral, probably from a town-house and of second-century date. This was followed by a tour of the south-west circuit of the Roman town walls and bastions (Fig. 4) and the Roman amphitheatre situated just east of the walled area of the town.

BUTSER ANCIENT FARM – VILLA RECONSTRUCTION

The afternoon programme centred on a visit to the Butser Ancient Farm, at Chalton, near Petersfield, Hants, as guests of the Director, Christine Shaw (Fig. 5). The main purpose was to view the reconstructed Roman house based on the remains of the main house at the Roman villa at Sparsholt, near Winchester, which had been excavated by David Johnston and his team in the late 1960s and early 70s. The project had been started at the experimental

Fig. 3. Chichester; first-century inscription on Purbeck marble to the Matres Domesticae (mother goddesses of the homeland), from the pediment to a shrine set by the arkarius or guild treasurer. Found in 1978 just outside the east gate. Chichester District Museum. Photo: © Grahame Soffe.

untimely death the project was revived under Christine Shaw, who with tremendous courage undertook to complete it. One of the most important experimental tasks was the construction of the walls using hundreds of thousands of coursed flints set in mortar. The under-resourced building team was eventually backed up by the TV Discovery Channel’s agreement to make a ten-part Rebuilding the Past series charting the construction of the villa house. By late 2002 the project again seemed doomed after problems with personnel and bad weather but during 2003 the work was completed to blueprints by Tim Concannon, guided by the enthusiasm of Dai Morgan Evans, Chairman of Butser’s Board of Trustees, and an extremely dedicated group of workers. As ARA members found, the end result is remarkable, amongst other reconstructions, in its attempts to use ‘original materials,’ ancient building techniques, and to learn from an increasing amount of data from original structures in Britain and the Continent, such as the collapsed wall at the nearby villa at Meonstoke. The end result is also extremely controversial for many archaeologists as it inevitably involved considerable compromises with the modern world in matters of time, human and financial resources, planning control, technology, and health and safety. The ARA members appreciated the experimental data gained from the project and the educational resource which had been created and joined in a lively discussion led by Christine Shaw and Bryn Walters. For some illustrations of the visit, see ARA News 17, p. 8. The project is described vividly in the TV series and in a well illustrated and candid popular book: Rebuilding the Past, A Roman Villa, by Dai Morgan Evans with Christine Shaw and Roger James, published by Discovery Channel and Methuen, 2003, at £14.99.

Fig. 4. Chichester; the exterior of the Roman defensive wall and the Bishop’s Palace bastion near the south-west corner of the city. View looking south-east. Photo: © Grahame Soffe.

HADRIAN’S WALL TOUR – THE CENTRAL SECTOR

Following on from the tour of the Eastern Sector, in 2003, the second stage of the ARA’s concentrated study-tour of Hadrian’s Wall was designed to study the Central Sector, where some of the best preserved and impressive remains have survived. This took place from 2nd to 5th July and was based at the Gilsland Spa Hotel, Gilsland, Northumberland, a beautiful setting on the River Irthing from where the 82 members attending had magnificent views of the Wall. The tour was led by Bryn Walters and Grahame Soffe, assisted by Don Flear and Janet Senior. A 45-page guidebook compiled by Bryn Walters and Grahame Soffe was provided for those attending.
Road of the Roman period – to the great bridge itself. The road ramp was found to meet the bridge at almost a right angle and the bridge was carried across the river at right-angles to its direction of flow on a series of stone cut-waters, to the north bank and the military and civil town of Corchester, Corbridge (Corio/Coriostopitum), and beyond to the Wall and Scotland. However, the river has been slowly changing its course, and monitoring since the 1970s showed that the Roman evidence was being eroded away. A trial excavation in 1995 by Tyne and Wear Museums funded by English Heritage and the County Council had confirmed this. The partially collapsed remains of the road ramp, and particularly its retaining wall, was found to consist of huge well-dressed stone blocks, some over 2 m in length, comparable with the construction of the Bridge Abutment at Chesters fort (see below). There were also elaborate architectural fragments including a decorated capital and moulded cornice blocks to take a stone parapet, and an interesting octagonal architectural element. Following detailed recording in situ, the blocks were dismantled, and further recorded to include the evidence of stone dressing, clamp holes and crowbar slots. This was an impressive structure and its scale of construction and decoration was clearly intended to proclaim the power of the Empire. Margaret Snape went on to speculate about the ultimate fate of the bridge; it appears to have collapsed during the Anglo-Saxon period when the focus of settlement moved east to the present town of Corbridge. Its stones were used in that period in Corbridge itself but most interestingly in constructing the subterranean crypt built under Hexham Abbey by St. Wilfrid in AD 674. The detailed recording of the blocks used in the crypt would form another phase of the project. She remarked that this phase in the history of the bridge is reflected in an Anglo-Saxon poem referring to ‘the Work of Giants’. The ARA would be visiting Corbridge and Hexham Abbey in 2005.

The third lecture was given by Grahame Soffe on Roman Britain from the Air and Recent Fieldwork on Hadrian’s Wall. He illustrated this with evidence from cropmarks, earthworks and standing structures and paid particular reference to Hadrian’s Wall (Fig. 17). He was also able to show unpublished plots of English Heritage’s recent survey of the Central Sector of the Wall, illustrating the complicated zone of settlement, quarrying and agricultural activity which archaeology is now beginning to discover for the first time and which can be supplemented by the results of geophysics. He thanked Peter

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There were three illustrated lectures in the evenings provided by two guest speakers and by Grahame Soffe. The first was given by Dr. Brian Dobson, former Reader in Archaeology in the Department of Adult and Continuing Education at Durham University, and well known as a leading authority on the Roman army and the Wall (Fig. 6). He is co-author (with David Breeze) of the essential modern textbook on the Wall, Hadrian’s Wall (4th ed. fully revised, 2000, Penguin paperback, £11.95). He gave an account of the Roman army in relation to the Wall, illustrated by a wide range of evidence, including scenes from Trajan’s Column.

