Roman Quarry on Blunsdon Ridge, Swindon.
Bryn Walters and Chris Silvanus working on east quarry face (see article on page 8).

Photo: Bernard Phillips
Welcome, once again, to another extensive issue of ARA.

We include two articles submitted by members – ‘Roman Villas in the Algarve’ and ‘The Coloniae of Britannia’. The former, by Anthony Stansfeld, departs from this country and explores a little in the Roman province of Lusitania; the latter, by Ross Mitchell, gives a potted history of the formation of the four main Coloniae of Britannia.

We have an article on the Time Team excavation at Turkdean, near Northleach in Gloucestershire, which prominently featured the Cotswold Archaeological Trust. There is a plea on behalf of the Stonesfield mosaic and, for those of you on the Internet, there is the possibility of exploring the ‘Virtual Mithraeum’. Whilst on the subject of the Internet, the ARA is now featured – courtesy of two of our members – and the site addresses are listed at the foot of this page.

Our Director, Bryn Walters, has once again been very active and has managed to pull a very large Roman quarry out of the hat – I think he was probably acting on information received; see our Correspondence page!

We are coming to the end of another very busy year and I would like to take this opportunity, on your behalf, to thank the Trustees and all other helpers for making this season another undoubted success. This period’s events are reviewed by our Chairman, Grahame Soffe, towards the end of the Bulletin. There are three Book Reviews, which should whet your appetite for the special offer to members on the back cover, and once again the ‘Snippets’ have been compiled by our indefatigable Hon. Archivist, Anthony Beesoon, who is renewing his plea for any interesting (Roman) cuttings which members may come across.

Editor

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Editorial

You are Twelve Stone Three,
your lucky colour is blue,
your lucky stone is Topaz...

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ROMAN VILLAS IN THE ALGARVE

by Anthony Stansfield

Portugal's Algarve is famed mainly for its beaches and sunshine; however, this region also has a number of substantial Roman remains. During a recent visit to the area I had the opportunity to visit two villas of special interest which can be reached easily from the coast.

The ruins at Milreu, 12 km north of Faro (Ossouweia), provide a classic example of the most common style of Roman villa encountered in the Roman province of Lusitania, i.e. that centred on a peristyle. The visible remains (see Fig. 1) consist of a large court (1) situated at the centre of a mainly 3rd century building, and surrounding a rectangular pool and garden (2). Around it is arranged a series of rooms, many with mosaics and some with evidence of wall plaster. Within these rooms, three marble busts were discovered including one of the Emperor Hadrian, testifying to the high social status of the villa owners. The villa entrance (3) is situated on the south side, and was later remodelled in the fourth century AD by the addition of two small semi-circular niches housing fountains on either side of a small rectangular vestibule.

Along the shorter eastern side of the peristyle, steps allow access to a part of the villa situated on a higher level. Here, several poorly preserved mosaic-floored rooms and part of a preserved benches around the walls with arched niches probably to hold clothing. The adjoining frigidarium (8) has a large circular cold bath or puteus at the northern end which was originally lined with marble. To the west lies a tepidarium (9) and a caldarium with its well-preserved praefurnium (11). Evidence suggests that all the rooms in this bath wing were decorated with mosaic floors, and of special interest are the eye-catching mosaics of fish lining the interior of a small plunge bath (12) to the south of the frigidarium. Each fish has been depicted as unusually fat to compensate for the optical effect of refraction under water. The style can be attributed to a school of mosaicists operating in Northern Portugal at the end of the 3rd century AD.

To the south of the stone paved road (13) and dominating the site, are the remains of a fourth-century water temple or nymphaeum still standing to over 6 m high. This owes its survival to being converted into a church during the Visigothic period. This particular temple plan is rare in Portugal although it is repeated at the Villas of St. Cucufate and Quinta de Marim.

The cella (14) is roughly square...
with an apse at the southern end and was surrounded by an ambulatory supporting a Corinthian arcade (15). The cella is constructed in brick with the interior walls originally veneered in marble of varying colours and with a cross-vaulted roof. A large water tank in the apse possibly housed a cult statue or fountain. The temple was raised on a podium 5 × 10 m and surrounded by a wall. Surviving near the steps to the podium are colourful mosaics (16), which once again depict fish. These originally ran completely round the podium base.

The second villa to explore is at the archaeological site of Cerro da Vila, situated near the centre of Vilamoura. This is one of the most easily accessible Roman sites on the Algarve; excavations have taken place annually since 1971 and are still continuing. Apart from the main residence various other buildings have been discovered.

The Villa, referred to locally as the 'Casa dos Mosaicos', consists of numerous rooms with mosaics of geometric patterns, both black-and-white and polychrome. This villa is planned around three sides of a large peristyle containing a rectangular pool, and with a well at its centre. On the fourth, western side, is a small bath suite consisting of a frigidarium, a tepidarium and a caldarium, all of which have lost their floors, leaving only the arches of the hypocaust system.

This villa differs from the previous one in that it has a porticoed façade along the front of the house. A curious structure attached to the portico is a polygonal room, which was heated and had its own separate latrine. It has been suggested that this was actually a tower and that another stood at the opposite end, flanking the portico.

Later in the 3rd century, the building was transformed into a factory for the production of garum, an extremely pungent fish sauce. Tanks lined in opus signinum were inserted in various rooms and lead piping has cut through some of the floors.

