The Roman Amphitheatre in Britain
by Tony Wilmott
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Review by Grahame Soffe

It is the recent major excavations at Silchester, London and Chester (the last of which Tony Wilmott himself co-directed) that have paved the way for this book. Incredibly, this is the first ‘book-length’ study to carry out a complete survey of the amphitheatres of Roman Britain in their imperial context. At the same time it is a very informative and attractive introduction for the general reader to a class of monument whose archaeological remains form a substantial and very visual part of our built heritage. In the popular imagination the amphitheatre arena has become one of the iconic images of ancient Rome, but to our modern sensibilities the conception of barbarity, cruelty and even the sadistic nature of the entertainments and rituals performed therein, has in the view of the author, inhibited research. Even so, the amphitheatre probably still figures in today’s popular imagination as William Stukeley described, writing of the Dorchester amphitheatre in 1723, as “a novelty to most people, when we shall talk of such curious antiquities in Britain.” In today’s view there seems to be a dichotomy between the ‘civilisation’ of Roman society and the “propensity for violence and public blood-lust satisfied by mass slaughter.” This applies to amphitheatres throughout the Roman world, but especially, of course, to the Flavian amphitheatre of Rome itself, the monstrous Colosseum. This view is encouraged by the popularity of such recent cinematic productions as Gladiator. Tony Wilmott admits it is one of his favourite films, even if it is not archaeologically accurate! These and other themes are reviewed in the first part of his book.

The author informs us of the origins and development of the amphitheatre, for by the time of the conquest the amphitheatre and the games were long established Roman institutions. This is a vast and well-published subject and the author succeeds in the difficult task of providing an erudite summary of existing knowledge and established ideas. He describes the origin and history of the spectacles, the development of the architectural form – a peculiar Roman invention, and the acceptance of both in the Western Empire. What was the relationship between the theatre, a Greek invention, and the ‘theatre on both sides’ (i.e. the amphitheatre), and between the stage and the arena? We are told how the amphitheatre developed in the late Republic as a result of political rivalries, patronage and a vast expenditure of money and resources. It was built to house events which had previously taken place without specific structures designed for the purpose – venations, where ferocious wild animals were hunted and killed, or set to fight together, and the munera, the gladiatorial displays. There were also the executions ad bestias, made so famous by the Christian martyrs and described by the ancient authors. The origins of these is found in the importation of animals to Rome from North Africa after the first Punic Wars in the third century BC and the duty of the living to provide obsequies for deceased relatives, an adoption by the Etruscans of a Campanian tradition. The author makes use of classical sources such as Livy and Plutarch, and source books such as Alison Futrell’s Blood in the Arena, The Spectacle of Roman Power (1997) and The Roman Games (2006), Thomas Wiedemann’s Emperors and Gladiators (1992), and David Bomgardner’s The Story of the Roman Amphitheatre (2000). Here we have brief insights into the early Italian amphitheatres, for example at Pozzuoli and Pompeii, and also at Arles in Provence, where the author includes (his own?) photograph of its modern use with spectators awaiting a bull fight. The relationships of amphitheatres with urbanism and the military is discussed in various parts of the book, but it would have been helpful to have more explanation here of the array of ‘mixed-edifice’ or theatre-amphitheatres in Gaul, many of which were closely associated with religious sanctuaries and analogous to unusual British sites at Verulamium and Frilford.

The discovery and interpretation of British amphitheatres over 250 years is surveyed in some detail with interesting references to Gerald of Wales’s twelfth-century description of Caerleon, John Leland (sixteenth-century) on Richborough, and John Aubrey and William Stukeley (seventeenth to eighteenth century) on Maumbury Rings at Dorchester, Silchester and Richborough. In 1908 Hadrian Allcroft dismissed many suspected British examples with characteristic scepticism. Then in the twentieth century we have the major excavations at Dorchester, Caerleon, Chester (and again in 2004–6), Verulamium, Cirencester and London. These are all described together with a table showing how various scholars have classified the British examples as urban, legionary, auxiliary (sometimes described as ludi), shrine associated, gyrus (cavalry training arena), and sites which have been ‘rejected.’ The publication of the 1969 revised edition of Collingwood and Richmond’s The Archaeology of Roman Britain edited by D. R. Wilson, was the first book to make such a classification and the author reprints their useful page of plans of six amphitheatres to a common
scale. However, the actual scale has been missed off, although it is in Wilson’s original caption as ‘1:1920’. In its first edition this was the first work to make the distinction between military amphitheatres or ludi (thought then to be intended for drill and weapons training, with a subsidiary function to show venationes and munera) and the ‘civil’ sites usually situated on the edges of towns. Thus the amphitheatre at Tomen y Mur in North Wales was defined as an auxiliary ludi, but was Charterhouse on Mendip a ludus for troops guarding the lead mines? Michael Fulford’s excavation and publication of the Silchester amphitheatre was the major breakthrough in amphitheatre studies, with its first in-depth discussion of all the British examples and the first location map. This was followed by the amazingly late discovery in 1987 of the London amphitheatre and the re-exca vation of the Chester amphitheatre under Dan Garner (Chester City Council) and the author himself acting for English Heritage. We should note here that this book is ultimately derived from the work at Chester which also led to a major international conference held there in February 2007. Papers from the conference were published as Roman Amphitheatres and Spectacula: a 21st-Century Perspective, edited by Tony Wilmott (BAR Int. Series 1949, Archaeopress) 2009.

In the following sections of the book Tony Wilmott turns his attention to type, distribution and context, and then planning, construction and architecture. He comes up with his own classification, dividing the British examples by the type of community they served and this he finds to work well in terms of their structural typology. He also provides location maps for all sites. The urban examples form the most impressive group and their origins, dating and use are fully discussed. Of course the urban London amphitheatre illustrates that these structures were built on the edge of the occupied area — not necessarily outside the later walls, and perhaps, in the case of London, only coincidentally next to the Cripplegate fort. Silchester’s timber phase 1 of AD 55–75 is the earliest. The rural examples such as Fulford and the theatre-amphitheatre at Verulamium present difficulties of interpretation. Frilford, a circular rather than the usual elliptical structure, is unique in Britain in being associated with a temple complex. Many such sites are found in Gaul, but here the temples are invariably associated with theatres or theatre-amphitheatres. At the Gosbecks Farm temple complex near Colchester, the sanctuary is served by a theatre. However, theatre-amphitheatres in the Verulamium sense are not only associated with temples but were probably dual-functional. In Britain as in Gaul they may have catered to specific provincial forms of ritual and entertainment linked to local Romano-Celtic religious practice.