The second speaker was Dr. Margaret Snape of Tyne and Wear Museums who spoke in her capacity as Director of the Corbridge Roman Bridge Project (Fig. 7), a three-year project starting in 2004 to explore, rescue and re-display the remains of the Roman bridge at Corbridge. She explained how with local and National Lottery funding this was a community project involving both archaeologists and local people, which had already produced impressive results. The work had involved the excavation of the remains of the road ramp on the south bank of the River Tyne which carried Dere Street – the Great North

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Fig. 6. Dr. Brian Dobson at the Bridge Abutment, Chesters fort.
Photo: © Grahame Soffe.

Fig. 7. Dr. Margaret Snape at the excavation of the Roman Road Ramp and Bridge Abutment, Corbridge, 2004.
Photo: © Grahame Soffe.
Horne and his staff at the York office of English Heritage for providing this data. He also thanked Rob Young of the Northumberland National Park Authority for providing details of the other recent work in the area, which he briefly reviewed. These included further recent archaeological air photography in the ‘Hadrian’s Wall corridor’ carried out by Tim Gates where new discoveries continue to be made almost on a daily basis, particularly from earthworks recorded in rough grazing and moorland. There has also been the recent work led by Tony Wilmott of English Heritage on individual Milecastles in the period 1999-2000. This has also involved environmental sampling at sites like Appletree, Milecastle 71 and Black Carts, which has helped us understand the chronology of the turf Wall and the vegetational history of the Wall and Vallum. Lastly, he referred to the excavation work by Tony Wilmott and geophysical survey of the vicus at Birdoswald fort, and the survey and excavation of Bremenium fort, High Rochester, by James Crow. This work and much more is described in an important and extremely well illustrated book Archaeology in Northumberland National Park, edited by Paul Frodsham (Council for British Archaeology Research Report 136, 2004).

The tour started with a visit to the Roman bridge abutment (Fig. 8), fort and vicus at Chesters (Cilurnum) led by Bryn Walters and Brian Dobson (see Fig. 6). The spectacular remains of the bridge abutment on the east bank of the River North Tyne belonging to the later rebuilding phase in the Antonine period, were explored and discussed. Comparisons were made with the new evidence from the bridge at Corbridge (see above). The opposite west abutment in the river-bed indicates that the river has moved several metres west since the fourth century. Excavations in 1990-1 showed that when the Wall bridge was replaced by the road bridge, a huge ramp was built to carry the road approaching from the west up to the level of the carriageway, 10 m above the river.

The group then travelled round to the west bank and explored the fort and the extra-mural bath-house excavated by John Clayton (1792-1890), the owner of the Chesters Estate and who was responsible for purchasing and saving from destruction much of the central sector of the Wall along with five of its forts. The fort was used for cavalry and was probably garrisoned in the Hadrianic period by the ala Augusta and by the late second century by the ala II Asturium. The principia of the fort is the best example on display in northern Europe and the vaulted strong room entered by steps from the sacellum is well preserved. The barracks, commandant’s house and bath-house and the gates and added towers are also well preserved. The extra-mural bath-house is also one of the best preserved and most instructive structures of its kind in Britain. It was used as a model for the recently reconstructed bath-house built for public display at Wallsend (Segedunum) and visited together with this bath-house by the ARA in 2003 (ARA, 16 [2004] pp. 16-19.)

The bath-house was surveyed thoroughly for this purpose in 1997 and it was shown for the first time that the building had been laid out in modules of 10 or 20 Roman feet with walls three Roman feet thick. It was also shown that the west wall of the baths probably survives to the height of the springing point of the barrel-vault. The most recent discoveries at Chesters have been from aerial and geophysical surveys in the 1990s by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments and English Heritage. These have revealed a huge vicus with numerous buildings lining 10 streets extending south of the fort. Grahame Soffe led a tour of the John Clayton Museum, one of the finest late-nineteenth century-style museums in the world, opened in 1903 and purposely left in its original condition (Fig. 9). It contains an extensive collection of sculpture (Fig. 10) and inscriptions from all the sites excavated by Clayton from Chesters to Carvoran. There are many famous pieces here including building inscriptions from the Wall itself (Fig. 11), tombstones, altars and fragments of shrines and other monuments. There is also an impressive range of smaller items (Fig. 12), including the incense-burners (Fig. 13) from Coventina’s Well (see below), and the corn-measure from Carvoran with the
the abutting Narrow Wall. It was excavated in 1873. Here is also a well-preserved section of the Narrow Wall. Halfway up the slope is turret 29B excavated in 1912. The Vallum here is cut through solid rock with temporary crossing points. In 1997 English Heritage carried out a major project here at Black Carts directed by Tony Wilmott (see ARA 4 [1997], pp. 6-7 for full details). It investigated all the Wall works and produced important environmental evidence of natural landscape and agriculture including the footprints of cattle and horses. Tony Wilmott suggested that the frontier at this point was built over requisitioned land. Further along the Wall the group mounted the ridge to milecastle 30 where the line of the Wall and its outworks turns to run west south-west at a summit with fine views all around. This is Limestone Corner where the Roman engineers had difficulty

inscribed name of Domitian erased.

