consigned to the melting pot.35

**Dating**

Bronze manufacture continued right through the Roman period, at least until the fourth century. Dating is sometimes difficult to establish with certainty. Some appear to be early in date; several of the bronzes including the Nodens hound and the Maiden Castle Tarvos Trigaranus come from late Roman contexts. However, as with the Southbroom cache, surely early but found with third century coins, bronzes could have a very long life in a temple or in the home. Dating will, thus, always be something of a problem except in the case of imperial busts which, whether imports from the continent or made locally, can be assigned, more or less, to the lifetime of the subject.

**The Future of Bronze Studies**

I hope that this brief paper, if it has done nothing else, has demonstrated something of the enormous interest and variety of the subject. I have long been fascinated by small bronzes and long ago proposed writing a doctoral dissertation on the subject, only to be told by Sheppard Frere that someone else was doing so. Unfortunately, whoever that student was, she abandoned the project and I went on to work on other things, notably engraved gems, though one of my first published papers (cited in this article) was on zoomorphic supports of cast bronze from Roman sites in Britain.

It is very surprising that there has to date been only one serious attempt (by Lynn Pitts in her MPhil thesis) to catalogue the bronzes of Roman Britain and then from only one corner of the south-east.44 This contrasts with most west European countries – the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Germany, Austria and Italy – where major corpora have already appeared. However, the study of figurines is now at last being carried further by Emma Durham who has started a part-time PhD at the University of Reading on the subject; she is actively compiling a database of figurines, particularly from known sites, paying especial attention to excavated examples. She intends to try to compare bronze figurines with those in other materials (lead, ceramic and jet for example). Emma will be glad to know of new discoveries of figurines, which will further enhance our knowledge of art and religion in Roman Britain.

**FOOTNOTES**


6. J. M. C. Toynbee, Art in Britain under the Romans (Oxford 1964), 49 and pl. v; M. Henig, Religion in Roman Britain (London 1984), 75 fig. 20.
7. Ibid., 211 fig. 102.
8. S. S. Freer, 'Mould for bronze statuette from Gessinghorpe, Essex', Britannia 1 (1970), 266-7 and see Brown, 'Bronze and pewter', 28 fig. 23.
9. AKA Bulletin March 2003, p. 15 fig. 5 cf. RIB 194.
10. RIB 213.
11. M. R. Hull, Roman Colchester (Society of Antiquaries, 1958), 239, pl. xxxviiic and also for the Cinturnus plaque cf. RIB 194.
12. RIB 215 and 220.
13. Henig, Art of Roman Britain, 128-9, fig. 78.
16. Henig, Religion in Roman Britain, 66 fig. 23.
17. Henig, Art of Roman Britain, 95-6 fig. 61.
18. Ibid., 36 and 38, fig. 18 cf. Hull, Roman Colchester, 264, pl. xl.
19. J. M. C. Toynbee, Art in Roman Britain (London 1969), 134 no. 21, pl. 33; Henig, Art of Roman Britain, 95 ill. 60.
21. Henig, Religion in Roman Britain, 57-8, 80- 61 fig. 19.
23. Leech, 'Lamyatt Beacon', 277 and 279 no. 4, pl. 23.
26. J. Bagnall Smith, 'Interim report on the votive material from Romano-Celtic temple sites in Oxfordshire', Oxoniensia 60 (1995), 177-203, at pp. 179-80 figs 2 and 3 (Venus); Leech, 'Lamyatt Beacon', 277 no. 5.
27. Hartley, Hawkes, Henig and Mee, Constantine the Great, 201 no. 182.
29. S. Worrell, ' Finds reported under the portable antiquities scheme', Britannia 37 (2006), 449-50 no. 18 fig. 19.
30. Toynbee, Art in Britain under the Romans, 126-7 pl. xxviiib, c. Henig, Religion in Roman Britain, 55 and 57 fig. 17.
31. Worrell, 'Finds reported', 463-4 no. 34, fig. 35.
32. Henig, Religion in Roman Britain, 65 fig. 22.
33. S. Freer, Verulamium Excavations I (Society of Antiquaries of London 1972), 44-50, no. 155, pls xlii-xlvii; Toynbee, Art in Britain under the Romans, 84-84, pl. xvii.
34. Henig, Art of Roman Britain, frontispiece (muse) and 82 fig. 49 (Hercules).
37. Ibid., fig. 40; Toynbee, Art in Britain under the Romans, 103-4, pl. xxvii and Henig and Paddock, 'Metal figurines in the Corinium Museum', 89-90, figs 3 no. 7.
40. Henig, Art of Roman Britain, 149-50 fig. 90; Hartley, Hawkes, Henig and Mee, Constantine the Great, 184 no. 155.
41. Not an adolescent Nero as recently proposed by Miles Russell! Illustrated in Toynbee, Art in Roman Britain, 123 no. 1, pl. 7 and in Art in Britain under the Romans, 46-8 pl. iv.
42. Henig, Art of Roman Britain, 61-62 fig. 35 and p. 84, and Art in Britain under the Romans, 50-51, pl. vii (Hadrian); cf Toynbee, Art in Roman Britain, 135-6 no. 25, pl. 20 (Salis Minerva).
43. J. M. C. Toynbee, Art in Roman Britain, 150 no. 60, pl. 61; Art in Britain under the Romans, 129, pl. xxxiv: Unfortunately for the generations who have loved Rosemary Sutcliff's The Eagle of the Ninth it is not the aquila of the Ninth, or any other, Legion.
44. L. F. Pitts, Roman bronze figures from the civitates of the Cattuvallion and Tironeates (BAR British series 60, Oxford 1979).

