Cover picture and Fig. 1: The Fishbourne marble head (see article on page 8).

Photo: © Grahame Soffe.
Snippets

A ROMAN HARBOUR DISCOVERED AT WROXETER

A man-made rectangular harbour, constructed between the river and the city ramparts, has been discovered at Wroxeter in Shropshire. The shape of the harbour, measuring approximately 150 by 80 metres, was revealed after torrential rains flooded the area. River transport was important in the area and is thought to have supplied a string of villas north-west of Wroxeter and along the Severn and its tributaries.

Meanwhile, in Wroxeter itself, excavations have taken place along the line of a new water pipeline running north/south through the site of the town. As expected, evidence of Roman buildings has been found, together with some artefacts which include fragments of glass. The archaeological deposits were in stratified layers up to two metres deep, proving the longevity of the town, now thought to have survived into the 7th-century.

British Archaeology - December '99

"Roughly translated, it says: 'DANGER, 12th Legion training area, slings and arrows firing.' "

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SNIPPPETS

THREAT TO CIVILIAN SETTLEMENT OF ROMAN CAERLEON

Controversial plans to build a national rugby centre for Wales on the site of the civilian settlement of the fortress of Caerleon have led to protests and to the digging of sixty exploratory trenches to assess the potential damage to the remains and to determine the actual extent of the vicus.

Guardian 01.12.99

FIRST CENTURY GOLD COIN HOARD DISCOVERED

A fabulous hoard of 123 gold coins, over half of which are in mint condition, has been found near Shefford in Bedfordshire. The hoard seems to have been buried as an offering to the gods in a Celtic temple precinct about AD 79. The temple was near to the tribal centre of the pro-Roman Catuvellauni at Ravens- burgh. It is thought that the offering was made by Amninius – the last king of the Catuvellauni – or his son, and demonstrates the extraordinary wealth of some of the pro-Roman British rulers and the financial benefits that the invasion brought to them. The hoard has been bought by Luton Museum and will go on display there next year.

Independent 23.08.99

ROMAN SILVER HOARD DISCOVERED

Britain’s largest Roman silver coin hoard has been found by detectorists in Shapwick, Somerset. The 9,777 coins, spanning 31 BC to AD 272 – 235, were declared ‘Treasure Trove’ last month. Excavations by Somerset County Council suggest the site was a large courtyard villa.

British Archaeology - Dec ’99

GERALD BRODRIBB MA PhD FSA (1915 – 1999)

We have been saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Gerald Brodrribb, a loyal member and friend of the ARA. A number of members were priviledged to spend a day being guided around the Beauport Park bath-house by Gerald last year (see ARA 6). His friend and colleague Dr. Henry Cleere OBE, former Director of the Council for British Archaeology and now Consultant to the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), has contributed the following obituary.

Following the publication in 1987 of Roman Brick and Tile, excavators of Roman sites could no longer discard tile fragments as being useless for interpretation purposes. This small volume was the work of Gerald Brodrribb, who died in October at the age of 84, and was based on his PhD dissertation at the London Institute of Archaeology.

Its author read classics and English at Oxford and went on to teach at several public schools, before becoming in 1954 headmaster of the preparatory school near Hastings that he had attended as a schoolboy. His first passion was for cricket, and he wrote some thirty books on his beloved game, a number of which have become classics of the genre. It was as a distinguished historian of cricket that he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. However, early on he became interested in archaeology, concentrating his attention on the Roman ironworking site at Beauport Park, near Battle. Assiduous fieldwork with his divining rods suggested the presence of a substantial building in an area destined to become part of the new Hastings golf-course. A sympathetic JCB driver was prevailed upon to open up a small trench, which confirmed Gerald’s findings, and the authorities agreed to the removal of this area from the golf-course. The subsequent excavation in the late 1960s revealed a remarkably well preserved bath-house, one of the most complete Roman buildings in Britain.

During the excavation Gerald became fascinated by the thousands of tile fragments, nearly two thousand of them stamped with the CL BR insignia of the Classis Britannica and every one of which he recorded, classified, and published in several learned papers. This led to a broader study of brick and tile, extending over most of the Roman Empire, and a deeper appreciation of the information that these humble building materials can yield.