The two most impressive amphitheatre in Britain, Caerleon (Fig. 1) and Chester, belong to legionary fortresses. They have stone walls and are generally better constructed and decorated than all the others. The second-phase amphitheatre at Chester has internal vaulted stairways and other embellishments and the contrast with urban examples suggests that Caerleon and Chester were built under imperial aegis by military engineers. The author dismisses the idea that these were intended exclusively for training, even if in some cases elsewhere, the area of the arena is larger in relation to the cavea, the surrounding tiers for the spectators. It is interesting that both the amphitheatre at Caerleon and Tomen y Mur were adjacent to parade grounds. “Perhaps troops were drawn up on the parade ground in preparation to filing into their seats in the amphitheatre.” He goes on to put a convincing case for their being “primarily designed to mount the range of spectacular blood sports which so fascinated the population of the Roman Empire.” Indeed the early make-up of the legions of Britain represented citizens from Italy, Gaul, Spain, the Danube frontier and the Balkans. These men were sufficiently Roman to be accustomed to the standard amphitheatre entertainments. Where then is the amphitheatre at the legionary fortress at York? Tony Wilmott suggests a possible site so there is hope of finding it in future – we must not forget that Chester’s amphitheatre was not discovered until 1929, London’s not until 1987, and that at Sofia, Bulgaria, not until 2004!

Planning and layout provide further fascinating subjects for discussion, particularly in the geometry of circles and ellipses drawn out from two and four centres. The discussion of timber structures is based on evidence from London, Silchester and Dorchester, and there is much interesting detail about architecture and design in stone, including the painted and sculptural decoration of walls, the layout and function of entrances, the implications for superstructure and

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Fig. 1. The amphitheatre at the legionary fortress at Caerleon. Air view from the east.

Photo: © Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales. Crown Copyright.
‘seating’, *carceres* or pens to accommodate animals prior to their entry into the arena, and various forms of recess or niche, sometimes interpreted as *nemesae* or shrines to the goddess Nemesis. The construction of the *cavea* and seating or standing tiers in timber and stone-phase amphitheatres required a number of techniques involving turf, rubble and stone banks and revetments, and timber framing. The construction of covered and open entrance passages, tribunals and external stairs are also fully discussed with many examples and very helpful diagrams and photographs. The external treatment and decoration of the outer walls of Caerleon and Chester with semi-columns is compared with Capua, Italy.

The central and pivotal section of the book is a 68-page gazetteer of all the sites in Britain, including plans redrawn by Chris Evans from the best evidence of all amphitheatres, showing all major building phases of each site, usually to a common scale. The summaries provide a wealth of information and form the basis for much of the book’s chapters of discussion. The urban amphitheatres—London, Silchester, Dorchester, Chichester, Carmarthen, Caistor St Edmund, Caeawent, Richmond—are dealt with in considerable detail, from excavated evidence, and in the case of Richborough, from geophysical survey as well. The theatre-amphitheatres at Verulamium and Canterbury are also explained from excavated evidence. The rural sites—Charerhouse on Mendip and Frilford are interesting examples of how archaeologists are still grappling with issues of interpretation. Frilford’s current excavations and the resulting interim reports have produced controversial suggestions as to the nature and function of this unusual circular site. It is clearly not a ‘conventional’ amphitheatre, even if such ever existed, but to suggest it is an enclosure of a previously venerated natural pool, needs further work and good evidence. The massive legionary amphitheatres of Caerleon and Chester are given full treatment, the latter in the light of the author’s close involvement with the site. These are followed by the amphitheatres belonging to auxiliary forts, Newstead in Scotland and Tomen y Mur in North Wales. Both these survive as earthworks and belong to forts, *vici* and environs of considerable complexity, clearly regarded by the Roman army as extremely important strategically in their respective frontier regions. But excavation at Newstead has been limited and there has been none at the Tomen y Mur amphitheatre yet—perhaps the time is now right for some, particularly in the light of recent geophysics at the site. The unusual timber arena-like sites at the forts at the Lunt in Warwick., Inveresk in Scotland, Forden Gaer in Wales and Chester on Hadrian’s Wall have all been interpreted as some kind of *gyrus* or training ring. The sites at Winterslow in Wiltshire, Woodcots in Dorset, Aldborough and Caterick in North Yorkshire, and Walton in Wales, are all, after consideration, rejected as genuine amphitheatres by the author.

Tony Wilmott continues his study with an entertaining description of the arena spectacle, illustrated by depictions and other evidence from British small finds, pottery, glass vessels, painted wall plaster and mosaics. There can be no doubt on the basis of this evidence and the amphitheatres themselves that *venationes* and *munera* took place, at whatever frequency, in Roman Britain. We are introduced to the inscribed red ware sherds from Leicester reading “Vercuncula the actress, Lucius the gladiator.” It seems this stratified object was an ancient import. In other words, Vercuncula and/or Lucius had come to Leicester from Italy and lost this object. “The possibilities are as limitless as the mind of a romantic novelist could invent.” The author examines the evidence of *venationes* in the tethering-block found in the Chester arena and the depiction of another two in the gladiatorial freeze in the Bignor villa mosaic. Among other illustrations we are shown the peculiar Venus mosaic from the Rudston villa with its depictions and inscriptions of the ‘homicidal bull’ the ‘fiery lion’, a leopard and a stag. It is suggested that this mosaic design was influenced by North African mosaic iconography. The same is said of the famous mosaic at the Brading villa in the Isle of Wight (as illustrated in the book by Luigi Thompson’s fine record painting), depicting the cock-headed man, two griffins, a fox or dog, remarkable buildings and a pair of fighting gladiators, a *secutor* and *retiarius*.

It is suggested by some scholars that all these elements are ultimately derived from arena displays. A *retiarius* is also shown on a relief from Chester and a gladiator’s helmet from Hawkedon, Essex, is illustrated. Colchester has produced a wall painting and a plaque depicting gladiators together with the famed Colchester vase, a locally-made colour-coated vessel with gladiatorial decoration in barbotine. It shows two scenes of gladiators and an animal, with the inscribed names Secundus and Mario, and ‘Memon the secutor nine victories, Valentinus of the thirtieth legion’.