Figure 1. Plan of the Milreu villa, Estoi, Portugal. After Hauschildt.
Special features of interest are the remains of a separate large bath complex aptly called the ‘Grande Bañeario’. This establishment, which has undergone extensive modifications during its history, essentially consisted of two groups of frigidarium-tepiderium-caldarium arranged to the west and south of a small reception area and apodyterium. To the east lies an impressive rectangular swimming pool lined in opus signinum, measuring 10.5 m by 6.5 m. Two flights of five steps descend the 1.5 m to the bottom.

In addition to these buildings, Cerro de Vila also has the ruins of a smaller house, known as the ‘Casa Pequena’, with remains of wall plaster. There are also the remains of a mausoleum, some small fish tanks with associated lead piping, and the remains of what may have been a factory or agricultural building. Two kilometres to the north is a Roman dam which supplied water to the site.

As there are few texts in English available to the layperson, little is known to the British public, but from a visit to these two sites, we can obtain a glimpse of the splendour that was Roman Portugal.

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CORRESPONDENCE
Kent Archaeological Review
Following the article ‘Villa Group
Discovered in Kent’ by Paul
Wilkinson (ARA 4), your editor has
received a note from Brian Philp,
Chairman – Council for Kentish
Archaeology, enclosing a copy of the
latest Kent Archaeological Review
contains a map of the Roman Villa
sites in the Swale area together with
a reference table giving details of
discovery dates, by whom excavated
and where each site was published
(pp 26 - 30). Members who would
like details of this very interesting
village group should contact the West
Kent Office on 0181 462 4737 for
further information.

Alchester Fort lives on . . .
Dear Editor,
I read the article ‘The Roman
Army in Oxfordshire’ (ARA 5) with
keen interest. In my book Invasion –
The Roman Conquest of Britain
(Sutton 1987) I speculate about the
possible military occupation of
Alchester, which I saw as an outpost
covering the flank of the Icknield
Way.
Thank you for a fascinating
Bulletin.

Yours sincerely
John Peddie
Warrington

Mr. Peddie enclosed photocopies of
pages 121 and 122 of his book as
being the relevant references.

Ed.

Member Mrs. Margaret Mason
thinks that others who attended the
Bryant post might like to see where
Bryn gets his information –
straight from the horse’s mouth.
You can’t ask more of your
Director than that!
This is a reminder of our visit to
Aldborough. For full report of the
year’s events see page 15.

VIRTUAL MITHRAEUM
Explore the ruins of a
3rd-century AD temple to the
Roman god Mithras, courtesy
of Virtual Reality.

A unique new Internet site which
allows the virtual visitor to interact
with the archaeology of one of the
most famous religions of the Roman
Empire has been launched by the
Museum of Antiquities at the
University of Newcastle upon Tyne.

It can be accessed at:
http://www.ncl.ac.uk/~nantiq

Using Live Picture Real Space
technology with JAVA routines,
unique, three-dimensional, full 360°
views of both the ruined Mithraeum
at Carrawburgh on Hadrian’s Wall
and the reconstruction of the temple
in the Museum of Antiquities can be
explored using a standard Internet
browser with no need for additional
software. If any object catches your
eye as you look around the temples,
you can click on a hotspot to call up a
closer image and further information
about that object. The ‘Virtual
Mithraeum’ was one of the first uses
of this technology – and, arguably,
the most imaginative – by a museum
anywhere in the world.
How did we know there was anything there?

The discovery of the villa is an amazing story. In the long dry summer of 1976 Wilf Mustoe, whose family had farmed the land for generations, noticed a series of white parch marks in his grass field. He made a sketch of them on the back of an envelope, and even got a relative who was an architect to make a measured plan. While Wilf realised the importance of the site, it stayed a secret until 1995 when Roger Box, an amateur archaeologist, was invited to have a ride in a friend’s helicopter to look at some marks in a neighbour’s field from the air. The marks proved to be modern land drains, but on the way home Roger noticed a series of regular marks in a field near Turkdean. It was late in the evening by now, but in the fading light Roger took a series of photographs. The following day he had the photographs rapidly developed and immediately realised that he had found a major new Roman villa.

Roger showed the photographs to David Viner of the Corinium Museum, who confirmed his suspicions. Roger then talked to Wilf Mustoe, and with his agreement wrote to the Time Team suggesting that this would be an excellent site for a dig. Mick Aston, lead archaeologist on the programme and a director of CAT, shared Roger’s excitement and preparations for the broadcast were put in hand.

What was done?

The first stage of the project was to get a geophysical survey of the site. This was done by GSB Prospection of Bradford and it immediately confirmed the parch marks visible on Roger’s photographs. While the survey was being extended CAT began to excavate the first of seven small trenches placed strategically around the site to examine specific parts of the building complex. With a team of 15 archaeologists under the direction of Neil Holbrook, Archaeological Director of CAT, work commenced.

What was there?

The buildings lay on a small promontory overlooking a dry valley, and faced south. They were of double courtyard plan (overall dimensions of c. 120m x 75m), with, additionally, a third range of rooms which ran up the hillside to the east for a distance of about 120m.