FURTHER READING:
Apart from Lynn Pitts's book many figurines are discussed by Professor J. M. C. Toynbee in Art in Roman Britain (London 1962) and her accompanying Art in Britain under the Romans (Oxford 1964) and my own The Art of Roman Britain (London 1995). There are a number of notes on individual figurines and M. Henig and J. M. Paddock, 'Metal figurines in the Corinium Museum, Cirencester', TBGAS 111 (1993), 85-93 gives a full account of a small museum collection.
For figurines from Gaul see Stéphanie Boucher, Recherches sur les Bronzes et statues de Gallo pré-Romaine et Romaine (École Française de Rome 1976). There are splendid corpore of bronze figurines from Belgium and the Netherlands, France, Germany, Switzerland and Austria, for example G. Faider-Feytmans, Les Bronzes Romains de Belgique (Mainz 1979) and A. Kaufmann-Hennimann, Die Römischen Bronzen der Schweiz (Mainz 1977).
In addition to these, Sally Worrell of the Portable Antiquities Scheme has been publishing a selection of finds which come her way, a number of which are figural bronzes.

Further reading:
Dr. (Mary) Grace Simpson, FSA, who died at Oxford on 8th February 2007, was best known in Roman archaeology for her contribution to the study of samian pottery or *terra sigillata*, so important in researching the development of the history of Roman Britain and the neighbouring provinces. Above all she is famed as the joint author with Joseph Stanfield of *Central Gaulish Potters*, published in 1958 and still an essential work for samian specialists.

Grace was born at Boston Spa, Yorkshire, on 12th November 1920, the daughter of F. Gerald Simpson, a noted archaeologist particularly associated with the study and excavation of Hadrian’s Wall. Her early years were spent in Newcastle, where her father was Director of Archaeological Field Research, and she was educated at Penrhos College in Colwyn Bay, a girls’ school with a strong academic tradition and Methodist connection. During the war she trained and served as a nurse, but she wished ultimately to follow her father into archaeology. In September 1945, learning that courses were about to restart at the Institute of Archaeology in London, in her own words ‘I hurried to London, was interviewed, paid a fee of two guineas . . . and I was in!’ She studied at the Institute for three years, receiving the Diploma in European Archaeology in 1948. The Institute honoured Grace with a celebration of this event in 1999, and her memories of those days were published in 2001.

Between 1950 and 1954 Grace held an appointment as Research Assistant to Eric Birley in her father’s old department at Durham University; she was also appointed Honorary Curator of the famous Clayton Collection of antiquities at the Chester’s Museum on Hadrian’s Wall, a post she held until 1972. It was during her period at Durham that she began to establish her reputation as a specialist in samian ware, and, in conjunction with the illustrator Wilfred Dodds (Fig. 3), she took on the completion of Stanfield’s study of the Central Gaulish potters which had been left unfinished at his death. She contributed the bulk of the text to what became universally known as ‘Stanfield and Simpson’, a book of such significance that in 1978 Howard Comfort considered it ‘the outstanding single achievement’ of British samian studies. It is still essential to anyone studying samian ware, and because of its present scarcity a new French edition, fully updated by Grace, was published in 1990.

From the 1950s onwards, Grace regularly contributed specialist reports on samian ware to excavation reports. At around the same time she also began her tours of museums in Britain and France, acquiring an extensive collection of rubbings of decorated samian pottery which gave her the basis from which she could study excavation finds with such authority (Fig. 4). She was a founder member of the *Rei Cretariae Romanae Fauetores*, established in 1957, and regularly attended the biennial conferences. These meetings extended her friendships and acquaintance with scholars in other countries. They also led to a prolific correspondence with colleagues in Britain and abroad, notably with the samian specialists George Rogers (Fig. 5) and Bernard Hofmann, and to a valuable exchange of notes and offprints with many others.

In addition to more than eighty samian reports, Grace published a number of papers which had a wider relevance to samian studies. Among these are two papers in the *Antiquaries Journal* (37, 1957; 53, 1973) on black-slipped samian ware which showed the relationship between these wares and the fine colour-coated wares made at the same sites, and an early paper showing the probable presence of a second British samian workshop which has subsequently proved to lie in the Pulborough area of Sussex (in the *Journal of Roman Studies* 42, 1952).

Grace’s study of decorated ware from Montans, initially presented in the last volume of the reports on Richborough Roman fort in Kent (1968), was of great value, and led to further separate articles, while an important joint paper with George Rogers began to untangle the complexities of the Cinnamus workshop at Lezoux (*Gallia*, 27, 1969). Grace also provided a new preface, with additions and corrections, to the 1966 reprint of Oswald and Pryce’s great work on samian: *An Introduction to the Study of Terra Fig. 1. Grace Simpson on a visit to the Websters at Chesterton in 1989. Photo: © Diana Bonaiss Webster.

Fig. 2. Grace Simpson and Martin Henig examining a 19th-century bronze copy of a Roman samian bowl at Shotover House, near Oxford in 1994. Photo: © Graham Soffe.
the university’s Department of Extra-Mural Studies, and as a visiting fellow at Haverford College, Pennsylvania. She was awarded her doctorate at Oxford in 1960, and her thesis formed the basis of her book *Britons and the Roman army*, published in 1964, which substantially revised the chronology of Roman Wales. Following her father’s death in 1955, she devoted much of her time and energy to completing the publication of his work. She was fiercely protective of his reputation, something which unfortunately estranged her from a number of Hadrian’s Wall scholars who were concerned with more recent archaeological evidence. In particular, the publication in 1976 of *Watermills and military works on Hadrian’s Wall,* an account of Gerald Simpson’s early excavations, drew her into a memorable dispute with Charles Daniels, who reviewed the work critically in *Britannia* (10, 1979; 12, 1981).