The group then proceeded west north-west along the Wall which runs in a straight line to turret 29A constructed to Broad Wall wall-thickness having been built before cutting the Wall Ditch and Vallum through an area of very hard quartz dolerite and also quarried stone for construction of the Wall. Some massive blocks still lie abandoned, one stone, now broken, once a monolith of 13 tons. Other blocks display the method by which they were split by driving in wedges (Fig. 14).

The next major site was the fort at Carrawburgh (Brocolitia). There has been no recent work here, except the survey by English Heritage directed by Margaret Snape and published in 1994. The walls and structures of this fort lie under substantial earthworks, and members found many large stones, including altars, and traces of the gates and the principia. The Narrow Wall forms the north wall of the fort suggesting that the fort was added to the Wall, and the fort lies over the Vallum. An inscription recording the governor Sextus Julius Severus of c. 130 gives a clue to the fort's foundation date. To the west and
south an extensive *vicius* is known. A bath-house was excavated here by Clayton in 1873. The most important features of the site are the three shrines outside the fort walls within the *vicius*, the Temple of Mithras, excavated in 1950, just outside the temple’s (south) entrance, the Shrine of the Nymphs and Genius Loci and to the west of the fort, Coventina’s Well. The well-known Temple of Mithras was discovered and excavated 1949-50 (Fig. 15). It was founded shortly after 205, extended within a decade and then underwent three major rebuilds before its abandonment in the early fourth century. A large number of features within the building were found *in situ* and are now in the Museum of Antiquities, Newcastle, including the three altars from the north-west end.

![Fig. 15. Carrawburgh fort: The Mithraeum from the south-east. Scale 2 m. Photo: © Grahame Soffe.](image)

The illuminated reconstruction at the museum gives a vivid impression of the original interior, dug into the hillside and covered, like a cave, with turf. The three altars have been replaced on site with replicas. Outside the entrance to the temple is a small shrine to the *Genius loci*. The group then made their way to the site of Coventina’s Well (Fig. 16). When first discovered by John Horsley (1685-1732) this spectacular *nymphaeum* consisted of a rectangular basin encased in masonry set within an enclosure wall 40 ft. square with an entrance on the west side. When Clayton excavated the site in 1876 he found it packed with votive offerings consisting of stone reliefs depicting Coventina – one inscribed, 11 stone altars, pottery including samian cups, a face-flagon, beakers and a mortarium, terracotta incense burners (Fig. 13), crucibles, glass beads, including 24 white glass segmented beads enclosing gold foil, a silver finger ring, bronze objects including three masks, a dog statuette, ten brooches, 11 large studs, numerous finger rings and other objects such as handles, a buckle and two bells. Objects of other materials included bone, jet, and shale pins and other objects, four leather shoes and well over 13,000 coins ranging in date from Mark Antony to Gratian, 49 BC - AD 383. Today the site is completely overgrown with an area of vegetation of distinct species and difficult to excavations took place in 1984 and the very important excavations by John Gillam and Charles Daniels (1974-81) in the north-east quarter of the fort produced very important results for our understanding of the frontier as a whole. James Crow’s new study of the fort (*Houseseads*, English Heritage, 1995) provided the first general review of the archaeological and epigraphical evidence since Bosanquet’s excavation report of 1904.

The fort extends over five acres and was built over the site of a turret, not being part of the original plan for the Wall. It is spectacularly sited on the dip-slope of the scarp of the Great Whin Sill, with its buildings terraced down the slope. But it conforms with a regular fort plan to the extent that its north twin-towered gate opens out to the cliff-like scarp slope of the ridge. The most important buildings are all visible, the *principia*, commandant’s house with its heated dining room, probable hospital, the two granaries, two of the ten barrack blocks, the famously well preserved latrine, the bake-houses and the great store building – Building XV. The last major excavation was in 1984. In the 1990s the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments carried out an extensive survey of a remarkable relict landscape around the fort, a plan of which was provided with the members’ guidebook. This revealed many earthwork features related to the *vicius*, particularly extending along the road out of the west gate but also large expanses of terraces clearly laid out as part of the intense farming which must have been...
associated with the years of settlement here. The aerial survey of Tim Gates (mentioned above) has also revealed large areas of newly discovered and extremely well-preserved contemporary native settlements together with extensive areas of cord-rigg within the area 1-2 km north and south of the fort. Many of these settlements consist of rectangular enclosures with round houses. A recently discovered inscription shows that the cohors I Tungrorum (a 1,000-strong infantry unit) based at Vindolanda before the construction of the Wall, was probably moved here in Hadrian’s reign and remained in garrison until the fourth century. In the third century units of Frisian troops were stationed here and appear to have occupied the vicus. In the fourth century numerous alterations occurred within the fort including the building of Building XV, new internal towers were built and the gates to the west and north were blocked. Building XV was probably intended for the collection and distribution of the annona militaris, a late Roman system of taxation-in-kind, not unlike the medieval system of tithes and tithe-barns. Recent excavations at Housesteads and at other forts have indicated a structural change in the form of barracks in the later period coinciding with a downgrading of garrison strength. The barracks were converted to ‘chalet’-like units which may have been used as ‘married-quarters’. This interesting interpretation by Charles Daniels has been challenged by Paul Bidwell on the basis of new evidence from Vindolanda and South Shields. The group also visited some of the buildings of the vicus on the south slopes and the English Heritage – National Trust on-site Museum with its interesting collection of material and its splendid scale model of the fort at its height.