The rear (northern) range of the upper courtyard had corridors to front and back, with major rooms at either end. The front corridor was examined in one trench, where it was shown to have been reconstructed on two occasions. In the eastern range a large pit was surrounded by a curving mortared foundation; this was possibly a stake-hole for a hypocaust which lay to the north. The final ash filling of the pit occurred after the walls had been destroyed.
robbed to their foundations. The stony surface of the upper courtyard had been cut by two ditches which had been deliberately infilled and capped with heavy slabs. Their function is unclear.

In the centre of the range dividing the upper and lower courtyards was a plaster-lined plunge pool, 3 metres square, with a flagged floor. The pool had been backfilled with demolition material containing much painted plaster.

Two trenches examined the western range of the lower courtyard, while the final trench investigated the eastern range, which was 9m wide internally. The earliest feature found was a leadworkers' hearth, which was covered with rubble make-up for a new wall. This was decorated with fragmentary painted wall plaster and formed a corridor, 2.5m wide, along the inner side of the range.

Finds.
A large quantity of finds was recovered from the small area investigated. These included 39 Roman coins, four brooches, two bracelets, an iron lock plate, binding from a box, a hammer head, and a Bath stone roof decoration. In addition, over 1,500 sherds of Roman pottery were found. The best item was an enamelled bronze brooch which had the inscription VTERE FELIX ('good luck to the wearer' in Latin) – only three other examples of this type of brooch are known from the whole country.

How long was the site in use?
Probably around 250 years. The buildings seem to date to the latter part of the Roman period (3rd - 4th century AD) and they were certainly in use right up to the very end of the Roman period around AD 400 – 420. Then Britain stopped receiving new coinage from Rome, the economy rapidly collapsed, and the ability, and perhaps also the will, to maintain the buildings died with it. Eventually the site became a ruin, from which stone would have been carted away for use in medieval buildings in the area.

What was the site?
This is the most difficult question to answer. We originally thought it was a grand Roman villa akin to the large country houses which are a feature of the present Cotswold landscape, but there are a number of unusual features. First, is the plunge bath placed centrally within the range separating the two courtyards, which is hard to parallel on other villa sites. Second, the range found by geophysics which runs up the hillside to the east. The survey suggested there may have been another bath-house there as well. So, is it a villa after all, and if not what else could it be? An alternative interpretation might be that Turkdean was a religious sanctuary, the buildings serving as accommodation for visiting pilgrims. If this is right, we don't know which god was being worshipped, or where the shrine is located. Only further excavation can answer these questions.

What happens now?
It is important that a full report be prepared on this important site, describing in detail what was found and cataloguing all the finds. CAT hopes to start work on this soon if funding can be obtained from Channel 4. It is also hoped that the finds will eventually go on display in the Corinium Museum, Cirencester.

Latest Update.
A further visit to the site by the team this October investigated the earlier geophysical features extending up the hill from the courtyard buildings. They identified an ailed building approximately 30 metres by 10 metres, which had in part been decorated with painted plaster. An infilled cellar was also in evidence at one end of the building and a small inscription 'FIL' was recovered. A probable culvert to deflect spring water away from the building was also located.

A programme detailing this work is scheduled for screening after Christmas.
An industrial landscape dating from the Roman period, almost half a mile in length, has been identified on Blunsdon Ridge, 600 metres from the Roman complex at Abbey Meads (ARA 5 p 8-10). The site consists of terraces cut into the hillside, spoil dumps and extensive quarry pits on the south side of Blunsdon Hill overlooking north Swindon. The site is believed to be the largest surviving Roman stone quarry yet found in Britain.

It was identified in October 1998 during an archaeological evaluation for Swindon Borough Council, carried out in collaboration with Bernard Phillips and other ARA volunteers from Swindon and Devizes. A Roman road leading from Ermin Street to the possible temple site at Abbey Meads was also located. The well-preserved surface of the road has shown conclusively that the Romans drove on the left-hand side of the road, at least in the Swindon area! On the left-hand (north) side of the road are deeply cut ruts, made by heavily laden wagons, leading from the quarries to Ermin Street, with shallow ruts made by returning empty wagons on the right-hand (south) side. The ruts, which are 1.6 metres apart give the width of the wagons, which would have had four wheels and have been pulled by oxen. An interesting letter among the documents recovered from the Roman fort at Vindolanda refers to the transportation of stone by wagon on a fairly large scale (Bowman & Thomas 1994). These features, along with other evidence, such as unched pottery sherds, a fragment of combed hypocaust tile, and nails, show that this monument is Roman.

A large bowl-like depression cut into the south-west facing scarp of the Corallian Ridge retains a number of distinct earthworks around its sides and floor, which cannot be natural features. Surface fieldwork suggests that the hollow is, in fact, a large quarry. As no historical records for such workings in the area exist they are in all probability ancient. The positive identification of a well-metalled road surface, retaining the wheel impressions of heavily laden wagons, suggests that both the quarry and road are of Roman origin. In order to verify this, three trenches were cut through the top of the quarry depression, one to interpret a series of terraces on the side of the depression and two others to establish the alignment of the road in association with the quarry. It was found only slightly further to the north of the projected line, which crossed the open area of the quarry. One might interpret this misalignment as deliberate, in order to place the road above the north face of the quarry, or more likely, to realign it when the north face of the quarry encroached into the original primary road alignment.