Of the two other mosaics in Britain showing gladiators, from the Eccles villa, Kent, and from the Bignor villa, Sussex, the most spectacular is the Venus mosaic at Bignor. Foucher’s suggestion that the bust of the female deity is Diana-Nemesis seems unnecessary in the light of the Rudston Venus and in any case this mosaic shows four scenes with pairs of gladiators, watched over by the *summa rudis* or umpire, and an attendant. Indeed, a point not noted by the author is that all are in fact winged cupids playing the part of gladiators and are thus related to Venus. Moulded glass vessels and a fine painted glass bowl from Vindolanda also show fighting gladiators. The cover of this book (illustrated above) shows a clasp-knife from the Piddington villa, Northants., depicting a fine gladiator, only 7 cm long. The *secutor* stands en garde!, sword levelled at waist-height, a curved rectangular shield guards his left side. His helmet with dorsal crest, flanged neck-guard and two eye-holes, is closed. He also wears a loincloth (subligaculum), a broad belt (baleus) and quilted padding on his left leg and right arm (manica). His stance “shows a readiness which any modern fencer would immediately recognise.” Not mentioned in the book is the fine first-century ceramic plaque depicting a gladiator from the Fishbourne palace, Sussex (Fig. 2).
Tony Wilmott continues with a brief discussion of what happened around the amphitheatres and the ritual and cults associated with them. This concentrates on the British evidence for the Imperial Cult and the cult of Nemesis (sometimes associated with Diana), and her shrines, and Mercury. Archaeological evidence is illustrated from Caerleon, Chester and London. A thought-provoking chapter considers the implications from the sum of evidence for the British amphitheatres. The author stresses that those of London and the civitas capitals were clearly constructed by those communities as part of an *interpretatio provincialis*, and could well have been used as civic meeting places. They were not built by legionaries. The archaeological evidence points to standing spectators. Seating may only have been provided for high-ranking persons in tribunals near the arena. How long did arena events last and what was there precise character? Certainly, stratified levels of sitting and pollen analysis data from excavated amphitheatres indicate episodic and possibly infrequent use, perhaps due to a lack of enthusiasm among the Romano-British population. The Gaulish type of rural sanctuary with its theatre-amphitheatre does not really figure in Britain, except possibly at Gosbecks Farm and Frilford. But the central post in the arena at Verulamium may be suggestive of a tethering facility for animal baiting or the execution of criminals. Nevertheless, its original function must have been religious as it formed part of the *temenos* of a temple complex. Caerleon and Chester, the two legionary amphitheatres are quite different, and Richborough may be a replacement for Chester, built when the *Legio II Augusta* moved there. Stone-built from the first by legionaries with centurions responsible for work-gangs, they were built by and for Roman citizens, by the army, for the army. Here could be held the calendar of religious and military festivals as well as *venationes* and *menera*, for which both Caerleon and Chester provide evidence, even though the precise relationship between the army in Britain and the gladiators remains unclear.

At the end of the book Tony Wilmott provides a useful appendix with guidelines on how to reach all the amphitheatres worthy of a visit. Unfortunately, he finds that although one, Charterhouse on Mendip, is visible from a road, it is on private land and not publicly accessible. A fine set of colour and monochrome photographs, reconstructions and plans, illustrate the book. All are of a good standard. Perhaps, after the inclusion of Chris Evans's plans it was thought unnecessary to include a couple of pages of amphitheatre plans drawn and seen together at a common scale. Collingwood and Richmond tried this, as did Fulford in the Silchester report, and J-C. Golvin in his *L'Amphithéâtre Romain* (1988) achieved it for the whole Empire. There are also no plans showing the topographical relationship of the amphitheatres to the towns, fortresses and forts they served. Readers will have to find these elsewhere using the Bibliography. Some parts of the text need clarification. For example, on p.27 the suggestion in 1886 by Lower (not Lowther) of an amphitheatre at Bosham 5 km west (not south) of Chichester is referred to as a case of possible mistaken identity for the Chichester amphitheatre. However, it should have been stated that on present evidence, Bosham like neighbouring Fishbourne, is the location of an early Roman palatial complex (see Sohe and Henig in *ARA* 8, 1999, pp.8–10). The text is expanded by numerous footnotes which are potentially extremely useful but there is an inconsistency in the method of their citation at the end of the main text. Some classical references only give the name of the author but not the work and modern sources cannot always be found expanded in the Bibliography which follows the Notes, making it difficult or impossible to find some books or articles in a library or on line. There are few obvious errors in the text, such as the location of Lepcis Magna on p.164. Nevertheless, these are minor issues and they should easily be rectified, for indeed this book is so important that it will warrant further editions in future when it goes out of print or as new evidence becomes available.

This book is clearly the result of considerable research, fieldwork and thought and has established itself as the standard text on its subject. Tony Wilmott ends his excellent study with a salutary note: that only 300 years ago “10,000 spectators resorted to Maumbury Rings to witness the burning of a 19-year-old woman, and that the last public execution in a Romano-British amphitheatre occurred only two and a half centuries ago.”
The following account covers ARA events from April 2008 to March 2009, excluding the ARA study tour of Bulgaria, which is described elsewhere in this issue (pages 39 to 62). During the year the ARA board met on regular occasions at the Registered Office at Swindon.

Caerleon (Isca) and Caerwent (Venta Silurum)

On May 25 a one-day study tour took 52 members to the Roman legionary fortress of Isca at Caerleon and the Roman civitas capital of Venta Silurum at Caerwent, Gwent, South Wales. The tour was led by Bryn Walters and Grahame Soffe, who also compiled the ARA handbook. They were assisted at Caerwent by Anthony Beeson. At Caerleon the group explored the amphitheatre just outside the west gate of the fortress and after viewing the area of the extra-mural parade ground, examined the stone walls and towers of the fortress on the west and south sides and the remains of the stone barrack blocks in Prysg Field in the north-west corner of the fortress. The group then toured the Fortress Baths and Fortress Baths Museum (Cadw) before a tour of the Roman Legionary Museum (National Museum of Wales). Since the ARA visit, the Fortress Baths Museum has been refurbished with new audio-visual displays. There have also been important geophysical surveys and excavations both inside the fortress and in the area outside the fortress between the amphitheatre and the river, carried out under the aegis of Cardiff University. The Institute of Archaeology (University College London), and Cadw. This latter work has produced surprising and exciting results which will be reported on in future issues of this Bulletin and in ARA News.

At Caerwent the group discussed the plan of the late Roman town as revealed by the excavations by the Caerwent Exploration Fund, under Alfred Hudd and Thomas Ashby (1899-1913), and V. E. Nash-Williams of the National Museum of Wales (1923 and 1925). The recent excavations by the National Museum of Wales and Cadw, under Richard Brewer, on insula I, the Forum-Basilica and the Romano-Celtic Temple were also discussed, particularly how this work has added to our knowledge of the origins and early development of the town. The tour of Caerwent started with a study of the city’s defensive stone walls (probably late third century in date) and gates, concentrating on the south wall and its fourth-century bastions (Fig. 1), together with the North and South Gates (Fig. 2). The tour then included the fourth-century courtyard house in insula I (Fig. 3) and the courtyard house (or possible mansio) and shops/workshops at Pound Lane (insula VII). Moving on to the remains of the Forum-Basilica displayed as a result of the second series of excavations from 1987, the group discussed the new research on the history and function of the basilica, the tribunals, curia and aedes, and particularly the new evidence of the painting and furnishing of the curia. Moving on to the display of the Romano-Celtic temple complex in insula IX, Grahame Soffe explained the results of the excavations of 1984-91. In the medieval parish church of St Stephen and St Tathan, the group studied the Paulinus inscription (Fig. 4) and the altar to Mars-Ocelus preserved there. Anthony Beeson also lectured on his research into the Roman sculptured stones built into the church walls (see ARA 19, 5-9). ARA members were joined for a tea in the church by members of the Caerwent Historic Trust. The ARA have awarded the trust a grant towards the provision of presentation and display facilities at Caerwent.