The group next traversed the Wall as far as Milecastle 37. Recent excavations there up to 1990 unblocked the north gate revealing the passage walls unweathered, with excellent survival of original tooling. The early collapse of the north arch seems to have been as a result of poor building initially, rather than to enemy action as has been suggested. As part of the consolidation of the south arch of the gate, three fallen vousoirs were replaced close to their original position (Fig. 18). The next major feature encountered by the group traversing the Wall westwards was the discovery made by James Crow in a joint programme of work for the National Trust and English Heritage in 1986 at Peel Gap between Peel Crags turret 39A and Steel Rig turret 39B. This appears to have been a probable signal tower of a similar type to the example at Pike Hill built into the base of the Peel Gap ravine. The tower was built soon after the Wall but soon the ground floor went out of use and the door blocked up. Eventually the tower was demolished with the original Narrow Wall and the Wall was rebuilt after 220 along the original line. Pike Hill tower was earlier than the Wall, which deviates to incorporate it. One reason suggested for the building of the Peel gap tower is that the spacing between turrets 39A and 39B at c. 790 m is the longest spacing on the Wall. Near the tower, excavations revealed that although at this point the Narrow Wall was built on the Broad Wall foundation, the original builders had, in fact, started the Broad Wall. The Narrow Wall was eventually built on the foundation but was again eventually replaced in the Severan period by an extra Narrow Wall of only 2 m wide. It should be noted here that it was at this point that evidence for white-washing of the Wall in the third century was identified. Milecastle 40 was next visited. It lies on the top of Winshields Crags, the highest elevation on the wall at 1,230 feet above sea level (Fig. 19). The Wall ditch along this stretch is one of the best-preserved sections. The Military Way is also well-preserved here and has been the subject of a recent survey by English Heritage. Milecastle 42 at Cawfields was the next major feature visited with traces of its internal buildings which may have had wooden superstructures (Fig. 20). It was excavated.
originally by Clayton in 1848 and in 1936 further work showed the north gate and Wall were first built to the Broad Wall gauge. A re-used tombstone of a soldier Dagvalda of the Pannonian Unit was found here by Clayton. Also a fragment of a dedication-slab similar to the two other Hadrianic inscriptions from Milecastle 38 (Hotbank) and Milecastle 37 (Housesteads). A translation of the inscription reads 'In honour of the Emperor Caesar Trajanus Hadrianus Augustus, The Second Legion Augusta erected this by command of Aulus Platorius Nepos, Legate and Propraetor.'

The Military Way and the Vallum are extremely well preserved along this section of the Wall and several milestones and an altar have been found along its length. Completely surrounding this area, to north and south of the Wall, are an impressive array of temporary marching camps on Haltwhistle Common and on the scarps of Haltwhistle Burn.

The three-acre fort at Great Chesters (Aesica), lying on the south side of the Wall, proved of particular interest. Traces of many of the masonry features revealed in the excavations of 1894 could still be seen, including lean-to buildings on the inside of the fort walls, the principia, a granary, rebuilt in 225, and the much rebuilt commandant’s house. In the south-west corner is a barrack block of ‘Housesteads chalet type’. The link of the north-west angle tower with the Wall and the curve of the fort wall is of interest. The fort covers the site of Milecastle 43 and it was here that the decision to narrow the Wall was made. There are four ditches on the west side of the fort and an extensive vicus lies to the south and east of the fort. The bathhouse excavated in 1897 and the aqueduct are no longer visible.

Following Great Chesters, Milecastle 45 (Walltown) and turret 45A, situated on one of the finest stretches of the Wall, were visited (Fig. 21). This turret was originally thought to be a signal tower with the Wall abutting it on either side, but recently James Crow has suggested it was associated with the construction of the Narrow Wall. It had been hoped to visit Carvoran fort (Magna) near the Stanegate and the Maiden Way south of the Wall and Vallum, but the earthworks were viewed from the Wall at Milecastle 46. Some members of the group left the main party at Great Chesters to visit the Vindolanda Trust’s Roman Army Museum near Carvoran.

The last morning of the tour concentrated on visiting and walking along the entire stretch of the Wall between Milecastle 48, at Poltross Burn, near Gillsland, over the River Irthing at Willowford Bridge to Harrows Scar Milecastle 49 and on to Birdoswald fort (Banna). It was led by Bryn Walters assisted by Don Flear. Milecastle 48, built by the Sixth Legion with the Broad Wall for only 4 m on each side, is one of the most informative milecastles along the length of the Wall. The north gate is very well preserved and there are traces of stone-built barracks, pivot holes, a stair and other features to be seen. Just south-west is the fort at Thorpe excavated in 1910. From this milecastle the Narrow Wall continues west on the Broad Wall foundation and in some places the Broad Wall stands several courses high under the Narrow Wall indicating that construction had already started when the order to change the gauge in around 124-5, arrived. The Wall continues impressively down the slope to the
Willowford Roman Bridge abutment passing the well-preserved turret 48A with Broad Wall gauge wing walls. Just before the drop to the river is turret 48B. The Bridge abutment itself has proved to be very complicated with several phases of change in construction. It was re-excavated in 1984-5 by Paul Bidwell and Neil Holbrook. The road bridge was not constructed until the late second or early-third century (compare with the bridges at Chesters and Corbridge). Interesting features included remains of an undershot watermill. On the opposite west bank of the river the wall ascends to Harrows Scar Milecastle 49 and the length of Narrow Wall runs on to Birdoswald fort. The milecastle was found in 1898 and re-excavated in 1953, where the remains of the Turf Wall milecastle was found below it. At the River Irthing, the Broad Wall ends and its counterpart, the Turf Wall begins, later to be replaced by the new stone Narrow Wall. The Narrow Wall is well preserved up to Birdoswald with several central stones located in it. Members were impressed by the new English Heritage information boards with reconstruction drawings by Frank Gardiner, set up at Poltross Burn and Harrows Scar Milecastles and at Willowford Bridge.