Wheel ruts were also identified in these trenches, along with a deposit of undressed limestone blocks dumped in a ditch or pit beside the road.

A long trench was cut on the east slope of the quarry to interpret the broad, shallow terraces on the sides of the depression. It cut into the interleaving clay and silt deposits which occur beneath the coral ragstone, though stone was only located at the upper terrace level — the unworked quarry face at this point. Also identified in section was a small deposit of hewn stones and a small pit, possibly a 'sounding hole' intended to locate useful stone. In the base of this trench at its western end, part of a compacted stone trackway was sectioned, which had been laid onto one of the terraces halfway down the slope. This can be seen to continue as a surface feature on a gentle gradient up to the north rim of the quarry towards the road.

Associated with the trackway was a small stone and clay feature with an angled post hole suggesting some form of structure at this point. On the floor of this quarry pit is a series of substantial rectangular platforms associated with hollow trackways, now mostly overgrown with vegetation. It is suggested that these might represent loading platforms for stone and quarry detritus for road building. Such features have been identified in Roman quarries on the continent (Bedon 1984). Running along the ridge escarpment to the east and west of the main quarry pit are other irregular landscape features and terraces which could be indicative of former quarry workings.

Owing to the later extraction of stone, Roman quarries are exceedingly difficult to identify. Consequently, authentication of such workings, especially on so large a
scale, could be of such importance as to justify scheduling the site as an ancient monument. The Corallian Limestone of this region is too poor to permit its use for the embellishment of buildings or for the cutting of sarcophagi. However, when dressed, the stone forms well into regular blocks of freestone and is a very durable and excellent building stone.

During modern quarrying the detritus as residual material would usually be discarded as large mounds and spoil dumps in the areas already exhausted of stone. A considerable stretch of that road would have been surfaced with vast quantities of detritus from the quarry. From the gravel terraces south of Cirencester to the Chalk Downs south of Swindon – a distance of 11 miles (18 kilometres) across the clays of north Wiltshire – the road would have required enormous amounts of stone for its construction. Corallian Limestone has also been identified as the construction material on several Roman sites in the area, but more specifically, the Roman town of Durcarnovium (Lower Wanborough), three and a half miles to the south, has produced extensive evidence for its structures being built in this stone.

The remains of the medieval village of Groundwell extending from the edge of the quarry northwards, were also located, so parts of the quarry may have been reworked at that time. The area containing quarrying features has been reserved as a public open space by Swindon Borough Council and consequently will not be subject to any threat of development. However, what still eludes the archaeological eye is the location of a workers’ settlement and other service structures such as masons’ yards, and blacksmiths’ shops for manufacturing tools, and a possible workers’ bath-house.

This would not necessarily be the case in a Roman quarry cut into the Corallian Ridge, as the smaller limestone debris, sand and clay would have been serviceable for road construction and the metalling of yard surfaces. Lying only half a mile west of Ermin Street, one of the most important arterial routes in Roman Britain, it may be safe to assume that

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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ARA Issue Six
Introduction
In the early days of the Republic, soldiers for a given campaign were recruited from town and country, and after completion of the conflict they went back to their former lives. At the beginning of the 1st century BC, Marius is credited with creating his own standing army and when the time came for his soldiers to retire, they were paid a sum out of the pocket of their general, and a share from the proceeds of the fighting. Augustus made service in the army a professional career, and the state provided a grant on retirement of land or a lump sum dependent on the Imperial Treasury (sales tax on manumission of slaves could help defray costs). The age of retirement was variable: when Ostorius Scapula, second governor of Britannia, arrived in AD 48, retirement was officially at 16 years service, but this was often overlooked, so that the complaint arose that soldiers were kept on until too old for active service (Webster 1993). By the time of Hadrian, legionaries served for 25 or 26 years, being discharged on alternate years (Breeze & Dobson 1987).

Concept of a colonia
It was convenient to settle groups of retired veterans and their dependants in civil areas called 'coloniae'. These were established chartered towns, built as urban models, with plots of land for each colonist in the surrounding territorium. This was land confiscated from the local population and parcellled out by the process of 'centuriation', and distributed by lot. Thus each colonia became a self-governing extension of Rome, and served both as a useful reserve of forces in time of civil rebellion, and as an instrument of 'romanisation' (Webster 1988). Each veteran, as a Roman citizen, was expected to give military support as required, to imbue the local population with a sense of legal duties, and to be model citizens, demonstrating the qualities of the good urban life. This latter in

ex-soldiers was not always the case! The early examples of such coloniae were those at Pompeii set up by Sulla in 80 BC, at Carthage in 29 BC and Beirut (Berytos) in 14 BC by Augustus.

Organisation of a colonia
Coloniae were often built on the site of redundant legionary fortresses, and if the soldiers helped in the adaptation of the military structures to civilian use they would be paid by the colonists. Coloniae thus preserved the original fortress grid layout, and centurion quarters of former barrack blocks made convenient larger houses. Smaller houses were grouped in eights, as in the previous contubernia. The population of a given colonia, with its surrounding territorium could be as large as 15,000 (a ‘garrison town’) and would consist of the veterans and families, high quality craftsmen, and possibly wealthy members of the

original local population. Life was regulated according to the charter (lex coloniae) and the town governed by its council (ordo) of 100 members, and magistrates elected from the council. Tradesmen and merchants would set up their businesses along the main roads leading into the colonia, with farming villas out in the territorium. These coloniae were top of the hierarchy of provincial civil towns – coloniae, municipia, civitates (Salway 1993).