A proposal by the then DoE Ancient Monuments Directorate to take the site into Guardianship fell through owing to the commitment of its entire funds to Fountains Abbey, and it was never renewed. With the help of many faithful volunteers, Gerald arranged for a “temporary” cover to be erected over the building (in the early 1970s) and to ensure that it remained weatherproof. It is sad that he did not live to see the erection of a more permanent structure and the provision of interpretation facilities, the objective of the Beauport Park Archaeological Trust, of which he was a founder member. The Trust is intensifying its efforts to achieve this goal, so that the bath-house can stand as a fitting memorial to an exceptional personality.

ARA Issue Eight Page 3
With kind permission of the farmer, Mr. Jack Clifton, a third phase of the Kent Archaeological Society training excavation at the Abbey Farm site, near Minster on the Isle of Thanet, was carried out between the 22nd August and 4th September 1998.

The year’s excavations exposed a bath-house with a hypocaust system, and an internal latrine with a long sluice leading into a field ditch, see Rooms 20 – 27 in Fig. 1. It was not, as first supposed, a western extension to the west wing of the villa, but a separate building, connected to the villa’s outer corridor by a short piece of masonry, perhaps a buttress. Also revealed was a southern apsidal extension from the end of the west wing. This will require further work in a subsequent phase of excavation.

Another discovery was that the villa had an inner corridor running around the courtyard formed by the east and west wings and main range. This seems to have been pierced by an outer gate and a porch, the two connected by a gravel path. On comparison between the foundation plan in the Spring 1998 issue of ARA and that shown here, it will be seen that a slight east-west splaying of the two wings has been adjusted. This had resulted from the destruction of the 1996 ‘permanent’ buried datum point, its replacement in 1997 incurring the error. Relocating the east wing foundations exposed in 1996 allowed the correction to be made.

Although very little of the main building remains unexcavated, it is still much too early to theorise about the chronology of the villa, and the evident phases of construction, demolition, and reconstruction. The processing of the considerable body of materials, ceramics, glassware, fragments of mosaic, painted plaster and small finds is under way. This task is being undertaken by members of Thanet Archaeological Society, and only on its completion can we obtain specialist opinion on the dating of finds from the various contexts.

The Villa infrastructure

With an eye to future excavation, some machine time during the backfilling operation was devoted to trial trenching to the north and south of the villa building. To the north, the crushed chalk foundation of the villa...
compound boundary wall was traced by sectioning for 65 m. Some 64 m north of this on a line with Building 2, further trenching revealed pits and a length of ditch yielding Belgic pot sherds. During field-walking about 200 m south-east of the villa and 30 m west of Bedlam Court Lane, a concentration of large flints was observed. Over this a short trench was cut down to subsoil, exposing a mortar floor, and building debris including pilae. These remains are provisionally designated as Building 4.

**Summary**

Mr. Jack Clifton has given his consent for further excavations in 1999 in an August – September crop window. Two small areas of the villa remain unexcavated, and trenching has revealed enough of the infrastructure for a fourth phase in the investigation of the site to be planned, including the immediate surroundings of the villa, Building 4, and the Belgic or Romano-British remains to the north. Processing of finds and samples from the villa site now being well underway, post-extraction work for an archive and publication can be planned and commenced.

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**A FOURTH CENTURY MOSAIC IN DANGER AT BIGNOR**

*by Anthony Beeson*

The condition of one of the famous mosaics at Bignor is giving cause for great concern. The floor in Room 6 of the north wing is a high quality geometric mosaic which has survived intact and unrestored down to the present time. Unfortunately, the combination of a faulty field drain beyond the north wall and subsidence into an earlier archaeological feature has resulted in an alarming deterioration of the floor. Voids have opened up beneath the tesserae, to such an extent that in some places the surface appears to be rippled. The dampness has also led to salt efflorescence on these surfaces. The Tupper family, who own the site, asked David Neal and Steve Cosh to examine the floor and to prepare and submit a report to English Heritage. This has now been done and it is hoped that before long a decision will be made concerning the mosaic’s future. As a temporary measure a mesh cover has been erected over the mosaic in order to protect it from the clipboards and other projectiles beloved of school parties.
RECENT WORK ON THE Newton St Loe Orpheus Mosaic