GROUNDWELL RIDGE, SWINDON

The Groundwell Ridge site at Blunsden St. Andrew, near Swindon, was the venue for the first part of the ARA’s next visit on 25th July. About 80 members attended. The site, now well known to many readers of this Bulletin, lies on a series of terraces on the south-facing slopes of the Corallian ridge dominating the north side of Swindon today. It was discovered during a major housing development in 1996 and the evaluation by Bryn Walters and Bernard Phillips in 1996-7 revealed a number of well-preserved Roman stone buildings, particularly buildings 1 and 2, at the bottom of the slope, roads, and at the top a stone-built cistern, probably part of a nymphaeum. Other finds included fragments of mosaic flooring, painted wall-plaster and a remarkable silver fluted bowl, now displayed in Swindon Museum. Could this be a religious complex or a large villa? After this, Mark Corney carried out an earthwork survey and English Heritage an extensive geophysical survey, both giving a clearer idea of the layout of buildings and other features over a wide area under grass. After a local campaign to preserve the site partly stimulated by The Swindon Advertiser, English Heritage and Swindon Borough Council provided nearly £1 million to purchase the threatened part of the site. There then followed a debate on how the ‘heritage’ potential of the site could be ‘used’ for the benefit of the people of Swindon, but it was eventually decided that further targeted small-scale excavation would be required to understand it. Before this could get properly underway, in 2003 Channel 4 TV’s Time Team based their national community archaeology project, the ‘Big Dig’ in the Combe, the field east of the main site, but this event, involving many local people, only showed that this area was away from the main part of the site. Also in 2003, on the proposed lines of paths, English Heritage and the Swindon Borough Council carried out further small scale excavations on the main site and showed the existence of thick waterlogged deposits and stream beds, possibly associated with a garden area in the Roman period. So all was set for a more ambitious excavation in 2004 under the direction of Dr. Peter Wilson of English Heritage and involving a core of about 60 local volunteers and students. The main features found during the 2004 season, and visited by the ARA group under the guidance of Peter Wilson, were a series of rooms running along the west side of building 2. At the south end was a cellar with blocked openings in its walls and waterlogged timbers, probably floor joists, of second-century date. To the north of this was a suite of baths which had had a complicated history of change and decay. The three rooms of the frigidarium were the best preserved (Fig. 22). Eventually a large building founded on timber posts, which could not be dated precisely, replaced building 2. Small finds from the excavation were also on view at the time of the visit (Fig. 23).

Groundwell Ridge should be seen in its context, lying in an area of extensive Roman-period settlement close to the main Roman road between Cirencester (Corinium Dobunnorum) and the Roman small town just south-east of the site at Wanborough (Durocornovium). Interpretation of the site is still controversial and further excavation

Fig. 22. Groundwell Ridge, near Swindon, 2004. Building 2, the frigidarium of the bath suite from the east. Cold plunge bath (room 3), top left; room 4 with inserted hypocaust, top right; room 5 with raised floor, bottom. The caldarium is off to the left. Photo: © English Heritage.
bath suite and a separate tower-like smoke-house to its north to which was later added a four-roomed workers' cottage. These buildings formed the west side of the future walled courtyard, and developed, with many alterations and enlargements in the late third century, into the main house of the villa. In this, the small 'wings' were converted into towers over rooms with hypocausts and the central *triclinium* had a channelled hypocaust and mosaic floor inserted in c. 220, later to be replaced in c. 270 by a new mosaic floor. Bryn Walters discussed the considerable problems of conserving this hypocaust (made of mortared flint nodules), for public display in the British climate. On the south side of the courtyard is a building (building 6) of third-century date with an imposing entrance porch, which went through a series of modifications including the insertion of two bath suites. Its remains were overlain by the houses of a deserted medieval village. On the east side of the courtyard are the remains of a massive gatehouse with a probable granary over it and a large hall-like building, probably stables, on its south side.

LITTLECOTE ROMAN VILLA

In the afternoon the ARA visit moved to the site of the Littlecote Roman villa, in the grounds of Littlecote House beside the River Kennet, near Hungerford, on the Wiltshire-Berkshire border. This is the largest and most complete Roman villa on display in Britain, excavated continuously from 1977 to 1991. Bryn Walters, ARA Director and Co-Director of the Littlecote Research Project guided members around the site, describing the excavations, and discussing the remains of the buildings on display. These were arranged around a large courtyard overlying a first-century road running north-west across the site. In its earliest phases the site had small circular houses with external ovens, a rectangular timber building, a corn-dryer or melting kiln, and timber melting tanks. These were replaced in c. 170-80 by a flint-walled 'winged corridor house' with internal third-century flint-built rectangular building with a bath suite at its west end. This date corresponds with the reign of the Emperor Julian who encouraged the 'old religions' after the advent of Christianity. The hall, having an arrangement of three apses at its west end, is of triconch design and unique in Roman Britain. It conforms to a pattern later adopted for churches in the Byzantine Empire of the sixth century onwards in having polygonal exteriors to its apses. The hall contained an important mosaic, first discovered in 1727 and then carefully recorded and illustrated, but later reburied, only to be rediscovered in 1977. It was then found that about half the mosaic had survived and the other parts were fully restored, based on the eighteenth-century records, in 1979-80. Bryn Walters explained the interpretation of the religious iconography embedded in the richly figured design of the mosaic (Fig. 25),