Grace rightly pointed out that the Chesters Museum (visited by the ARA in 2004 and 2005) contained ‘one of the finest and most varied collections of Roman antiquities in Roman Britain,’ but her time as Honorary Curator was not without incident. For much of its history the old building had been without electric light and heating and after moving to Oxford Grace was only able to make occasional visits. After retiring from the post she published an outspoken booklet (1973) complaining about the display, welfare and conservation of the numerous bronze and iron objects in the collection. She described, for instance, how some objects ‘suffered a strange accident. In 1953 a pheasant was shot over the Museum and crashed through the roof bringing down enough debris to break the glass lids of the show-cases containing the iron objects. . . . It was by chance that I went to the Museum about two weeks later. The pheasant (as was to be expected) was no longer there.’

Grace had had a long association with artefacts. In addition to her specialist work on samian ware, Grace made a considerable study of the small objects found on excavations, and her corpus of weapons, tools and bronze equipment from

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*Sigillata* (1920), which had long been virtually unobtainable. After Durham, Grace moved to Oxford to undertake postgraduate research at Lady Margaret Hall, and in later years did some teaching for
excavations at Neuss was published in 2000. She had a particular interest in brooches (another vital tool in archaeological dating), on which she published important papers, and virtually single-handedly salvaged and set on the path to publication M. R. (Rex) Hull’s great corpus of Iron Age and Roman brooches from Britain (the Iron Age brooches had been partially published in 1987 by M. R. Hull and Christopher Hawkes). This work had to be rescued and scanned from a fast-disintegrating set of enormous old-fashioned galley proofs, and has now passed for completion to Nina Crummary, who assisted Grace in the work for several years.

Grace never suffered fools gladly, and George Rogers (Fig. 5) recounted ruefully that he once received a sharp blow on the head with Larousse Gastronomique (no light volume) when working with her; his sin was to have confused the various Antiochs in a reference. Philip Kenrick, who jointly organised the Fatores meeting at Oxford and London with her in 1984, recalls that she could be difficult to work with, and that one could unwittingly incur her wrath, but that she gave her energies unstintingly to those causes she cared about, tirelessly writing letters and badgering people to ensure that the international conference would be successful.

She had a softer side too, however, and visitors to her house in Beechcroft Road, Oxford, would remember her famous hospitality,
Excavations in 2004, which were supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Tyne and Wear Museums and English Heritage, uncovered the partly collapsed remains of a massive riverside wall on the south side of the River Tyne at Corbridge.

The wall had formed one side of a ramp taking Dere Street up from the level of the flood plain to the carriageway of the Roman bridge. In July 2004 Margaret Snape (at that time the director of the project) gave the ARA a presentation of the work in progress at the Tour of the central sector of Hadrian's Wall (see ARA 17, p. 43). However, by that time erosion of the river threatened to destroy the remains and in the winter of 2004-5 they were dismantled. Over 300 blocks, some of them weighing more than a tonne, were removed and have now been re-assembled a short distance from the present river bank.

The result is an impressive mass of masonry standing to a height of more than 3.5 m (Fig. 1). The blocks from which it is constructed display all the techniques of high-quality Roman masonry construction which are visible at only a few other sites in Britain — sockets for dowels and lead clamps, crowbar slots, raised margins on the sides of the blocks to form tight joints, and elaborate feathered tooling of the visible faces. Work is also in progress on the publication of the project which has shed much light on use of the bridge as a source of stone to build the church (now the abbey) at Hexham in the later seventh century. It is hoped to report more fully on the Corbridge project in a future issue of ARA.

continued from previous page.


When Lady (Aileen Mary) Fox died on 21st November 2005 at the age of 98, many of us realised that she was probably the last surviving member of that generation of archaeologists who shaped the modern discipline in this country. Her remarkable career stretched over seven decades, and then continued after her formal retirement, in New Zealand. Her published work and teaching has made a very important contribution to archaeology in general, and to the study of Roman Britain and of southwest Britain and Wales in particular.

Aileen was born on 29th July 1907 into an upper middle class family. Living first in London and then in Surrey, she was very close to her father Walter Scott Henderson, a solicitor, and accompanied him abroad on walking holidays examining Alpine flora. Vigorous outdoor exercise and flora remained enthusiasms throughout her life. In 1926 she was presented at court as a débutante, and despite her father's objections that she would become a ‘bluestocking’, read for the English Tripos from 1926-9 at Newnham College, Cambridge University. This was one of the few colleges for women at Oxford and Cambridge and as a woman, she was not awarded the full degree until 1948.

Amongst a wide range of acquaintances, meeting the prehistorian Professor Miles Burkitt at Cambridge, introduced her to archaeology and after completing her time there she decided to take part in an excavation. She was introduced by her college friend Jocelyn Toynbee (a lady Don and later Professor of Classical Archaeology) to J. P. Bushe-Fox, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, who was running the important excavations at the Roman fort of Richborough on the Kent coast, and he offered her an unpaid post there. This was her first experience of a Roman excavation. In her autobiography she wonderfully describes the way the excavation was run and the many famous archaeologists involved, including Thomas May the pottery expert and Professor Donald Atkinson. The winter of 1929-30 was spent at the British School at Rome where archaeology was the main object of research and in the summer of 1930 she returned to Richborough as Bushe-Fox's paid assistant, with the special task of arranging the site museum and preparing finds reports. Richborough produced a wealth of finds and the published reports from 1926 to 1949, and 1968 are of a high standard. They remain highly regarded by the small finds experts of today, some of whom will claim they are more useful than recent reports on other sites. The 4th report, published in 1949, after some delay due to the War and Bushe-Fox's illness, contains Aileen Henderson's finds report completed before her marriage in 1933. She has modestly added the footnote: “I have not attempted to rewrite what was essentially student work” (Fig. 1).