Fig. 1. Caerwent (Venta Silurum): Exterior face of the South Wall, looking west, with a five-sided bastion. ARA group in the foreground. Photo: © Grahame Soffe.

Fig. 2. Caerwent (Venta Silurum): The inside of the South Gate showing the moulded imposts and single arch over the carriageway. The gate survives to a remarkable height as a consequence of the blocking that occurred in the late Roman period (the south wall survives to a height of 5m). That the public baths to the north were still in use, and the water supply to the town still functioned is evinced by the need to relocate the great drain to a higher level than it had previously been and to leave a channel through the blocking wall. Photo: © Anthony Beeson.

Fig. 3. Caerwent (Venta Silurum): Large fragment of a Roman stone sideboard found by Anthony Beeson in room 12 of house 28N, insula I, during the ARA tour and subsequently handed in to the National Museum of Wales. Photo: © Anthony Beeson.
The Antonine Wall and Roman Scotland

The Antonine Wall and Roman Scotland Tour took place from 25 to 28 July. It was based at the University of Glasgow's Wolfson Hall, set in the parkland of the Garscube Estate, Glasgow. The tour was designed to repeat the successful ARA tour of 1996 (see *ARA Bulletin* 2, 15) and was organised by Bryn Walters and Grahame Soffe in conjunction with Dr Nick Hodgson, Principal Keeper of Archaeology at Tyne and Wear Museums. As on the first tour, Nick Hodgson led the tour throughout and compiled the ARA handbook. Eighty-three members attended, and the reception, dinners and evening illustrated lectures took place at Wolfson Hall. Dr Nick Hodgson gave an introductory lecture on the latest research on the Antonine Wall. Dr Gordon Maxwell of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) (Fig. 5) lectured on fieldwork and research on Roman sites in Scotland, and Bryn Walters and David Rider gave a digital demonstration of their computer reconstruction of the Roman buildings at Great Witcombe, Gloucs. Guests of the group were James Walker, Senior Vice-President of the Glasgow Archaeological Society, who promoted the latest edition of Professor Anne Robertson's handbook to the Antonine Wall (GAS), and Jane Porter, former Sculpture Conservator to the Burrell Collection, Glasgow (Fig. 6).

The itinerary (by coach and extensive walking) took the group eastwards along the Wall to the fort of Bearsden to examine the stone bath-house complex and then on to the fort on Bar Hill to examine all features, but especially the principia and the bath-house. Further east, passing and viewing the site of the Castlecary fort, the group reached the fort of Rough Castle where attention was concentrated on the defences, the principia, commanding officer's house, a granary and the bath-house. The well-preserved earthworks of the Wall here were carefully studied (Fig. 7) together with the defensive pits known as lilia (Fig. 8). Along the Wall on either side of this fort the group studied the system of berm, ditch, outer mound, and the expansion at Bonnyside East.
The second part of the tour took the group north of the Wall to explore the great fort of Ardoch with its spectacular multiple defences and the annexe and overlapping temporary camps to the north (Figs. 9 and 10). Comparison was made with multiple defences of the Roman fort of Whitley Castle, Northumberland, visited by the ARA on its Cumbria tour in 2007 (see ARA 19 (2009) 33-36 and article by Dave Went in same issue, 31). The group then travelled north to view the site of the Pendock fort closing the mouth of the Sma’ Glen and then further north again to the Flavian legionary fortress of Inchtuthil, Perthshire, where time was spent exploring the extensive earthworks of the fortress and its outworks. The tour then made its way to the earthwork remains of the system of watchtowers along the Gask Ridge Roman road. Three watchtowers were examined: Muir O’Fauld, Kirkhill, and in thick vegetation, Park Neuk. The final day of the tour concentrated on the major Roman collections housed in the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow University. These include altars, gravestones, and artefacts from sites such as Bar Hill and Inchtuthil, but most impressive of all are the magnificent series of sculptured distance tablets from the Antonine Wall itself (Fig. 11 and 12). These are unique, nothing like them has been found on Hadrian’s Wall or any other Roman frontier. Taken as a group, they are triumphalist records of conflict and conquest celebrating the Roman army’s victory over an enemy who is always shown naked, dejected, bound or mutilated.

2008 Annual Dinner and Roman Chester
The 2008 Annual Dinner took place at the University of Chester on 23 August and was attended by 70 members. The dinner was preceded by a reception and followed by an illustrated lecture given by Tony Wilmott of English Heritage (Fig. 13) on the Chester Amphitheatre Project, particularly his co-direction with Dan Garner of Chester City Council of recent excavations, the reinterpretation of the historical development and use of the amphitheatre, and the continued research developing from that work (see ARA 18, 4-6). Accommodation was provided by the university. The following day Tony Wilmott took members on a tour of the remains of the Roman legionary fortress of Chester (Devon) including the amphitheatre itself, the neighbouring medieval
church of St John the Baptist (Chester’s first cathedral) to see the reuse of Roman architectural material, the fortress walls and gates, particularly the well-preserved north wall to the east of North Gate (Fig. 14) The group also visited the hypocaust forming part of the main legionary baths in Bridge Street and the so-called ‘Roman Garden’ displaying columns and other architectural fragments from the legionary baths. After the tour the group visited the Grosvenor Museum to see the Newstead Gallery of Roman Chester and the Graham Webster Gallery of Roman stone sculpture founded by and named after the museum’s former Curator and former President of the ARA.

Verulamium and St Albans
On 21 September, 78 members took part in the study tour of the Roman city of Verulamium, St Albans. The tour was led by Bryn Walters and Grahame Soffe. The first part concentrated on the unique theatre-amphitheatre in insula XV (Fig. 15), where Grahame Soffe described the excavations of Kathleen Kenyon (Fig. 16), assisted by Anthony Lowther in 1934-5 (Kenyon, 1935) and Lowther’s excavation (1934) on the Romano-Celtic temple and its walled temenos (insula XVI) immediately adjacent to the theatre-amphitheatre. It was emphasised that the temple and theatre functioned together and formed part of an integral religious complex on a site where archaeological evidence indicated the existence of an earlier sacred site before the conquest.