![Littlecote Roman Villa](image)

The most remarkable building, the 'Orphic Hall' (Fig. 24), on the north side of the courtyard, was converted shortly after 360 from a now displayed under a modern cover-building. He concentrated on the central roundel containing a figure of Orpheus playing on his lyre accompanied by a hunting dog, but bringing together aspects of the gods
Bacchus and Apollo. He is surrounded by a four-spoked wheel in the quadrants of which are four female deities, representing Persephone, Venus, Leda and Demeter, and the Four Seasons, and also depictions of four running animals representing the flight of Zagreus-Bacchus from the Titans, in the form of a goat, hind, panther and a bull. All these figures allude to the Orphic cycle of rebirth. The apses contained panther masks of Bacchus radiating the light of the sun. Beyond a panel representing a stylized pool of water, Bryn Walters explained the mosaic filling the eastern chamber of the hall. Four floral panels are bordered on two sides by friezes each containing a *cantharus* accompanied by two panthers, two sea monsters and two dolphins, perhaps representing the story of Bacchus and the Tyrrhenian pirates and aspects of rebirth and immortality.

After examining the mosaic, the group made their way to Littlecote House to see the George Vertue engraving of the mosaic (1730), the exhibition on the site and the display of small finds and other objects from the excavation. Copies of the new edition of the illustrated guidebook *Littlecote Roman Villa* are provided free to ARA members. Additional copies can be had from Bryn Walters at the ARA Office for £2.00 each. *(Cheques should be made out to Bryn Walters).*

**SILCHESTER**

On August 1st, a very hot Sunday, 80 members visited the ninth season of Reading University Archaeology Department’s investigation of a substantial part of insula IX at the Roman town at Silchester, Hampshire (*Calleva Atrebatum*). The eight-weeks of intensive data gathering was being carried out at one of the largest Roman excavation sites in Britain, a combination of research excavation and training Field School, directed by Professor Michael Fulford assisted by Amanda Clarke. This is the fourth major project to be carried out by Professor Fulford and his team, the others on the north gate and town defences, the amphitheatre and the forum basilica, have now been published. The earliest seasons on insula IX examined the evidence and methods of the excavations of the 1890s carried out under the auspices of the Society of Antiquaries. After carefully dissecting the various phases of sub-Roman and Roman period occupation, including the development of house 1 lying diagonally across the insula, the ninth season had reached an exciting stage with evidence beginning to appear from the earliest structures on the site. These belong to the ‘pre-Roman’ late Iron Age oppidum of *Calleva* occupying the area within the late Iron Age Inner Earthwork and dating initially from the late first century BC. This occupation, associated with a distinctive black earth layer seems to have continued to the Flavian period so that by the early 40s AD *Calleva* consisted of a flourishing settlement with rectilinear structures and a ‘street grid’ on a completely different alignment to the street grid established in the Flavian period. This earliest settlement was associated with metalworking and the importation of ceramics and other evidence for long distance trade, and may well have been the ‘royal’ residence of the rulers of the Cunniann-Verican dynasty. The ARA group were guided around the excavations by Professor Fulford and members were also shown some of the more important recent small finds. We thank Amanda Clarke for helping to organise this visit. The ARA gave a grant of £500 towards the project. In the afternoon members made their way to Reading Museum and Art Gallery to view the Silchester Collection, made up mainly of material from the excavations of 1869-77 (J. G. Joyce) and 1890-1909 (Fig. 26).

**AGM AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM**

About 110 members attended the AGM in the Stevenson Lecture Theatre, Clere Education Centre, at the British Museum, London on 6th November. The Chairman, Grahame Soffe, gave an illustrated presentation of the year’s events and thanked Board members Bryn Walters, Don Flear, Anthony Beeson, Mike Stone, Sam Moorhead and David Ridgus for their work over the year. He also thanked David Gollins (*ARA* Editor in 2004), Beth Bishop (Assistant Editor), Sue Jones (Membership Secretary), and Dr. Martin Henig (Research Advisor). It was announced that David Ridgus, due to personal and work commitments, had resigned from the Board of Trustees and that Bryn Walters would continue to take on Secretarial duties until a replacement could be found. Also that Grahame Soffe would be taking on the duties of *ARA* Editor with David Gollins continuing with the production and design of *ARA* and the Editorship of *ARA News* assisted by Beth Bishop, Bryn Walters (Director) and Don Flear (Treasurer) gave their reports. Bryn Walters gave details of archaeological projects which the ARA had grant supported over the year and described proposed events planned for the forthcoming year. Don Flear presented the audited accounts for the year 2003-4, which were agreed by the members, and described the financial outlook for the forthcoming year. He also announced that he would be retiring as Treasurer at the end of the financial year, having served in that post since the ARA had been established. His duties would be taken over by Dr. David Evans who had been seconded to the Board. Michael Stone and Sam Moorhead were unanimously re-elected to the Board. Sue Jones (Membership Secretary) was also elected to the Board of Trustees. Banks Chartered Accountants were re-elected as
Auditors and Neil Elsdon of Banks thanked for his contribution.