by Anthony Beeson

All the identified fragments of the central roundel of the Newton St Loe Orpheus mosaic have recently been assembled for the first time since the late 1930s. This and other mosaics were discovered in 1837 on a site near Bath during the construction of the Great Western Railway, and were, until recently, thought to be beyond restoration until a team from ASPROM (Association for the Study and Preservation of Roman Mosaics), led by the author, cleaned and sorted the many hundreds of pieces. A full account of the sad history of the mosaics following their excavation, together with ASPROM’s work to retrieve them, has been fully chronicled both in the ARA Bulletin and elsewhere (see bibliography).

The pavement originally depicted Orpheus with a fox in a central roundel, playing on a kithara whilst surrounded by an outer circle of unparadigm beasts. ASPROM’s previous work concentrated on retrieving the animals, resulting in the display of the stag and the bear in Bristol Museum. Unfortunately, as the store in which the pieces are kept is in constant use, and there is no area where the fragments can be laid out on a permanent basis, any work done on this mammoth jigsaw puzzle has to be packed away after each session - a frustrating and time consuming procedure. Recently David Neal and Steve Cosh visited Bristol to photograph the pieces for their corpus of Romano-British mosaics. This exciting project intends to illustrate with drawings and photographs every Roman mosaic discovered in this country. The author was asked to assist in the re-assembly of the mosaic fragments so far identified, and the opportunity was afforded to assemble all the fragments of Orpheus previously identified but never actually placed together. It should be stressed that more pieces of all the figures are likely to survive amongst the hundreds of unidentified fragments in the storage pallets than are illustrated here. The fragments are now all of different thicknesses so they were laid out on a sand bed in order to level them. It was remarkable how well the pieces fitted together and just how much survived. The greatest loss so far appears to have been suffered by the upper part of Orpheus’ body. The figure itself is the most colourful depiction of Orpheus to survive in Britain with a tunic of white, green, yellow and red.

There was no time on this occasion to search for more pieces of the guilloche border or the plain background behind the figure, but had there been, the roundel would appear more complete than it does in the photograph. Damage to the mosaic from fire is evident from the blackening of the kithara strings and a change of colour from ochre to pink on the kithara’s soundbox. Although there has been a loss of tesserae from the edges of many of the fragments, we know, from the tracing done by Thomas Marsh when the floor was first discovered, both their shape and colour so it would not be difficult to restore them. This latest work on the Orpheus mosaic has shown that it would be perfectly feasible for the entire floor to be re-assembled (perhaps on a sand bed) but in order to achieve this, space must first be made available where the pieces can be laid out and left whilst they are sorted and fitted.

Bibliography


Fig. 1. Fragments from the central roundel of the Newton St Loe mosaic showing Orpheus and his kithara. The leaping fox can be seen on the right.

Photo: © Anthony Beeson.
**COLUMN RE-ERECTED IN BATH**

An impressive twelve foot high column which may have been part of the putative tholos (a circular columned temple) in the religious precinct at Bath has recently been re-erected in the Roman Baths Museum.

The column has been placed next to the fragments of the elaborately carved frieze which is also believed to come from the circular tholos building. The three existing column drums which include the base, are unfurled. They have been moved from a series of eighteenth century vaults which are on the site of the presumed tholos to the north of the eastern baths. As one drum was missing, a new one has been made in Bath stone to complete the entasis (vertical curvature for perspective appearance) of the original shaft.

*Contributed by Anthony Beeson*

**A CUTTING PLEA!**

ARA Members are invited to send press cuttings from local and national newspapers concerning Roman matters (indicating date and source) to the Hon. Archivist, Anthony Beeson, care of The Art Library, Central Library, College Green, Bristol, BS1 5TL.