Through her work at Richborough, Aileen, being naturally sociable and confident, made numerous archaeological friends, among them Bryan O'Neil (another Inspector), C. A. Raleigh Radford, E. T. Leeds (Ashmolean Museum, Oxford) and Reginald Smith and Christopher Hawkes from the British Museum. In 1932 she had her first introduction to Devon where she assisted the formidable Dorothy Liddell in the third season of the Devon Archaeological Exploration Society's excavations at the Iron Age hillfort of Hembury. Also in 1932 she met her future husband Cyril Fox who lost his first wife in a bathing accident later that year. He was one of the pre-eminent prehistorians of his day and, in 1935, received a knighthood for his development of the National Museum of Wales, of which he was Director. She had become used to the companionship of older eminent scholars and so agreed to his proposal of marriage in 1933 although he was 25 years her senior. After this she embarked on family life, bringing up three sons and working with Cyril or alone on fieldwork and excavation of Iron Age and Roman sites, and some of the medieval period. Probably the most significant was her direction of an excavation at the legionary fortress of Legio II Augusta at Caerleon in South Wales. Dr. V. E. Nash-Williams had been engaged there since 1927 excavating the legionary barracks and following on from the campaign initiated by the Wheelers in 1925 to excavate the amphitheatre and parts...
of the fortress (see the article on Tessa Wheeler in this issue). In early
1939 a site inside the fortress
(Myrtle Cottage orchard) came up
for redevelopment but Nash was
called away to excavate at Sudbrook
hillfort. He therefore asked Aileen
to investigate the site. With the aid of
the museum, the Office of Works,
students and a dozen local workmen,
she dug carefully placed trenches
across what she knew would be
barrack blocks and centurions'
quarters. In her autobiography she
recalls the exciting discovery of a
hoard of first-century gold coins
hidden under the floor of earlier
timber barracks. The report was
published the following year. For
most of the war years Aileen
consolidated her knowledge by
lecturing at University College,
Cardiff, where she realised how
much she enjoyed teaching.

During the War, in 1944, the year
the Council for British Archaeology
was founded, she attended a major
conference at the Institute of
Archaeology, London, which she
considered a momentous occasion
for the future of British archaeology.
Also in that year she published her
first paper in Antiquity on the place of
archaeology in British education.

Reading this today, she comes over
as something of a prophet, with
references to television and slide
projectors. She was scathing about
contemporary museums – ‘the days
of the derelict over-crowded museum
are, I think, numbered, and curators
are increasingly aware of their
educative responsibilities’. It was in
1945 that archaeologist Elsie Clifford
and Dr. Wallis, Director of Bristol
Museums suggested that Aileen ‘sort
out’ the famous Roman collections at
the new Corinium Museum founded
in 1938 at Cirencester, including the
reserve collection. Sir Ian Richmond
had described them as ‘badly
arranged’ on an inspection of the old
(Bathurst) Corinium Museum in
1921, and it appeared that things had
not much improved, particularly
since everything had been packed
away during the War when the
building was requisitioned by the Air
Ministry. With her apprenticeship at
Richborough, she was well suited to
become an honorary curator with
Philip Rahtz helping her photograph
the mosaics and sculpture. She was
immensely pleased when she
discovered a coin of Allectus, which
had been found in 1909 beneath the
Orpheus mosaic and so established
its early fourth-century date – and for
that matter, the other products of
what we now call the Corinium
school of mosaicians. Her new
guidebook came out in 1949. John
Paddock, the present Curator,
describes how a bone knife handle,
he was examining recently, bears her
writing in Indian ink: ‘medieval, not
Roman!’. She said that her aim was to
produce a ‘coherent display that
would be attractive both to the
general public and to the student
coming purposefully to study the
collections . . . . The fashion is now
for exhibits in darkness lit by
artificial light, for reconstructions
with figures, a return to the peep-
show and everything made easy’.

In 1945, at the invitation of Sir Ian
Richmond, she accepted the
challenge of three seasons’ work
investigating the Roman levels of
war-damaged Exeter before its
rebuilding. This was the earliest
systematic ‘rescue’ programme of its
kind. Extensive areas of the walled
city had been bomb-damaged and
subsequently razed to the ground
and she appreciated that this disaster
offered a unique opportunity for
evacuación. Although Exeter was
first, this work should be seen
against similar post-war projects in
other historic urban centres, such as
that led by Professor W. F. Grimes
in London, Sheppard Frere in
Canterbury and Kathleen Kenyon in
Leicester. Eventually momentum
built up and by the early 1970s the
great era of rescue archaeology in
the face of modern development in
England had come of age. At Exeter
in 1945, it is interesting to note that a
decade earlier, Dr. Nash-Williams
had said that all that was needed to
understand the archaeology of the
Roman city were a few well-placed
trenches. Aileen aimed higher than
that, examining parts of Roman
buildings, streets and defences, in a
series of trenches and open area
evacuaciones, unlike the ‘Wheeler
method’ of a grid of squares, and so
set the pattern for much later
practice in British excavation
techniques. At first, funds and labour
were short and her excavators in the
first season were six Italian prisoners
of war who cooked their spaghetti in
an abandoned air-raid shelter. The
first three seasons’ work was
published in Roman Exeter:
Excavations in War-Damaged Areas
1945 - 7 (1952), and further
excavations followed into the mid-
1960s when during 1964, Aileen
found the first evidence for a Roman
military presence at Exeter (Fig. 2).