Coloniae in Britannia
Sir Ian Richmond in 1946 published in the Archaeological Journal The Four Coloniae of Roman Britain. A conference was held in Gloucester in July 1997 to mark the 50 years since this publication, and the 1900th anniversary of the founding of the Colonia Nervia Glevensis (Glevum Colonia). This conference was to review research in the four coloniae of Colchester, Gloucester, Lincoln

Plan of the legionary fortress, Gloucester [GLEVUM], c. AD 89 (after Hurst).
Courtesty of The Towns of Roman Britain by John Wacher.
and York, and to identify areas for future research. Much of the review that follows is derived from papers from this conference.

(1) Colchester (Philip Crummy).

Following the invasion under Aulus Plautius in AD 43, a legionary fortress was built by Leg. XX on a vacant spot close by Gosbecks in the territory of the Trinovantes' capital Camulodunum. Tacitus in the Agricola reports that officers would thin out their legions before a campaign so that older men were pensioned off to be replaced by fitter, younger men (Webster 1988). This occurred at Colchester when Ostorius Scapula in AD 48 moved the Leg. XX to Gloucester, allowing the redundant military site and surrounding land to be taken over as a civilian colonia. The legionary defences were filled in and houses set up in the familiar grid pattern. Although a grave of a doctor was found on the Stanway site dated to AD 50, the conversion occurred over several years, until the Boudican revolt of AD 60/61, when the population was between 5 and 10 thousand, and when some two-thirds of the town was destroyed by fire. Tacitus in the Annales describes the last stand by the veterans in the temple of Claudius. The destruction allowed the rebuilding of a larger, and defended colonia the name of which is known from a 2nd century tombstone in Rome dedicated to Gnaeus Bassus who is described as 'census officer (censor civium) of the Colonia Victricensis (City of Victory) which is in Camulodunum.' In 1964, a unique find in Roman Britain of a workshop for the manufacture of clay lamps, shows the presence of artisan activity within the confines of the colonia (Crummy 1997). The fortunes of the colonia gradually declined as its importance as the principal town of southern Britannia was taken over by Londinium, which had a better river approach and harbourage facilities. The end of Roman Colchester possibly came in AD 367 during the so called 'Barbarian conspiracy'.

(2) Gloucester (Henry Hurst).

The original military base was at Kingsholm, 1km north of the present city, a vexillation fort guarding the crossing of the Severn. There were two periods of occupation at Kingsholm – AD 48/49 by the Leg. XX from Colchester, and then in the 60s, with the subsequent construction between AD 65 and 88 of a legionary fortress either for Leg. XX or Leg. II Augusta on a site in the centre of the city. The Rufus Sita Leg. XX gravestone supports the former. The legionary fortress became redundant, as at Colchester, when Leg. XX was moved to Wroxeter. The traditional founding of the subsequent civil settlement – Colonia Nervia Glevisens – is AD 97. It is not clear whether the indigenous Dobunni were cleared out of the territorium, or whether there was a policy of co-operation with the locals if there were not sufficient Roman veterans to farm the hinterland properly.

Excavation of a tile factory, and of public buildings, shows that the colonia was occupied well into the 5th century. In the end this colonia did not prosper, again like Colchester, because it was overshadowed by the neighbouring civitas of Corinium (Cirencester) which was based in very rich countryside.

(3) Lincoln (Michael Jones).

The legionary fortress was built by the Leg. IX Hispana sometime after AD 60 on the crest of the Lincoln Edge above where Ermine Street met the Fosse Way. Leg. IX was replaced by Leg. II Adiutrix in AD 71, which in turn was moved to Chester
no later than AD 78. The civil settlement (*Lindum Colonia*) of AD 86-96 developed in the redundant fortress area and extended down the steep hill to south of the River Witham. The population would appear to have been quite cosmopolitan, with evidence of the Mediterranean wine trade. Excavations in the colonia have found bones of cattle, wild animals, fish and birds. Cattle were kept for milk, and meat, which was cured and salted. Bone marrow was a delicacy, and dormice were an exotic import. Plant remains show evidence of flax, hazelnut and many fruits, both local and imported. One of the churches found in the forum area may have been that of Paulinus, as recorded by Bede. Three bishops from Britannia (London, Lincoln and York) attended the Council of Arles in AD 314. Again, there was a decline over time but Roman graves were found in the colonia dating into the 6th century.

(4) York (Patrick Ottaway). York is the exception, in that the colonia did not arise out of a redundant legionary fortress. This was built by Leg. IX in AD 71, and then occupied in AD 120 by Leg. VI after Leg. IX was moved out. York became the military administrative centre for northern Britannia, and thus the civil settlement developed outside the fortress, and south of the River Ouse. During his tour of Britannia, the emperor Septimius Severus made his base at York, and in honour of this the civil settlement was accorded the status of a colonia. On his return to York, Severus died in AD 211, in the *domus palatina*, presumably the praetorium or principium of the fortress. That wealthy citizens lived in the colonia is shown by the large number of tombstones of females of the *honestiores* class. The population would appear to have been cosmopolitan, enjoying Mediterranean produce and way of life. Traders and craftsmen lived and worked in the area south of the river. There are signs of occupation in the 5th/6th century but by the 7th century all trace of Roman York was gone.