Recent discoveries on the Folly Lane site just outside and to the north-east of the Roman city had shown that the insula XVI complex was linked to the first to third-century Folly Lane tomb and temple complex by a processional road. The various phases of building and alteration of the monument from the early second century to the early fourth-century rebuilding were discussed, showing how it gradually changed from something like a typical amphitheatre into a typical theatre (Fig. 17). The martyrdom of St Alban in the Roman period led to a lively discussion on recent documentary and archaeological research on the location of his execution and original tomb-shrine. This led to a visit to the medieval Abbey-Cathedral on the hill opposite Verulamium. Here the evidence for a late and sub-Roman Christian cemetery on the south side of the nave recovered by the Biddles in the excavations of 1984–5 (Biddle and Kjølbye-Biddle 2001) was discussed (the publication of which has been granted-aided by the ARA—Henig and Linley, 2001), and the remains of the medieval shrine of St Alban in the abbey church was also visited.

The group also viewed the house in insula XIV and the house and fine mosaic in insula IV now exhibited under the new cover building (see ARA 18, 9). The eastern and southern stretches of the Roman city wall and ditch were examined, together with the London Gate and the defensive towers to the west of it. Finally there was a visit to the Verulamium Museum to view the extensive Roman collections.

2008 Annual General Meeting and Symposium at the British Museum
One hundred and five members attended the AGM at the Stevenson Lecture Theatre, British Museum, London on 15 November. They were welcomed by the ARA Board, and Janet Senior supervised registration. After a welcome to the museum by Sam Moorhead, the Chairman Grahame Soffe thanked Board members Bryn Walters, Dr David Evans, Anthony Beesoon, Mike Stone, Don Greenwood and Sam Moorhead for their work over the year, and especially Vix Hughes, of Oxford Archaeology, who had joined the Board since the last AGM. He also thanked David Gollins (Editor of ARA News) and Professor Martin Henig (Research Advisor), and Dr David Evans and Collette Maxfield were thanked for their work on the ARA website. He announced as Editor that there were still difficulties in collecting and editing material for the ARA Bulletin but that issue 19 was well underway for publication in the new year, and thanked David Gollins for page-setting and design.

Fig. 14. Chester (Deva). Exterior face of the north wall of the legionary fortress. Photo: © Grahame Soffe.

Fig. 15. Theatre-amphitheatre at Verulamium as preserved today. View from the north-west looking towards the stage building and beyond to the arena and caves. Photo: courtesy of Prof. Sheppard Frere.

Fig. 16. Air view of the excavation of the theatre-amphitheatre at Verulamium in 1934. Photo: Major G. W. G. Allen. Photo: courtesy of the Society of Antiquaries.

Fig. 17. Reconstruction by Alan Sorrell of the theatre-amphitheatre at Verulamium as it may have appeared in c.AD 200 before the final alterations. Bird’s-eye view from the south. Photo: courtesy of the Verulamium Museum.
and seconded by Don Greenwood) was elected unopposed as a Trustee. Banks (Chartered Accountants) were re-elected as Auditors.

Following the AGM the Symposium was centred around two illustrated presentations based on London, introduced by Professor Martin Henig (Fig. 18). The first of these was given by Jenny Hall, Curator of Roman London at the Museum of London, on Superstition, Faith and Religion in Roman London. The second was given by John Shepherd of the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, on London’s Temple of Mithras in the Twenty-First Century. This included a description of the original excavations (1952-54) of the London Mithraeum by Professor W. F. Grimes and Audrey Williams and their eventual full publication by the speaker (Shepherd 1998). The sequence of changes to the original temple were described together with some of the remarkable religious objects found deliberately buried in the structure (Figs. 19, 20, 21 and 22). After the excavation in 1954 the remains of the temple were physically moved and put on public display on another site nearby. John Shepherd went on to describe the recent new excavations on the original site and the proposal to move the earlier relocated remains back again to their original location. The ARA, through the Chairman, thanked Sam Moorhead and his colleagues at the British Museum for helping to make the AGM and Symposium such a successful occasion.

References
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2009 Annual Dinner and Roman Wiltshire

The first event of 2009, the Annual Dinner Weekend, took place on 16-17 May with the dinner and accommodation at the Holiday Inn, Basingstoke, Hants. The dinner was followed by an illustrated lecture by Bryn Walters, ARA Director, on Roman Wiltshire, the theme for the study tour of sites in the neighbouring county of Wiltshire on the following day. The itinerary for the tour, attended by 50 members, was conceived and arranged by David Rider. The tour commenced with a visit to the Salisbury Plain Military Training Area, which has been in military ownership since the late nineteenth century. As a consequence the area has not suffered the agricultural ‘improvements’ or urban developments that characterise the English countryside. It remains the largest tract of unimproved chalk downland in north-west Europe, much of it now scheduled as an ancient monument in recognition of its rich archaeological landscape, unparalleled anywhere in England. Apart from the amazing prehistoric sites, the most remarkable survivals are eleven Romano-British villages now identified and surveyed as earthworks, many clearly visible from ground level and also recorded through aerial photography (Fig. 1), where it is possible to trace the ancient landscape from one village to another. The group walked to view the sites of two villages on the south-west part of the area, Knook Down East and West. Both consist of north-south streets reusing earlier linear boundaries, with numerous building compounds, overlying Celtic fields and underlying medieval ridge and furrow (Fig. 1). The walk was led by Richard Osgood, Archaeological Officer and Head of the MOD Defence Estates’ Historic Environment Team, accompanied by Roderick Scott (MOD) (Fig. 2). This gave members the opportunity of visiting at first hand parts of Salisbury Plain not normally open to the public and to see sites which had recently been surveyed and studied in some detail by English Heritage (McOrnish, Field and Brown 2002).

Bryn Walters then led the group to walk a length of the earthworks of the East Wansdyke, at Baltic Farm, Morgan’s Hill, north of Devizes, in its course across the North Wessex Chalk (Fox and Fox 1960). The ARA is grateful to David and Mark Shepherd for accommodating members’ cars at the farm. The unfinished defensive and boundary dyke system is thought to be late Roman or sub-Roman in date and is mentioned in Saxon documents as early as AD 592 (Figs. 3 and 4). Parts of its length in this section overlie the agger of a Roman road. The huge scale of these earthworks was a revelation to many on the tour who battled through blustery showers to make a walk which was considered by Grinsell to be “one of the most spectacular experiences in...
5. Littlecote Roman villa: the north wing from the west after consolidation and conservation for public display before the present cover building was constructed over the mosaic. Photo: courtesy of Ira Block.