Obviously, some of her conclusions

Fig. 2. Aileen Fox digging at the South Gate, Exeter in 1964, the first time Roman military
defences were recognised in Exeter.

Photo: © Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter.
were modified by later work, but the excavations of the 1940s laid the foundations of our modern understanding of Isca Dumniorum. Indeed, a taste of this can be read in her foreword to Paul Bidwell’s great monograph on the excavations (1971-7) in the Cathedral Close on the bath-house of the legionary fortress, garrisoned by Legio II Augusta in the first century, and the basilica and forum of the Roman city. By this time, as a result of her efforts, the Exeter Archaeological Field Unit (now named Exeter Archaeology) had been set up. It is clear that her political, as well as archaeological, skills were largely responsible for bringing about this important excavation. Paul Bidwell has noted that were it not for the excavations Aileen carried out in the 20 years following the War, when so much of the surviving Roman and medieval city’s deposits were obliterated, the recovery of the baths and the plan of the basilica and forum would not have been possible and much of the evidence would have vanished into oblivion. Having been excavated, these spectacular remains are now buried under sand, and it is regrettable that the city has still not had the courage or interest to bring about the ultimate fulfilment of the original plans for their preservation and public display.

Her work in Exeter led to an invitation to take up a Special Lectureship in the then University College of the South West in 1947. Initially part-time, this became full-time after Sir Cyril’s retirement in 1948 when the family moved to Exeter. As Senior Lecturer she remained at Exeter until retirement in 1972 and as Sir Cyril lived until 1967, they worked together on several projects. She struggled against opposition from Professor Frank Barlow and a mesh of university politics in her attempts to establish an archaeology department, but her enthusiasm with a strong emphasis on fieldwork, made her teaching an inspiring memory to several generations of archaeologists, among them the late Desmond Bonney (Royal Commission on Historical Monuments), Graeme Guilbert (Trent and Peak Archaeology) and John Allan (Royal Albert Memorial Museum). Henrietta Quinell recalls that even in her later years Aileen was a person with tremendous energy, and her last Exeter students refer to her striding purposefully up the steep slope to a hillfort, shooting stick in hand, with a string of students lagging behind. Archaeology finally achieved its own department at Exeter University in 1998 and now has 14 academic staff and over 200 students.

During her time at Exeter, Aileen embarked on several important research programmes in south-west Britain. Two classic excavation campaigns on Dartmoor, at Kes Tor (1951-2) and Dean Moor (1954-5), provided good data on the extensive prehistoric settlements of Dartmoor, and she was able to identify a distinctive group of hillforts with multiple enclosures in this area and in South Wales. However, in 1945, there was no formal evidence for a Roman military presence in Devon or Cornwall. Aileen’s investigations with her colleague, the historical geographer William Ravenhill, first demonstrated fortlets at Old Burrow and Martinhoe on the Exmoor coast, and a probable auxiliary fort at North Tawton near the northern edge of Dartmoor. Then, between 1965 and 1969, they conducted four seasons of excavations at Nanstallon in Cornwall, showing conclusively that here was a Roman fort. This identification had originally been suggested by its morphology and from first-century finds made during the levelling of its earthworks. The excavations confirmed that it had been a small fort, with one main phase of occupation between AD 55-65 and then some modification in about 80, in line with the broad period of military occupation in the south-west emerging from work at Exeter. Aileen concluded that Nanstallon was probably garrisoned by a cohors equitata, a mixed unit of infantry and cavalry, and then eventually decommissioned. At Bantham in Devon, she showed for the first time the continuation of Roman ‘culture’ into the post-Roman period, a subject still of considerable interest today, as Dr. Ken Dark’s lecture to the 2006 ARA Symposium showed. All this work was fully published. Probably her best known book, the synthesis South West England, appeared in 1964 in Thames & Hudson’s Ancient Peoples and Places series. It was revised in 1973 and remains an important work which has had a wide influence on local archaeology. She very much enjoyed her accessible archaeological writing, which was influenced by the ‘culture history’ school developed by her husband and other important scholars of the 1930s such as Christopher Hawkes and Mortimer Wheeler. She was also one of the few academic archaeologists who have presented their learning to children, writing Roman Britain with the well-known illustrator, Alan Sorrell, in 1961.

Another interesting contribution to Iron Age and Roman studies was triggered by the finding, in 1970, of an elaborate well-preserved bronze mirror on the site of one of the most westerly Roman villas in Britain. This was Holcombe, in East Devon, being excavated by Sheila Pollard, and best known to Romanists for its fourth-century octagonal plunge bath. The beautiful mirror chased with an elaborate Celtic design was found in a pit under one of the rooms of the villa, and seems to have related to the Iron Age farm from which the villa had grown. It belonged to a western school of bronze-smiths active in the early first century AD, just before the Roman conquest (Fig. 3). Aileen’s comparative study of this was published in 1973 and one cannot help feeling that she meant it as a tribute to her late husband’s pioneering work on ‘Celtic’ metalwork, now best known through his book Pattern and Purpose.