References:

**Snippets**

**A ROMAN HOUSE FOUND AT BATH**

A Roman house with tessellated floors has been found underneath the playground of the old Beechen Cliff School in Bath during excavations prior to redevelopment. The building on the hillside south of the River Avon, would have commanded fine views of the religious precinct on the north side of the river.

*Bath Chronicle 10.08.98*

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**THE STONESFIELD MOSAIC EMBROIDERY APPEAL**

*by Carol Anderson*

Recently the remarkable early 18th century embroidery depicting one of the mosaics found on the site of the Roman villa at Stonesfield, Oxfordshire, came up for sale. We are delighted to inform you that the appeal has reached its target, and Oxfordshire Museums have completed the purchase of the embroidery. The appeal will, however, remain open to enable us to collect contributions towards the cost of the conservation, display and publication of the embroidery. The embroidery will go on public display in the refurbished Oxfordshire Museum at Woodstock from the summer of 2000.

Dr. Martin Henig writes: "This is wonderful news. The embroidery is one of only two 18th century embroideries of Romano-British mosaics known. The other one, of course, is of the famous mosaic at Littlecote which is now in private hands and not at present available for study."

*The Stonesfield Embroidery.*

*Photo: Courtesy Oxfordshire County Council.*

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**Page 12**
Fishbourne Roman Palace
by Barry Cunliffe
£14.99 (pb).

Review by Martin Henig
This is an updated version of Professor Cunliffe’s general account of this famous site, published over a quarter of a century ago. Since then further excavations have extended our knowledge of both the palace, with its gardens, and of the Roman supply base which preceded it and so this new synthesis will be welcomed both by professional archaeologists and the wider public. In various ways the new knowledge has refined our understanding of the history of Roman Britain. For instance the extent of the military installations here has led to the well-founded suggestion that Chichester Harbour might have been a primary invasion site, replacing a long-established view which saw the Roman legions all landing at Richborough. More can be said of the probable owner, Tiberius Claudius Togidubnus. Not only has his name changed but re-examination of an inscription in Chichester shows him to have called himself ‘Great King of the Britons’ [or, ‘of Britain’]. However, here, the implications of his role in the Romanisation of Britain have not been fully explored largely because the structure of the 1971 narrative has been maintained. In the spate of building in southern Britain recorded by Tacitus for the Flavian era, but in fact starting earlier, he very probably played a highly significant role. The marble head of a boy (not I think helmeted) is probably of mid first-century rather than late first-century date and carved in Rome for Togidubnus or a member of his clan, such as Tiberius Claudius Catusaurus whose gold signet ring has recently been found.

The palace looks even larger and more astonishing now than it did; an Italian building transported to Britain. There are now more mosaics which are figured in the book as well as individual finds reflective of status including the Catusaurus ring, an askos-handle and small pieces of inlaid metal from furniture (intarsia work) which are not. It is a pity that these and other items, like the planter-pots found by Alec Down in the kitchen gardens, are only accorded passing mention and not illustrated. The more so in that some of the slides used for colour plates have faded badly (compare the illustration of the excavation across the formal garden in both editions) and these might well have been replaced by such items or by details of new mosaics, like that showing a city wall. There are however some site photos reproduced in colour for the first time of which the remains of a bridge crossing a stream (pl. 2) gave me the most pleasure, not because it is a brilliant image but because it was in this muddy hole that I supervised Richard Bradley. There was another side to this excavation; like so many digs it was a place where enduring friendships were forged.

The book is written with Professor Cunliffe’s usual enthusiasm, and is amazing value for money; I doubt whether there is any member of The Association for Roman Archaeology who will not acquire a copy. All in all it augurs very well for the future of Tempus Publishing.

Hadrian’s Wall
History and Guide
by Guy de la Bédoyère
£9.99 (pb).

Review by Beth Bishop
This is a long overdue and extremely welcome book, which covers the entire length of the Wall, site by site, in ‘bites’, so that, as the author suggests, it can be used either for a visit to just one or two, or for a more extended trip taking in several. Why has no-one thought of doing this before?

After an introductory history of the monument, one moves steadily from east to west, from Wallsend to Bowness-in-Solway, with photographs, drawings, and often sketch maps, together with lucid text. There is a section on ‘outpost forts’ (Risingham, High Rochester), and one on ‘hinterland forts’ (Corbridge, Vindolanda). There is even a photograph and description of a Latin graffito on ‘The Witten Rock of Gelt’ in a Roman quarry, a site I first saw described and illustrated in The Gentleman’s Magazine for 1751! Sections contain references to and descriptions of appropriate museums and their collections.

As a guide, this will prove invaluable, and opens the way for further study with a welcome list of sources and select bibliography, together with a necessary glossary and a good index. It is, in fact, an example of scholarship made accessible to all. But...

The book is well-produced, but quite heavy 12 oz (or just over 350g if you’ve gone metric), and measures 6" x 9¾" x ⅛". As a ‘perfect bound’ (i.e. glued together) paperback, will it withstand the rigours of being slung into the car, carried round sites for reference in all weathers, or being repeatedly stuffed into a rucksack, etc.?