British field archaeology” (Grinsell 1958, 284-7). Bryn Walters then took the group on a tour of his own excavated site, the Roman villa at Littlecote Park, a site well known to many members. He started by describing the site in the context of other villas in the area (Walters 2001), and there followed a lively discussion on problems of conserving the flint and mortar walls on public display, concentrating on the main house (west wing) of the villa and the preservation and maintenance of the famous triconch mosaic in the north wing (Fig. 5). The group then retired to the late medieval and sixteenth-century Littlecote House for a visit to the collections on display in the Roman Villa Museum and to partake of a welcome tea in the great hall of this historic house.

**Roman Villas Conference at the British Museum**

On 13-14 June, the British Museum’s Stevenson Lecture Theatre was the venue for the Conference: **Roman Villas in Britain**. Attended by one hundred members and other delegates it was jointly organised by the ARA and the museum’s Departments of Prehistory and Europe, and Portable Antiquities and Treasure (Fig. 6). It re-examined the archaeological evidence for a number of sites traditionally interpreted as villas (Romanised farms), and reviewed evidence for entirely different functions (Figs 7 and 8). The presentations (chaired by Bryn Walters) were given by Mark Corney, Professor Martin Henig, Grahame Soffe, Bryn Walters, David Rider, Dr Stephen Upex, Dr Roger White, Professor Tony King, Sam Moorhead, Philippa Walton, Roy Friendship-Taylor, John Shepherd and David Rudling. The papers given will be published in due course as a monograph by Oxbow Books, edited by Professor Martin Henig and Grahame Soffe, with additional contributions by Dr Patricia Witts, Anthony Beeson, Professor John Collis, Dr David Tomalin and Ash Bond. An illustrated article about the conference by Grahame Soffe and Bryn Walters has been published in *Minerva, The International Review of Ancient Art & Archaeology* (Walters and Soffe, 2009).

**Roman forts of the Saxon Shore in Sussex and Kent**

The Summer Study Tour was designed as the first of a series to visit the Roman forts of the Saxon Shore in Britain and on the Continent (Fig. 9). It took place on 14-17 August and was based at the

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**Fig. 7.** Roman Villas Conference, British Museum: Casts of the two broken parts (head and neck, drapery and base) of a Roman marble bust of a man of high rank found in 1949 in the basement-room of Lullingstone Roman villa, Kent. Here the two parts are joined together for display at the Lullingstone Roman Villa Museum. Ht. c. 75 cms. Original sculptures are at the British Museum. Photo: © Grahame Soffe.

**Fig. 8.** Roman Villas Conference, British Museum: Complete Roman marble bust of another man of high rank, also from the basement-room at Lullingstone Roman villa, Kent. Ht. 71 cms. British Museum. Photo: © Grahame Soffe.

**Fig. 9.** Roman Forts of the Saxon Shore: The command of the comes Ilitoris Saxonici per Britanniam illustrated in the Notitia Dignitatum, with nine forts labelled: Othona, Dubris, Lemannis, Branoduno, Gariano, Regulbi, Rutupis, Anderidos, Portus Adurni. Photo: © The Bodleian Library, Oxford. Ms Canon. misc. 378 folio 153v.
Holiday Inn, Ashford, Kent. It was led by Grahame Soffe and Mike Stone, assisted at Pevensey and Dover by Dr Malcolm Lyne and Brian Philp. Guide notes and plans for the tour were prepared by Bryn Walters and Grahame Soffe. Seventy-five members attended. Dr Malcolm Lyne (Fig. 10) gave an after-dinner lecture on the fort at Pevensey Castle, East Sussex (Anderitum). This was based on the work he had carried out towards his (at that time, forthcoming) publication of the early twentieth-century excavations on the fort for English Heritage (Lyne 2009). He then led the tour of the fort (courtesy of English Heritage) the following day concentrating on a close examination of the structure and building techniques used in the extremely well-preserved and lofty Roman walls and gates (Fig. 11). The group then were able to make a rare visit to Stutfall Castle, the fort at Lympne, Kent (Portus Lemanis) courtesy of the landowner Richard Taylor and the staff of Lympne Castle Enterprises. Members were able to examine at first hand the massive walls, bastions and towers (Figs. 12, 13 and 14) which had been subject to land slip since the Roman period and to discuss the results of excavations in 1976–8 (Cunliffe 1980). The following day the group visited the shore fort at Reculver (Regulbium) (Fig. 15) where the evidence from the important series of excavations led by Brian Philp (Philp 2005) have shown this to be an early fort in the coastal series, like Brancaster, Caister on Sea and possibly Carisbrooke, dating initially to 185–95 with a second phase of building from c.212. The excavations revealed significant evidence of a planned layout of substantial structures, in contrast to the more limited evidence from the other forts of the Saxon Shore. Members were also able to examine the ruins of a complete seventh and eighth-century Saxon church (Peers 1927) “the wanton demolition in 1805” of which “was an act of vandalism for which there can be few parallels…” (Taylor and Taylor 1985, 503). It has been only through the preservation of the Norman west towers as a
6. Reculver (Regulibium). The Saxon church with twin Norman west towers in the centre of the Roman fort, now standing on the present cliff edge. View from the east.

Fig. 17. Richborough (Rutupiae). Resistivity survey plot of the amphitheatre in the occupied area outside the Roman fort. Radar survey has shown the foundations of the opposed circular features across the short axis are deeper than the rest of the building, so they could be towers rather than subsidiary entrances or shrines.

Plot: © English Heritage.