From 1947, when there was no other archaeologist employed in Devon or Cornwall, Aileen became heavily involved in all the national and local archaeological bodies concerned with the region, setting up, among others, the local Group XIII of the Council for British Archaeology. Thus eventually, the area possessed a team of dedicated archaeologists comparable with other parts of Britain. On her retirement from Exeter in 1972 she decided to leave the staff of the University, the Museum and the
Field Unit, many of whom owed their posts to her campaigning, to ‘get on with’ the archaeology of south-west Britain, while she accepted an offer of a visiting lectureship at Auckland University in New Zealand. This was no sinecure but a courageous move, a one-year appointment, but extended. It eventually led to posts at the Auckland Institute and Museum until 1983. The principal field monuments in New Zealand, the Maori pa or fortified settlements, had some similarities with the hillforts of southern Britain. She conducted excavations at Tiromoana Pa in Hawkes Bay (1974-5), carried out field surveys with students, and became heavily involved in monument protection legislation and the completion of a national register of sites. From her New Zealand publications we see the influence and experience of her years in British archaeology. Her work was warmly accepted and appreciated and the esteem of her colleagues there was expressed in a Festschrift: *A Lot of Spadework to be Done*.

On her return to Exeter she was recognised by the dedication of the proceedings of a major conference on Dartmoor which had been held in 1979. She continued her involvement in the archaeology of the south-west, writing a handbook on Devon’s hillforts in 1996 and she was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University in 1985. Her final contribution was her autobiography *Aileen – A Pioneering Archaeologist*, published in 2000. This is a book well worth reading as a first-hand account and for the flavour it provides of the character of archaeological life through the successive decades of her involvement. She did much to enervate Roman studies in Britain by applying some of the skills and insights of the prehistorian and fieldworker. In the end one can only stand back in amazement at a life of determined perseverance and a commitment to the discipline of archaeology which she did so much to establish.

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**By Others:**


ANNUAL DINNER AND TOUR OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT

The 2005 programme was initiated with the Annual Dinner and Tour of Roman Wight on 7th and 8th May. This was the first time the ARA had visited the Isle of Wight since 1997 (see ARA 4, 1997, p. 14). Fifty-six members stayed at the Riviera Hotel, Sandown. The Dinner was held at the Brading Roman villa where the famous old cover building had been demolished and replaced, and the whole site had undergone a major refurbishment with additional facilities for students and visitors. These developments are fully described in Dr. David Tomalin’s article in ARA 17, 2006, pp. 19-22. The after-dinner speaker was Kevin Trott, the director of a series of important excavations which had taken place at the villa site in advance of rebuilding and refurbishment. These investigations continued earlier work where the un-displayed north and south ranges of the villa had been sampled and the wall-lines marked out on the ground by the Isle of Wight County Archaeological Unit. Also an extensive geophysical survey had been carried out by English Heritage revealing a complex of ditches dating from the late Iron Age or early Roman period. Apart from the conservation work on the mosaics this recent work represents the first archaeological intervention on this famous site since it was originally excavated in 1879-95. Kevin Trott’s presentation concentrated on work on the main ‘winged-corridor house’ (west wing) of the villa where the digging of 64 new foundation pits for the new cover building gave an opportunity to examine the stratigraphy and structural chronology of the house containing the well-known mosaics. He indicated that the main period of occupation was in the late third, early fourth century and that the principal mosaics may be earlier than had previously been thought on stylistic grounds. The nymphaeum was shown to be earlier than the courtyard wall, which sectioned it, and had been supplied by a wooden pipe with iron collars. The most surprising discovery was that to the north of the house the gable-end wall had been heightened at one stage but had eventually fallen outwards when the building had decayed. The remains of this fallen wall sealed evidence of a previously unknown earlier masonry building of second-century date. The ARA thanks Paul Knowlson, the Administrator at Brading, and Jo Cowan, for their help in organising this event.

The following day members revisited the villa for a guided tour by Dr. David Tomalin, former County Archaeological Officer, concentrating on the mosaics but also examining the new display facilities, particularly of artefacts, plans and photographs and the new audio-visual aids. In room 12 Anthony Beeson and Dr. Patricia Witts discussed the complicated iconography of the figured mosaics. Patricia Witts’s recent book Mosaics in Roman Britain, stories in stone, (2005, Tempus Publishing, £17.99) was advertised in ARA News 18, p. 24.

proposed over the years and the most recent, by Rosamond Hanworth, ‘A Possible Name for a Landowner at Brading Villa’, Britannia 35 (2004), 240-4) was considered intriguing. She postulates that a fourth-century owner commissioned the Brading mosaics and he may have been Palladius, a high-ranking bureaucrat exiled to Britain in 361 from his native Antioch, and that the cock-headed man is intended as a lampoon against the former Caesar, Gallus. However, this idea is now thrown into question by the new dating reported above. Anthony Beeson also made a study of some of the carved stone fragments now available from the site and had noted a fountain head with a setting for a bronze spout, some fine cornice blocks, window jambs, door threshold blocks and fragments of a possible lararium in room 3.