One other quibble: clearly, the price has been kept as low as possible – £9.99. However, only the front cover has a colour photograph to tempt the prospective purchaser. The scenery and many of the sites are spectacular: (in particular, I think of Limestone Corner, which is truly breathtaking both in size and implication, and which suffers a grave photographic injustice here): at least a few colour plates would act as an encouragement to anyone considering buying this book; (it’s done very successfully with cookery books!) To eyes now accustomed to high-quality colour reproduction, many of the black-and-white illustrations will seem distinctly dreary; some are not even particularly clear, while some have detail obscured by shadow, or washed out by bright light. Even at the cost of a higher price, let’s hope the next edition will have illustrations which will do justice to this magnificent monument.

All in all, though, this is a book I shall be glad to have on my shelves, and one I shall certainly take with me when next I travel Wall-wards.

Continued
Wroxeter, the Life and Death of a Roman City
by Roger White and Philip Barker
Review by Grahame Soeffe

This remarkable book is the story of one of Britain's best-preserved but least-known archaeological sites. The remains of this once great Roman city now lie protected under pasture fields between medieval Shrewsbury and modern Telford. They are dominated by the Old Work, a spectacular landmark and the largest fragment of a Roman civilian building still standing in Britain. In its prime the city of Viroconium Cornoviorum was the fourth largest in Roman Britain, surpassed only by London, Cirencester and Verulamium. The authors have both been based at Birmingham University, and represent, with Graham Webster, the intensive archaeological research carried out over the last 40 years or so, building on the work of earlier antiquarians and archaeologists. They are therefore in a perfect position to produce the first general survey of Wroxeter for 125 years.

Their survey of the rediscovery of Wroxeter - from Camden in the 16th century, up to the present day - makes fascinating reading. At last the pioneering efforts of the Victorian excavator and writer Thomas Wright can be viewed in their proper context. We read of how he explored the area around the Old Work, discovering the famous complex of civic baths with its basilica - initially an indoor exercise hall. He was succeeded by such great names as G. E. Fox, J. B. Bushe-Fox, Donald Atkinson, Dame Kathleen Kenyon and Dr. Graham Webster. The contribution of Graham Webster is given due credit, initially for his meticulous use of various techniques such as area-excavation in elucidating the complex history of the baths and particularly the macellum and palaestra. The final report on this work and his report on the sculpture from Wroxeter and neighbouring areas [with Martin Henig] are now eagerly awaited. But much of this work could only have been achieved through the efforts of hundreds of budding excavators whom he trained during 30 years of summer schools. This then is a good opportunity for us to congratulate him as our President on celebrating his eighty-fifth birthday this year.

Graham also encouraged Philip Barker's excavation of the baths basilica site, generally acknowledged as one of the most technically brilliant ever undertaken in Britain, whereby careful layer-by-layer area-excavation a series of sub-Roman occupation phases and structures was planned. Two highlights of Roger White's most recent work have been a complete geophysical survey of the site, the largest ever undertaken, and the Wroxeter Hinterland Project which has looked at evidence for settlement and land use in the surrounding countryside.

Another of Graham Webster's achievements has been the discovery of the remains of the legionary fortress beneath the public buildings in the centre of the city, allowing a clearer understanding of the relationship between its short military phase and longer civilian life. Of course, it is here that the contribution of air photography, notably by Dr. Arnold Baker, has advanced our knowledge of the overall topography of Wroxeter. This is well shown in a meticulous plan plotted from aerial photographs (sadly over-reduced but readable with a lens). The location and plan of the defences, streets, houses, shops, forum, public baths, temples, mansio, and even suburbs are recorded. Perhaps over-emphasis is given to the additional data derived from the gradinometry whose difficult-to-interpret monotone plots have been needlessly reproduced in the colour plates. Other colour photographs illustrate Steve Cosh's and David Neal's drawings of the mosaics from the town and the recently excavated Whitely Grange villa, together with some beautiful old watercolours and fine modern reconstructions and bird's-eye views. Generally the plans, diagrams and monochrome plates are well reproduced and it is very useful to have such clear general plans of the baths, forum, houses and shops. The book ends with a comprehensive study of the end of Roman Wroxeter and settlement through the Dark Ages into the High Middle Ages. Much of this is based on the most recent excavation and research but the fact that such large areas of the Roman city still await systematic modern excavation must be very tantalising to most of us.
The Annual Fund-Raising Dinner and Field Excursion was based at the Blossoms Hotel, Chester, over the weekend of 14th/15th March. The guest lecturer was Tim Strickland, former City Archaeologist and now a Director of Gifford and Partners, one of the largest archaeological contractors in Britain. The Sunday tour, led by Tim Strickland, took members around the remains of the great legionary fortress of Deva, and concentrated especially on the well-preserved section of the fortress's curtain wall next to Northgate with its decorated cornice and parapet (on which he wrote in the RRT Roman Architecture volume), the amphitheatre, and the shrine to Minerva carved into the face of the Roman quarry on the south bank of the River Dee facing the south gate of the fortress (Bridgegate). The morning ended with a visit to the spectacular Roman material housed in the Grosvenor Museum, particularly the newly displayed Graham Webster Gallery (by special arrangement with the curator, Sharn Matthews).