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**THE COMPLETE HADRIAN’S WALL**

A high quality week-long tour of this best preserved of Roman frontier systems led by the noted Roman archaeologist Dr. David Mason FSA. Enquiries from societies, groups or individuals to: Dr. David Mason FSA, Ochr Cottage, Porch Lane, Hope Mountain, Caergwle, Flintshire, LL12 9HG. Tel: 01978 760834.
One of the most remarkable objects found in the 1960s' excavation of the Roman palace at Fishbourne is a life-size white marble portrait head of a boy aged between 10 and 13, of Claudian date (fig. 1 and cover photo). It was part of a bust or possibly even a statue, for nearly a fragment of torso was also found. The first point that needs to be made is that marble sculpture from Roman Britain is extremely rare, particularly as there was no indigenous tradition of carving imported marble, and pieces must have been brought in ready-made from Italy. Secondly, this is an extremely early example and a strong case has been made for its being a portrait of the client king Tiberius Claudius Togidubnus (or Cogidubnus), who is styled on the temple inscription found at Chichester ‘Great King in Britain’. The building of the first phase of the palace and the later Flavian palace can be attributed to Togidubnus, even if we accept the recently suggested later dating for the main palace phase. The physiognomy of the head is probably British but marble carving was unknown in Britain and the style of execution is Roman; it seems likely that the portrait was made in Rome, where with other future client kings, Togidubnus (although of British stock), was brought up before being installed in Britain after AD 43 as Verica’s successor and fundamental agent for Romanisation in the new province. Perhaps it was sculpted on the occasion of his receiving Roman citizenship from Claudius and achieving the toga virilis at the age of 13. Another possibility is that the head belongs to a son or nephew of Togidubnus, and the recent discovery of a 1st-century gold ring at Fishbourne bearing the name Tiberius Claudius Catusurus, brings to light another member of the ruling family, for possession of such a ring implies Equestrian status at the very least. This fragmentary head is extremely important therefore in being our earliest portrait of a native Briton, who was also a high-ranking Roman citizen.

Fishbourne is situated at the head of the most easterly channel of Chichester Harbour, which, with the harbours of Langstone and Portsmouth, west of Hayling Island, together with Southampton Water and the Solent, make up the Magnus Portus which played such a key role in the events of AD 43 and after. It must therefore be significant that at Bosham, at the head of the next channel just over a mile to the west, two other marble sculptures have been found amidst another complex of buildings of great interest but not well known. What little dating evidence survives seems to span the whole Roman period. Most of the structures were found in the 19th century, although excavations in 1967 and 1976 provide more reliable evidence. The main concentration of sites lies on the Bosham Stream at Broadbridge Mill and immediately south of it on either side of the main Roman coastal road from Chichester to Havant, Wickham and Winchester. Less than a mile upstream at Ratham Mill a Romano-Celtic temple has been identified by air photography and less than a mile downstream, under the famous Anglo-Saxon church and associated settlement on the Bosham peninsula, other traces of Roman buildings have been found.

The first of the Bosham sculptures, another life-size marble portrait head, was found in c.1851 during the digging of foundations for a new mill-house at Broadbridge. After a period when it was exposed to the weather and even painted, it came into the possession of the local antiquary Edward Heron-Allen, whose restoration of it included mounting it in a modern green marble draped bust. It was eventually presented to the British Museum in 1901. When the head was first brought to scholarly attention in 1910 it was at once recognised as a portrait of a prominent member of the Julio-Claudian dynasty, probably Germanicus. Since then there has been a suggestion that it was a Grand Tour import which had strayed from some large country house in the neighbourhood, and was perhaps not even ancient – an Italian classicising piece of the 17th century. However, it is clear there are no grounds for these suggestions, and close scrutiny of the evidence and a photograph of the head taken in c.1909 before it was restored (fig. 2) shows that it is indeed an antiquity. A recent attribution to Germanicus’s son, the
emperor (Galius) Caligula, is unlikely and on grounds of physiognomy it is almost certainly a head of Germanicus, made shortly after his early death in AD 19. Two good parallels are a statue in the Louvre which was associated with a statue of Tiberius and colossal head of Claudius, and another in the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek, Copenhagen. The latter has, like our Bosham example, a portion of the back of the head which appears ‘sliced off’ with the surface roughly picked and a round dowel hole in the middle to support a stucco ‘patch’. In fact, examples of this technique are not unknown in high status statues of the 1st century and it also occurs on the Fishbourne head. It probably indicates little more than a shortage of suitable marble. It seems likely that this statue, made before AD 43, was brought into Togidubnus’s kingdom not long after that date. The memory of Germanicus was venerated throughout the 1st century and the emperor Claudius (who was Germanicus’s younger brother) eventually married his daughter Agrippina the Younger in AD 49.