Members then travelled on to the Newport Roman villa after viewing the site of the Brading villa and the now silted-up/ reclaimed harbour from the summit of Brading Down. The ‘winged-corridor house’ of the Newport villa, now on display to the public within an early twentieth-century housing estate, is relatively well preserved, but clearly only represents part of a larger complex of buildings, of which traces of evidence survived but which it would now be difficult to investigate due to the modern development of the area. The site lay on the west bank of the River Medina close to its estuary. It was discovered,
excavated, consolidated (Fig. 2) and protected for display under a cover building in 1926–7. Further excavations took place in 1981–2 during the erection of a site museum, and these made up for the lack of recorded stratigraphical evidence from the earlier excavations. The 1981 work confirmed that the main house was built in the late third century in one operation, over a first-century settlement. The bath suite at one end of the house is extremely well-preserved, one room has a fireplace and two rooms contain mosaics. In the early fourth century the house seems to have been taken over by blacksmithing and other workshop activity. Dr. David Tomalin guided members around the site.

In the afternoon the group travelled on to Carisbrooke Castle to examine the evidence for a late Roman fort on the site. An archaeological survey of the site had put forward the idea that the stone wall visible in places in the rampart beneath the medieval curtain wall was a feature of a Saxon burh. However, Dr. David Tomalin explained his view that, as had previously been thought, the wall was more likely to be late Roman in date and part of a fort. As there is no stratigraphical evidence available, this was based on the use of Binstead stone, the very small size of the fortified area compared with that of burhs in southern England, and the relationship of the Norman castle fortifications to the earlier defences. (see D. Tomalin ‘Wightgarasbyrig Explored’ Proc. IOW. Nat. Hist.


Dr. Tomalin went on to describe the distribution of villas and the Roman period settlement pattern in the area, including the villas at Carisbrooke Vicarage, Clatterford and Rock. He expressed particular concern at the deterioration of the remains excavated on the site at Carisbrooke and exposed since the mid-nineteenth century.

WALKING TOURS OF ROMAN LONDON

Two walking tours of Roman London (Londinium) took place on 18th June and 3rd September, attended by 62 and 45 members respectively, led by Mike Stone and Bryn Walters. These were arranged following the popularity of the two tours in 2002 (see ARA 14, 2003, p. 18), and the several major excavations carried out in the City and Southwark over the last 35 years. The tours concentrated on the recently discovered and displayed Amphitheatre next to the Cripplegate Fort and under the medieval Guildhall (see ARA 14, p. 18, Fig. 3), the commercial centre at Plantation Place (see ARA 10, pp. 8–10), the late palace site on St. Peter’s Hill. The tours also included visits to the Roman city walls at London Wall and on Tower Hill near the Tower of London, the Wallbrook Mithraeum, the Huggin Hill Baths, the site of the Forum and Basilica, and the extensive Roman collections in the Museum of London. The suburb of Southwark, south of the River Thames was also visited and the extensive Roman evidence from that area was discussed (see ARA 14, p. 24).

TOUR OF HADRIAN’S WALL – WESTERN SECTOR, CORBRIDGE, VINDOLANDA AND HEXHAM

Following on from the tour of the Central Sector in 2004 (see ARA 17, pp. 42–9), the third stage of the ARA’s concentrated study tour of Hadrian’s Wall was designed to study the Western Sector from the fort at Birdoswald (Banna) to Bowness-on-Solway fort (Maia). The tour took place between 15th and 18th July and was based for the second time at the Gilsland Spa Hotel, Gilsland, Northumberland, where 82 members attended. The tour was led by Bryn Walters and Grahame Soffe, assisted by Don Flear (now Don Greenwood) and Janet Senior. For the first two days of the event the ARA were grateful for the expert guidance of Tony Wilmott of English Heritage. A guidebook compiled by Bryn Walters and Grahame Soffe was also provided for the tour.

There were two illustrated lectures in the evenings provided by the guest speaker, John Zant (Fig. 3), and by Grahame Soffe, together with an ‘open-forum’ seminar led by Tony Wilmott and Bryn Walters (Fig. 4). Grahame Soffe described the 2004 tour of the Central Sector of the Wall to provide a basis for its continuation westwards on this occasion. The seminar proved very successful with discussion ranging from all aspects of the Wall, its study, excavation, publication, and conservation and
progressing well and a special exhibition had been staged at Carlisle Castle to show some of these items, which some members of the tour visited. These included several items of wood, textile and bone, such as a comb containing the well-preserved remains of head-lice. David Evan’s account of the Carlisle Millennium Conference, which discussed many of the issues raised in John Zant’s lecture was published in ARA 17, pp. 5–7 (see also Percival Turnbull’s review of Mike McCarthy’s book Roman Carlisle and the Lands of the Solway (Tempus, 2002) in ARA 16, pp. 19–20).