The extremely well-preserved Roman bath-house at Beaufort Park, near Hastings, East Sussex, was the target for the excursion on 7th June. This building, found sealed under a Roman iron-slag heap in 1970, is protected under a temporary cover and is not normally accessible to visitors. It was originally excavated and studied by a team led by Dr. Gerald Brodribb and Dr. Henry Cleere. The accumulated evidence, particularly that from stamped tiles, shows that the ironworks and bath-house were controlled by the Classis Britannica, the British fleet. We are very grateful to Dr. Brodribb and his fellow Beaufort Park Archaeological Trust members for acting as our guides inside the bath-house and for also showing us their recent excavations in the ironworks. This building is a unique survival and the ARA was able to make a donation towards funds to build a permanent protective cover and visitor centre. We trust, however, that English Heritage and the National Lottery will respond urgently in order that this will be achieved.

The Summer Tour of Roman Brigantia was based at Queen Ethelburga’s College, Thorpe Underwood Hall, Little Ouseburn, near York, and took place 21st - 24th August. We are grateful to Brian Martin and his staff, especially Zillah Watchman, for their help. The tour was led by Bryn Walters and Grahame Soffe of the ARA and Percival Turnbull of the Brigantia Archaeological Practice. At the Late Iron Age oppidum of Stanwick, Percival Turnbull recounted the new light shed on the site by his own recent excavations, as well as describing the earlier campaigns by Sir Mortimer Wheeler. After a short visit to the fort and vicus site at Greta Bridge the tour continued to the fort and bath-house at Bowes (Lavatris), dominated by the Norman castle keep. We then took the Roman road Dere Street northwards to the Roman forts of Piercebridge and Bingham (Vinovia), where highlights were the stone bridge abutment and cutwaters and the Bingham bath suite. On the second full day, led by Grahame Soffe and Anthony Beeson, the party visited the famous Late Iron Age and Roman exhibition at the Hull and East Riding Museum, concentrating on the magnificent display of mosaics from the Roman villas at Rudston, Brantingham, Horkstow and Harpham. At York (Eboracum) the remains of the legionary fortress’s principia basilica and barracks were seen beneath York Minster together with the Multangular Tower at the west angle of the fortress wall. At the Yorkshire Museum, Anthony Beeson guided the party around further mosaics from Toft Green (York colony) and Dalton Parlours villa as well as the fine displays of other Roman material. We are grateful to Gail Foreman (Hull) and Manfred Schulte (York) for their help. The last day included a visit to the Roman town and museum at Aldborough (Isurium Brigantum) and the most northerly Roman villa known in Britain at Beadlam, where Ernest Black spoke on late Roman villas in the north. After-dinner lectures were given by Dr. Patrick Ottaway of the York Archaeological Trust (Roman York) and Anthony Beeson (Mosaics).

The AGM was held, as usual, at Oxford University’s Rewley House, by special arrangement with the Department for Continuing Education, on 5th September. Following lunch, the Symposium was devoted to two speakers – former colleagues of the Chairman at the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England. The first, Dr. Denise Allen (now of Andover Museum), entitled her lecture Pompeii 1748 - 1998: 250 Years of Archaeological Evolution. This was a fascinating study of the history and methodology of archaeology at this famous site rather than a topographical tour of the remains. The second speaker was Dr. Bob Bewley, Head of Aerial Survey at RCHME. His lecture, Aerial Survey and Roman Archaeology: New Discoveries, covered recent work in Britain, illustrated with stunning slides, then continued with recent discoveries made during international projects in Hungary and Jordan.
SPECIAL BOOKS OFFER
TO ARA MEMBERS

HADRIAN'S WALL is a modern guide to Britain's most dramatic – and most visited – Roman monument. This indispensable guide-book concludes with a list of dates, a glossary and a summary of all the key sources. The author – Guy de la Bédoyère – is a historian and archaeologist who has written six books on Roman Britain and has recently presented a BBC Radio 4 series on Roman Britain, one programme of which was exclusively devoted to Hadrian's Wall.

FISHBOURNE ROMAN PALACE – The up-to-date account, by the excavator, of King Togidubnus' monumental palace. The discovery of the site of a Roman palace and its garden at Fishbourne, near Chichester, remains the most important event in Romano-British archaeology over the last half-century. Since its original excavation, the author Barry Cunliffe has kept in close contact with work on the site and more is now known about the building itself and about its place in the development of Roman Britain. Professor Cunliffe describes the whole story of the historic excavation, unfolding the history of the site from the early military beginnings down to the final destruction of the palace by fire.

WROXETER – Life & Death of a Roman City is the story of one of Britain's best-preserved but least-known archaeological sites. The 'Old Work', the largest fragment of a Roman civilian building still standing in Britain, is a spectacular landmark which points to the site of Wroxeter Roman City, between medieval Shrewsbury and modern Telford. The book contains over 100 illustrations (many in full colour) and is a lively and authoritative account of the rise and fall of this great city. Dr. Roger White is the archaeologist on the team that recently conducted a four-year study of Wroxeter and its hinterland. Philip Barker was for 25 years Director of Excavations of the baths basilica site, generally acknowledged as one of the most technically brilliant ever undertaken in Britain.

HADRIAN'S WALL – Guy de la Bédoyère
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