**SYMPOSIUM AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM**

![Fig. 27. Dr. Don Bailey and Dr. Sally-Ann Ashton by the Obelisk of Nakhthorheb, 30th Dynasty, fourth century BC. In the Great Court, British Museum, ARA AGM and Symposium, November 2004. Photo: © Grahame Soffe.](image)

After lunch the Symposium was devoted to two illustrated lectures by Dr. Sally-Anne Ashton (Senior Assistant Keeper in the Department of Antiquities at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge), and Dr. Donald Bailey (former Assistant Keeper in the Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities, British Museum) (Fig. 27). Dr. Ashton’s lecture was on the subject of Roman Egyptomania corresponding with the exhibition at the Fitzwilliam Museum and her catalogue of the same title (Gold House Publications, 2004, £19.99). Her discussion centred around the results of Roman Imperial copying of cultural material from terracottas to monumental sculpture from Ptolemaic Egypt particularly in religion and portraiture. Special attention was paid to the use of original statues of Ptolemaic queens from Egypt being incorporated as cult statues of Isis at Rome and Tivoli, the dissemination of the cults of Isis and Serapis in Italy and beyond, and the copying of Egyptian style in Roman sculpture. This was also illustrated through Hadrian’s deification of his dead favourite and possible intended successor Antinous (Fig. 28), and the promulgation of his cult from Hadrian’s palace at Tivoli to the foundation of Antinoopolis in Egypt, for Antinous as Hadrian’s intended successor, see Martin Henig’s ‘Roman Art’ in L. Gowing’s *A History of Art* (1983), pp 193-4. Dr. Bailey’s lecture reviewed progress of the joint project being carried out under the auspices of the Universities of Exeter, Southampton and Brussels on the Roman-period quarries and associated settlements at Mons Claudianus and Mons Porphyrites in the mountainous Eastern desert of Egypt. As Professor Valerie Maxfield had already spoken to the ARA at our Annual Dinner at Exeter in 2002 on *Mons Porphyrites* (ARA, 14, (2003), p. 18), he concentrated on work at Mons Claudianus and the survey of the slave workers’ settlement and military garrison, including the ‘centurion’s house’, bath house, block houses, shrines, the aqueduct and ‘Hydreuma’. The Board is grateful to its member Sam Moorhead and his colleagues at the British Museum for again helping to make the AGM and Symposium such a success.

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**THE AGM AND SYMPOSIUM 2005**

*by Grahame Soffe*

**AGM AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM**

About 115 members attended the AGM in the Stevenson Lecture Theatre, Clore Education Centre, at the British Museum, London on 12th November 2005. The Chairman, Grahame Soffe, gave an illustrated presentation of the year’s events and thanked the Board members, Bryn Walters, Don Flear, Anthony Beeson, Mike Stone, Sam Moorhouse and Dr. David Evans for their work over the year. He also thanked David Gollins (Editor of *ARA News*) and his assistant Beth Bishop for the enhanced *ARA News*, Dr. Martin Henig (Research Advisor) and Dr. David Evans and his colleagues for his work in renewing the ARA website. The Chairman formally announced the sad news of the death of Sue Jones, member of the Board of Trustees and the ARA’s Membership Secretary, on 18th April. He expressed the deep loss the Board and Membership felt, and reiterated Bryn Walters’ statement in the Obituary published in *ARA News*, 18, (November 2005), p. 3., that her input into the administration of the ARA will be extremely difficult to
replace. Don Flear, on his retirement as Hon. Treasurer in April had very kindly offered to take on the duties of Membership Secretary and the Board had gratefully accepted. Grahame Soiffe, in his position as ARA Bulletin Editor, apologised for the delay in the publication of the next issue. This had been due to deaths in his family and pressure of work. The next issue (No. 17), would have a larger number of pages than the previous one. Bryn Walters (Director and Secretary) and Dr. David Evans (Treasurer) gave their reports. Bryn Walters gave details of archaeological projects which the ARA had grant supported over the year and described proposed events planned for the forthcoming year. He also gave a short speech about a number of issues he felt were affecting the functioning of the ARA and the probable reasons for the difficulty the ARA, and other organisations with a similar purpose, were experiencing in recruiting and retaining members. David Evans invited Don Flear to give his Treasurer’s report for the period up to the end of the financial year on 31st March 2005 and Don Flear presented the audited accounts for 2004-5 which were agreed by the members. David Evans gave his report for the period from April to November 2005 and described the outlook for the forthcoming year. Bryn Walters and Anthony Beeson were unanimously re-elected to the Board and Dr. David Evans was elected as a Trustee. Banks (Chartered Accountants) were re-elected as Auditors and Neil Eldsen of Banks was thanked for his work. At the end of the formal business of the meeting Bryn Walters led a vote of thanks to Don Flear for his many years of service to the ARA as its Treasurer since 1996. This was the year the ARA was founded, having been reconstituted from the Friends of the Roman Research Trust. He reminded members that the success of the ARA had been largely due to Don’s hard work and dedication, sustained over a long period, and expressed the relief felt by all that he would be remaining on the Board. Bryn Walters then made a presentation to Don on behalf of the Board to which Don replied (Fig. 1).