Tony Wilmott’s tour of Birdoswald Roman fort (Banna) was carried out in his capacity as director of a long-term excavation programme on the fort, especially its north-west quadrant (Fig. 5). He described the controversy over the name of the fort and how in accordance with all the sources the name of Banna was now agreed (Fig. 6). He started the tour with a walk over the area of the vicus extending to the east of the fort, as revealed by earthwork survey and the geophysical surveys of Timescape Archaeological Surveys. There were also extensive areas of similar occupation to the south and west of the fort on the south side of the Wall, and he discussed the more recent excavations on the south side, which have added to and interpreted some of the evidence of Professor Sir Ian Richmond’s excavations of 1933. The group then toured the walls and gates of the fort, paying attention to the east gate, particularly well preserved since it was excavated in 1852 and with the bottom voussoir surviving for one of its arches. It was pointed out that Richmond’s excavations in the interior of the fort, especially the principia showed a remarkable state of preservation, a great resource for future study. Tony Wilmott discussed all the excavated buildings in the north-west quadrant, including the granaries, bread ovens and the basilica exercitatoria (Building 807), the only known example in any auxiliary fort in the Empire (Fig. 5). This was probably a building of the type referred to by the ancient writer Vergetius, as used for training troops under cover during wet weather. The later ‘sub-Roman’ occupation within the fort, dating to the fifth and sixth centuries was also discussed. The group then visited the site Museum and noted such items as the altar found in 1821, dedicated to Silvanus by the venatores Bannienses, confirming again the name of Banna (Fig. 6) and the relief showing Jupiter originally holding a bronze thunderbolt and Vulcan holding ironworkers’ pincers. Tony Wilmott’s important book on Birdoswald (see illustration) is available as the best modern coverage of the current state of knowledge on the site (Birdoswald Roman Fort, 1800 Years on Hadrian’s...
Wall, Tempus, 2001, pb., £17.99). Westward from Birdoswald the Narrow Wall is well preserved beyond turret 49B. The turf Wall is visible running behind the line of the stone Wall from Milecastle 49 to 51. The stone turrets were first incorporated into the turf Wall, matched by the turrets on the Broad Wall. The group examined a well preserved section of the Vallum running close behind the turf Wall. At Pike Hill, on the summit of the Wall ridge between Milecastle 52 and Turret 52A is a signal-tower, about 6 m square with very deep foundations. It stands obliquely at 45 degrees to the line of the Wall which joins it on an offset line at the same angle. The group also visited Banks East Turret 52A, just beyond Pike Hill to the west with its well-preserved walls now standing 14 courses high.

The tour then made its way to the Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery at Carlisle to view the spectacular displays of Hadrian’s Wall material in the Roman Galleries (Figs. 7 and 8). On the way the group passed the sites of the forts at Stanwix (Uxelodunum) and adjacent to the museum, Carlisle (Luguvalium). In the afternoon the tour continued to the fort of Burghby-Sands (Aballava) built over the line of the Wall as it approaches the Solway Firth.

Passing the fort at Drumburgh (Congavata or as on the Staffordshire vessel Coggabata), the group finally reached the fort at Bowness-on-Solway where Tony Wilmott conducted a tour of the site and as the tide was very low, took the party out onto the flats beyond the fort and an altar, dedicated to Jupiter and the Emperors Gallus and Volusianus by a military tribune, has been placed over a doorway in the village. On the north side of the fort a pleasant modern shrine has been constructed to mark the west ‘end’ of the Wall, but the Wall itself supposedly ran on into the sea west of the fort and the foundations of it were recorded as being visible in 1601 and 1852-4.

On the following day the tour to Corbridge fort, military compounds and town (Corio, Coriosopitium) was led by Grahame Softe. The group toured the site, now laid out by English Heritage, and visited the fine on-site museum (Fig. 10). The earliest Roman base at Corbridge dating to c. 78-4 belongs to Agricola’s advance north into Scotland and lies to the west of the main site with the fort and bath-house at Red House and the Shorden Brae mausoleum. Soon after this the first fort on the main site was located on the junction...
of the Great North Roman Road – Dere Street – running north-south with the Agricolan frontier, the Stanegate, running east-west, with Dere Street crossing the River Tyne on the south side of the fort. Corbridge was evacuated when the Hadrianic frontier developed to the north, but by 139 when a new advance into Scotland under Antoninus Pius was initiated, Corbridge was reoccupied and gradually developed into a prosperous town. There was a long series of earth and timber forts before the stone structures visible today were laid out. Grahame Soffe pointed out that the present open to view site is only a small part of the entire town, which still lies buried in the surrounding fields. Some of this outer area was excavated in the last century and much more has been plotted and planned from the evidence of aerial photography in a project carried out by Grahame Soffe with the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments. Extensive areas were excavated from 1906 to 1939 and from 1946 to 1980. The group examined all the features laid out today. These include part of two military walled compounds in the later garrison town, six buildings interpreted as temples (but possibly not), a principia, two granaries, a public fountain and aqueduct, and a huge forum-like building, possibly unfinished. The main Stanegate road has been resurfaced numerous times (Fig. 10). Overlooking the River Tyne to the south, on a series of terraces, is an elaborate building. The whole represents a sophisticated system. Unfortunately, Margaret Snape’s excavation and recording team were not working on the southern bridgehead of the Roman bridge at the time of the ARA visit, so it was not possible to see that work at first hand (Fig. 11). In the museum members viewed the extensive range of important sculptures, inscriptions, military equipment and other artefacts from Corbridge and the surrounding area.

To the east of Roman Corbridge lies the Anglo-Saxon settlement and later town. Members visited the medieval parish church of St. Andrew, incorporating parts of the early Anglo-Saxon stone church originating in the seventh century which re-used masonry from Roman Corbridge. The most striking feature is the tower arch, over 16 ft high, with jambs, impost and arch formed of Roman stones going through the thickness of the wall. The north impost has an elaborate Roman moulding.

In the afternoon members made their way to the continuing excavations on the site of the Roman fort and vicus at Chesterholm (Vindolanda) being carried out by the Vindolanda Trust. After the discovery of the largest deposit of writing tablets ever found in Roman Britain within the vicus area from 1973 onwards, the site of Vindolanda has become famous. The tour was led by Bryn Walters, Don Flear (now Don Greenwood) and Grahame Soffe and members of the staff of the Vindolanda Trust. The earliest forts dating from the mid 80s, (probably five successive timber forts of about four acres in extent), have left little trace on the ground today but are ever present in the minds of the excavators, particularly as they and their surrounding vicus occupation dating up to the Hadrianic period are partially preserved in waterlogged conditions (Fig. 12). It is also worth noting that less than 15% of the total area of the forts and their...