sea-mark and despite the inroads of the sea that enough of the original fabric remains to establish a complete plan of the early church (Fig. 16). After a short visit to Sandwich the group toured the multi-period Roman fort and fort of the Saxon Shore at Richborough Castle (Rutupiae), courtesy of English Heritage. Members examined the features now confined by the late shore fort walls and noted that English Heritage had not been maintaining the area as previously displayed to the public, and the grass covering open late third-century ditches around the Great Monument was very overgrown. English Heritage’s Richborough Environments Project and aborted excavation of 2002 were referred to (see ARA 14 (2003) 18-20) and the aerial photographic and geophysical evidence for the extensive urban settlement, which developed around the Great Monument and later fort, served by a street grid and amphitheatre (Fig. 17), were discussed. Particular attention was paid to the foundations of the Great Monument and the fragments of marble veneer (Fig. 18) and inscriptions in the site museum (see Strong in Cunliffe 1968, 40-73). The final day included a tour of the shore fort and Classis Britannica fort, together with the Roman Painted House (Philp 1981, Philp 1989) at Dover (Portus Dubris) led by its excavator, Brian Philp (Director, Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit) (Fig. 19). Later the group made a special visit to Dover Castle to visit the Roman Pharos lighthouse and adjacent Saxon church of St Mary-in-Castro, both within the curtilage of the castle (Fig. 20), facilitated by Dr Jonathan Coad, and the English Heritage Team based at the castle, who welcomed the group to the site (Wheeler 1929). The surviving fabric of the lighthouse was carefully examined and the existence of two other similar structures, one on the opposite side of Dover Harbour, and the other across the Strait of Dover at Boulogne, was discussed by the group (see also photo on cover of ARA News 23, March 2010).
Roman London
Another ARA Walking Tour of Roman London (Londinium) took place on 20 September, led as usual by Mike Stone, on this occasion assisted by Grahame Soe. Guide notes and plans were prepared by Mike Stone and Jenny Hall. Sixty-one members attended. The tour started from the Museum of London and took in parts of the Roman City Wall (Fig. 21), the Cripplegate fort, the recently excavated and displayed amphitheatre beneath the Guildhall Yard (Bateman, 1997 and 2000), and other sites, including the great basilica and forum. The tour ended with a visit to the subterranean remains of the third-century bath-house attached to a Roman house under Lower Thames Street, Billingsgate (Marsden, 1980, 151-5). The entirely brick-built bath-house was discovered in 1848 but not fully excavated until 1968 onwards, although full publication is still awaited. The symmetrical building consists of a rectangular frigidarium leading into a vestibule opening on either side into an apsidal tepidarium and apsidal caldarium (Figs. 22 and 23). It stood in the front court of a winged-corridor house built of ragstone, deeply set back into a steep hillside. Although a separate structure, the bath building's vestibule opened from a covered porch onto the front of the main block of the house. The baths were too small to be a public building, and it has been suggested, considering its waterfront location, that the whole complex may have been a small inn for wealthy travellers visiting the port. As the bath-house is not currently open to the public, ARA members were privileged to view the building from walkways in a large cellar under modern office buildings. The visit was kindly arranged and led by Jenny Hall, Curator of Roman London at the Museum of London, who had been a guest speaker at the ARA Symposium in 2008.

London Discussion Forum
On 17 October an ARA Discussion Forum took place at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. It was attended by Board members and 11 invited ARA members who had expressed an interest in helping with tasks in the continued running of the ARA. Several invited members were unable to attend. Judy Medrington, Academic Administrator of the Institute is thanked for facilitating the venue. An account of this meeting by John Bithell and a request for further help has been published in ARA News 23 (March 2010) 27-28.

Classical and Roman Libya
The Study Tour of Classical and Roman Libya, which took place from 20-27 November, was attended by 42 members. The tour was organised on behalf of the ARA by Ancient World Tours Ltd and Bales Worldwide Ltd, and we are grateful to Peter Allingham of AWT and his staff for their constant support. The tour was led by Bryn Walters, Mike Stone and Grahame Soe, and pre-tour assistance was provided by Professor Tony King.

Fig. 21. Londinium: The west (inner) face of the Roman and medieval City Wall at Trinity Place, Tower Hill, London. The ARA group stand in front of the horizontal bonding courses of Roman brick. Photo: © Grahame Soe.

Fig. 22. Londinium: Billingsgate Roman bath-building. The apsidal caldarium excavated in 1848 and 2003. Photo: © Museum of London Archaeology.

Fig. 23. Londinium: Billingsgate Roman bath-building. Reconstruction model with the roof partly cut away to show the interior: frigidarium to the left, caldarium and its furnace at the front, with vestibule and tepidarium behind. Photo: © Nick Hogben.

Fig. 24. Libya. National Museum, Tripoli: Detail of head of a marble statue of Apollo playing the lyre, showing original painted colouring. The statue constitutes a pair with one of Marsyas, a satyr, playing the flute, who foolishly challenged Apollo to a musical contest. From the Hadrianic Baths at Leptis Magna. Photo: © Grahame Soe.

Fig. 25. Libya. National Museum, Tripoli: Detail of mosaic showing scenes of fishermen from the "Villa of the Nile" at Leptis Magna. Late second or early third century AD. Photo: © Grahame Soe.
(Winchester University) and Dr Philip Kenrick (Society for Libyan Studies, Institute of Archaeology, London). whose archaeological guidebook (surely a model for all archaeological guidebooks) Tripolitania had just been published (Kenrick 2009, see also Kenrick 2011). Guide notes and plans for the tour were prepared by Grahame Soffe and Bryn Walters. The Libyan staff throughout were the company courier, Ziad Siala, with security guards Mohammed and Fathe. The archaeological guide throughout Tripolitania, was Youssef al-Khattali of Wings Travel, Tripoli. In Cyrenaica the archaeological guides were Abdel Arfic (Tocra), Abdullraham al-Sharif (Apollonia and Cyrene) and at Ptolemais, Abdulssalam Bayama (site foreman to the late Professor Richard Goodchild during the British excavations). The venues for the tour were the Thobacts Hotel at Tripoli, the Tebести Hotel at Benghazi, and the Manara Hotel at Apollonia. Lunches and dinners were arranged at other venues. Flights were by British Airways with internal flights by Libyan Arab Airlines.

After a tour of the National Museum at Tripoli (Figs. 24 and 25) and a short visit to other sites within the Roman city and Medina (Oea), the group transferred to Benghazi for the tour of the Greco-Roman cities of Cyrenaica. The ancient city of Tocra (Al ‘Aqriyiyah Tukrah) was subject to a walking tour, followed by the city of Ptolemais (Ad Dirsiyah Tuimaythah) and the fine site museum (Figs. 26 and 27). The group then transferred to Apollonia (Marsa Susa) for the overnight stay before touring the extensive remains of the ancient port. There followed an extensive tour of the vast area of standing structural remains of the Greek, Roman and Byzantine city of Cyrene (Fig. 28), including the Museum of Sculpture. The tour of Cyrenaica also included a visit to the Byzantine churches at Qasr Libya and their important mosaics, some of which are preserved in the site museum. The site lies in the Green Mountains (Al Jabal al-Akhdar), some distance south from the coast.

The tour of Tripolitania concentrated on the great ancient cities of Lepcis Magna (Leptis Magna) (Figs. 29-32) and

Fig. 26. Libya. Ptolemais: Cyclopean ashlar block wall near the Reservoir. Ziad Siala provides scale. Photo © Grahame Soffe.

Fig. 27. Libya. Ptolemais: The odeion (small theatre), possibly originally a bouleterion, adapted to water displays in the late Roman period. Looking north-east towards the ARA group with Abdulssalam Bayama (guide), seated. Photo © Grahame Soffe.

Fig. 28. Libya. Cyrene: The Temple of Zeus. Painstakingly reconstructed from the ruins by the Italian mission, the temple was built in the fifth century BC. This gigantic inscription to Zeus/Jupiter at the east front of the temple (to which David Rider provides scale) dates from the Hadrianic restoration of the temple. Photo © Grahame Soffe.

Fig. 29. Libya. Lepsis Magna: Severan Basilica. Detail from one of the square sculptured pilasters of Proconnesian marble showing scenes from the life of Hercules, one of the patron gods of the city and the Severan family.