Our third marble head (figs. 3 and 4), now housed in Chichester Museum, was dug up some time before 1804 in Bosham churchyard or in the adjacent vicarage garden. It is clearly the head from a colossal statue of an emperor, being 50 cms high – about twice life-size. After its discovery it suffered a chequered history, finding its way into the garden of the Episcopal Palace at Chichester. This would account for its much weathered features which have led to a suggestion, unlikely in our opinion, that the head arrived as ballast in an ancient cargo. The colossal head is closely similar to a head of Trajan from Ostia (fig. 5), regarded as one of the finest of all imperial portraits and exactly the same size as our Bosham head. Like it, it was probably a posthumous work set up early in the reign of Hadrian who came to Britain in 122 and may have landed at the Magnus Portus. Hadrian himself is the subject of a bronze head, probably of Romano-British manufacture, found in the Thames at London Bridge, but this fine but now battered marble from Bosham was clearly an import from Italy, forming part of a colossal statue set up, presumably at or very near Bosham.

What then was the archaeological context for our two Bosham sculptured heads? The find-spot of the Germanicus head is in the centre of an area of Roman-period activity including evidence of masonry and timber buildings and at least one temple. The immediate area of Bosham church, where the Trajan head was found, has long been known for its Roman associations, with a tradition that the chancel stands on the site of a 4th-century Christian ‘basilica’. Documentary evidence shows that Bosham became the site of an extremely early monastery in the 7th century and an enormous and rich Anglo-Saxon minster and later royal estate used it as a Channel port in the events leading up to the Norman Conquest of 1066. But returning to the archaeological evidence for Roman structures, the pre-Conquest fabric of the church contains re-used Roman bricks and tiles, including the very large bipedalis and tydion bricks, and also blocks of Ditrupa limestone from the Paris Basin, a stone also used for some of the columns at the Fishbourne Roman palace. Under the north wall of the church recent excavations have also revealed fragments of Roman tile, opus signinum and painted wall plaster. The most telling recent discovery in the vicinity of the church must be that of a life-size thumb probably from a Roman imperial bronze statue (fig. 6), a reminder of the life-size bronze arm (fig. 7) found just east of
Although sadly, apart from the Fishbourne head, none of this sculpture was found in an undoubted archaeological context under modern conditions, it does show that Bosham must have been, like Fishbourne and the temple complex on Hayling Island, an important centre for Rome and her allies in the decades following AD 43. More precise evidence of actual remains, whether of a major headquarters or a palatial villa, must await future archaeological excavation. After the death of Togidubnus, perhaps early in Trajan’s reign, the lands of the Atrebates naturally took their place as the most Roman area of Roman Britain, local administration being in the hands of the local gentry in Chichester, Winchester and Silchester. This was very much the type of peaceful, provincial society which Hadrian regarded as the ideal for the Roman Empire. It is not surprising to see the veneration of

the Domus Divina (as shown by the 1st-century inscriptions from Chichester and the pediment of the Bath temple) continuing here.

Note: An expanded version of this article will appear elsewhere.

Acknowledgements: Su Fullwood (Chichester Museum) and Debbie Day for their encouragement.

Bibliography

Snippets

ROMAN WOODEN COFFINS FOUND INTACT

London archaeologists working at Atlantic House on the western bank of the river Fleet outside the Roman Newgate, have discovered a cemetery containing two intact oak coffins. Preserved by the wet conditions of the area, they were of simple construction, consisting of planks merely butted together. Although wooden coffins were widely used in Roman Britain, it is a remarkable occurrence to discover one intact.