**SYMPOSIUM AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM**

After lunch, during which members were invited by Sam Moorhead of the British Museum to view the international exhibition, *Forgotten Empire, The World of Ancient Persia*, the Symposium was devoted to two illustrated lectures. The first of these was given as The Sue Jones Memorial Lecture, by Anthony Beeson, Trustee and Archivist to the ARA. The second was given by Andrew Poulter, Professor of Roman Archaeology and Chair of Late Roman and Early Byzantine Archaeology, University of Nottingham (Fig. 2). Anthony Beeson’s lecture on *Furniture in Roman Britain* was a fascinating new look at the evidence from the province. This included the rare and precious fragments of actual wooden furniture which have survived the damp British climate, iron folding stools and caskets with bronze embellishments (Fig. 3), and table legs of Kimmeridge shale. The shale industry was discussed in some detail together with the manufacture of decorated chip-carved limestone table-tops in south-west Britain (Fig. 4). Another aspect, not usually considered, was the use of textiles in furniture and as hangings to embellish interior spaces. All this evidence was compared with that from depictions of couches and basket chairs on tombstone-reliefs and other sculpture, together with
actual pieces of furniture and depictions of furniture in wall paintings and mosaics from Pompeii, Herculaneum and other parts of the Roman Empire (Figs. 5 and 6).

Fig. 5. A masked actor playing Orestes reclining on a couch, talking to Electra. On the couch, a textile covered mattress with striped decoration. Wall painting in the ‘theatre room’ (H2/SR6), House A, Terrace Houses, Ephesus. Late second century AD.

Photo: © Grahame Soffe.

Professor Andrew Poulter’s lecture on Roman Bulgaria was given in his capacity as Director of the British Archaeological Expedition to Bulgaria II. He described how the expedition was involved in surveying late Roman village settlements in north-central Bulgaria (Moesia Inferior) and described the various techniques being used for the first time in this area in co-operation with Bulgarian archaeologists. One key site, Dichin (Gradishteto), is being investigated jointly with Dr. V. Dinchev of the Bulgarian Institute of Archaeology, Sophia, involving intensive fieldwork, pottery chronological studies (particularly of Black Sea amphorae) based on sequences established at Nicopolis ad Istrum (see below), geophysical and palaeoenvironmental survey. Founded in c. 400, Dichin was a fortified settlement containing mud-brick granaries, destroyed in c. 476-80 (Fig. 7). The other main area of ongoing survey is the town of Nicopolis ad Istrum founded by Trajan in 101-6. The upstanding ruins of this 30 hectare walled town are comparable to other better known urban centres of Greece and Asia Minor (Fig. 8). Professor Poulter illustrated this with a video ‘aerial tour’ of the extensive ruins of the town showing its colonnaded forum, public buildings, gates and

Fig. 6. The Courtship of Mars and Venus. Panel-picture showing textile hangings and furniture covered with rich textiles. From the north wall of the tablinum of the House of M. Lucretius Fronto at Pompeii (V4, a) c. AD 40-50.

Photo: Courtesy of Grahame Soffe.

Fig. 7. Dichin: View of excavations on the granary.

Photo: Courtesy of Andrew Poulter.

Fig. 8. Nicopolis ad Istrum: Plan of the city showing the grid of streets and insulae, and the defences. In the fifth century it was abandoned and the late Roman castellum was added to the south.

Illustration: Courtesy of Andrew Poulter.
houses. It became an important mint and later an Episcopal See in the early Byzantine period but was destroyed by the Avar invasions at the end of the sixth century.

The ARA Board is very grateful to its member Sam Moorhead and his colleagues at the British Museum for again helping to make the AGM and Symposium such a successful occasion.

A full report on the ARA’s activities in 2005 will appear in the next Bulletin.

A NEW LOOK AT SOUTH WALES

The Transactions of the British Archaeological Association’s 2004 Cardiff conference, *Architecture and Archaeology in the Medieval Diocese of Llandaff (Leeds 2006)*, contain a paper by Professor Martin Henig on ‘Roman Art and the Culture of South-East Wales’. This suggests that we are wrong to view South Wales and especially the north bank of the Severn running from the Forest of Dean to west Glamorgan, with such a military bias. Indeed, the Roman army was only one source of patronage in the first two centuries of ‘Roman’ rule and diminished thereafter.

In addition to the cantonal capital of the Silures, Caerwent (*Venta Silurum*) there are numerous villas along what must have been an attractive Riviera, including Boughspring near Tidenham, Langstone near Newport, Llantwit Major and Oystermouth, west of Swansea. There is also the temple site at Lydney with lavish mosaics, not only in the temple itself but in the villa-like guest-house and the bath-house (Fig. 1).

With regard to sculpture, wall-painting and mosaics, there are strong links with the Cotswolds and with Somerset. The fourth century mosaics, very like those across the water in south-west England, are especially noteworthy, and express sophisticated artistic aspirations, not surprising in a region which was to prove so important in keeping Christianity alive in the fifth and sixth centuries. Indeed it has been thought that some of the early Christian sites in the region, such as those at Llandough and Llantwit, originated with villas, while Caerwent was the Llan of St. Tatheus.

The reason for the link between the north and south banks of the Severn / Bristol Channel is fairly obvious. The estuary did not separate people on the two sides, rather it was a busy highway which, by late Roman times, was binding together the two parts of the largest and wealthiest British Province, *Britannia Prima*. However, the connection had always existed and is epitomised by the wreck of a Roman boat excavated at Barland’s Farm, Magor, by the second modern Severn motorway bridge, and further west by a third century posting-station near the water’s edge at Cold Knap, Barry. And of course, as Professor Henig reminds us, there is documentary evidence in that one of the routes in the Antonine Itinerary (*Iter XIV*) runs from Caerwent to Sea Mills.

(Ed.)
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