Photo © Grahame Soffe.

Fig. 30. Libya. Lepsis Magna: Amphitheatre viewed from the west, built initially in AD 56 in a pre-existing quarry, with an estimated capacity of 16,000 spectators. Excavated by Antonino Di Vita in 1962-64. David Rider provides scale.

Photo © Grahame Soffe.

Fig. 31. Libya. Lepsis Magna: Severan Basilica. View of the great apse at the north-west end of the nave, originally with a ceiling height of 26m, showing the square sculptured pilasters of Proconnesian marble and the central columns left over from the temple in the forum. Early third century AD. Nich Hogben provides scale. Photo © Grahame Soffe.
Sabratha (Figs. 33-35) with complete tours of all the major sites and the Lepcis Museum. The Sabratha museums were closed due to a religious festival. Special arrangements were made for the group to visit the luxury Roman villa (villa maritima) at Silin, lying directly on the sea coast 15km west of Lepcis Magna with all its second-century interior decoration in situ largely intact and in a remarkable state of preservation (Fig. 36), despite its being officially closed to visitors due to serious conservation problems - the cover buildings are in urgent need of maintenance, as are the mosaics, which are beginning to ‘blist’ (for a good recent illustrated account, see Wilson 2008). It was discovered in 1974 and excavated and restored over the ensuing years by the Libyan Department of Antiquities, under the direction of Dr Omar Al Mahjub. Since his death the responsibility for definitive publication has been entrusted to Prof. Luisa Musso of the University of Rome III. The mosaics at Silin can be compared with the remarkable series of mosaic panels discovered in 2000 on the walls of the frigidarium of the bath suite at the villa at Wadi Lebda, Lepcis Magna by Dr Marlies Wendorf’s excavation on behalf of Hamburg University. The discovery was not announced until 2005 for fear of looters and the five panels have been undergoing a programme of restoration at the Lepcis Museum since December 2009, under the auspices of the University of Rome III and the Libyan Department of Archaeology. The panels show unique figurative scenes of the amphitheatre arena and circus, probably based, like the Alexander mosaic from Pompeii, on lost painted originals. The scenes include two showing venationes, animal-fights where a bull, bear, boar and stag are pitted against groups of men, one scene showing a chariot race and groups of men above caged animals, and two of pairs of gladiators at the end of combat. One of these shows a victorious thrax and a fallen murmillo, and the finest and best preserved shows a victorious, but wounded and exhausted secutor and a fallen retiarius (Figs. 37 and 38). Some members also visited the famous Hunting Baths, which can be found emerging from coastal sand-dunes on the western edge of Lepcis Magna. These, too, are in urgent need of conservation (Fig. 39). Returning to the Roman monuments at Tripoli (Oea), which included the Arch of Marcus Aurelius, the group also made a visit to the outlying Roman cemetery and museum at Janzur (Fig. 40). A more detailed illustrated description of this tour by Marigold Norbye is published in ARA News, 26 (Autumn 2011).
2009 Annual General Meeting and Symposium at the British Museum

Ninety members attended the AGM at the Stevenson Lecture Theatre, British Museum, London, on 5 December. They were welcomed by the ARA Board, and Janet Senior supervised registration. After a welcome on behalf of the museum by Sam Moorhead, the Chairman, Grahame Soffe, welcomed members, noting that lower numbers than previous AGMs were the result of the ASPROM conference taking place simultaneously. The Chairman went on to thank Board members Bryn Walters, Dr David Evans, Anthony Beeson, Mike Stone, Don Greenwood, Sam Moorhead and Vix Hughes for their sterling work over the year. He also thanked Professor Martin Henig (Research Advisor), David Gollins (Editor of ARA News and publication support for ARA, the Bulletin of the ARA) and John Bithell (Minutes Secretary) for their ex-officio support. The Chairman said he would convey members’ best wishes to David Gollins who had been taken ill. He then went on to thank Dr David Evans, Vix Hughes and Collette Maxfield for their work on the ARA website, and all those who took part in the discussions at the Institute of Archaeology, London on 17 October (see above). The Chairman then announced the appointment of Professor John Wilkes, Emeritus Yates Professor of Greek and Roman Archaeology, University College London, as the ARA’s Honorary President and welcomed Professor Wilkes and his wife, Dr Susan Walker, Keeper of Antiquities, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, to the meeting and gave a brief précis of his career in Roman archaeology (a more detailed account by the Chairman was published in ARA News 23 (March 2010), pages 22-23 which includes a photo of the President at the AGM). As Editor of the Bulletin, Grahame Soffe stated he was still experiencing difficulties in collecting and editing suitable material and was looking for assistance. He then went on to give an illustrated account of the events of the year. He finally thanked Sam Moorhead and the British Museum staff for their help with the AGM. This was followed by reports from Bryn Walters (Director and Secretary), Dr David Evans (Treasurer) and Don Greenwood (Membership Secretary), all of whom gave their outlook for the coming year with concerns about the recession and membership numbers, and Bryn Walters described proposals and plans for future events and archaeological projects for which the ARA had given grant support. At the Election chaired by Bryn Walters, Don Greenwood and Grahame Soffe were unanimously re-elected. Banks (Chartered Accountants) were re-elected as Auditors. Under AOB, Don Greenwood addressed the meeting and indicated his wish to stand down as a Trustee and Membership Secretary in 2010, after 14 years’ enjoyable service, and Dr Marigold Norbye gave a short illustrated personal review of the ARA tour of Libya.

Following the AGM the afternoon Symposium commenced with an acceptance address from the President, Professor John Wilkes (Fig. 41), in which he described his debt of gratitude to the former President Dr Graham Webster, and the importance of Graham’s contribution to Roman archaeology. We hope that a version of this will appear in a future issue of ARA. This was followed by two illustrated presentations based on current projects in Roman urban and military archaeology, introduced by Grahame Soffe. The first was given...
Evidence, using the equally rich textual and pictorial evidence in the form of papyri, graffiti and wall-paintings, and the buildings of the city itself, has been used to reconstruct the circumstances of the siege and the identity of Roman soldiers of Syrian origin (Fig. 42). The lecture was inspired by his British Museum research project on the Roman military equipment from the excavations (now housed by Yale University), which he has brought to publication (James, 2004). The second lecture was given by Dr Will Bowden, Associate Professor of Roman Archaeology, Department of Archaeology, University of Nottingham, on Standing in the Shadow of Boudica, Recent Research at Caistor St Edmund Roman Town (Venta Icenorum). This was based on Dr Bowden’s current excavation programme at Caistor, and the lecture was designed as a prelude to the proposed ARA tour of the site in July 2010. The implications and results from this project will be reviewed in the next issue of ARA.

References