Archaeology Matter No. 7 – October ’99

PART OF AGRIPPINA’S VILLA FOUND NEAR THE TIBER

Excavations for a giant underground car park at the Vatican have been suspended following the discovery of a garden pavilion thought to belong to the villa of Agrippina the Elder. The ten foot high wall is covered with paintings of birds and flowers as well as stylised architecture. Multicoloured slabs of marble found on the floor are thought to have fallen from upper rooms. The first-century building is believed to have been extended in the second.

Times 18.09.99
On the 28th March over 70 members attended a walk-about in Bath, escorted in two groups by Peter Davenport and Marek Lewcun of the Bath Archaeological Trust. By holding the event early in the year it was hoped to avoid any major influx of tourists, but, needless to say, the place was surprisingly busy, reflecting the cosmopolitan interest in this gem of a city.

The walk concentrated on the perimeter of the Roman walled ‘enclosure’. I say ‘enclosure’ because Bath, or Aquae Sulis, is no ordinary Roman town, but something rather special. It is unique among the towns of Roman Britain as its prosperity relied very much on its visitors, not unlike the situation today, with pilgrims attending the natural hot springs and temple of Sulis Minerva. This effectively makes the site a vast and complex religious temenos rather than a Romano-British town in the usual sense, with the more residential and commercial centres ranged along the interconnecting roads to Roman town. This draws upwards of a million visitors each year, making Bath one of the most popular visitor attractions of the Roman Empire.

We are planning a return visit to Bath in September 2000 for the Annual Dinner. This suggestion has received an enormous response from members with the majority offering to attend in Roman costume. See separate insert for further information on this special event.
DISCOVERY OF A ROMAN FORT AT SYNDALE 
NEAR FAVERSHAM IN KENT

by Paul Wilkinson

"On top of Judds Hill, 900 yards west of the Maison Dieu at Ospringe, the mutilated remains of a bank and ditch formerly enclosing an oblong area of about 400 feet from north to south and 480 feet from east to west (i.e. about 4½ acres) adjoins Watling Street on its southern side. In the south-western quarter of the enclosure stands Syndale House, and generations of gardeners have played havoc with the earthworks."

In 1938, with their usual dryness, the editors of the Victoria County History wrote all that was known on the above site. In September 1999, the Kent Archaeological Field School led by Dr. Paul Wilkinson excavated three sections across what was hoped would be the rampart and ditch of a Roman fort. Preliminary geophysical work had been done by Malcolm Davies, and his print-outs showed a multitude of features strung along the Roman Watling Street at Syndale, (which does not follow the same route as the modern A2). One of these features suggested a Roman fort of some 4 acres.

By the end of the first day of excavation it was apparent that, indeed, we had a Roman fort of about 4 acres capable of holding a cohors millitaria, a unit thought of as 1,000 men but usually of about 800. The rampart, 5 metres wide was of puddled clay and still survived to a height of 1.50 metres. The rampart sloped down to a ditch which is some 16 metres away. This ditch was excavated and found to be 1.68 metres deep ending in a small square slot some 22 cm wide. This is the proverbial "ankle-breaker" renowned in antiquity. This small square channel makes it easier to clean out with a shovel, and increases its effectiveness as an obstacle; it is almost impossible for a man standing in this channel, which compels him to have both feet parallel to the axis of the ditch, to climb out. The ditch was v-shaped or, as Hyginus calls it "fastigated".

Two sections were excavated, 10 metres apart, and survey showed that both sections of the ditch exactly matched each other in dimensions. The lower part of the ditch had infilled with alluvial sand, and only three pieces of pottery were found in this context. However, the top third of the ditch was filled by an earth, charcoal and pottery mix some 78 cm deep. The pottery is consistent with the period of the Claudian invasion in AD 43.

The indication is that the fort and ditch were built before the Roman Watling Street. Excavation of a section to the north of the fort appears to show that the defensive ditch is under Watling Street. However, further work is needed on this aspect as the Roman Watling Street was destroyed by this point by deep trenching in 1996 to lay a gas pipeline.

Malcolm Davies and members of his team, aided by students from the Kent Archaeological Field School, removed the turf from a 10 metre square inside the fort and found post-holes immediately below the turf, some of which were "bottomed out" with oyster shells. The fill from one of these post-holes produced a sherd of plain Samian ware. Lying on this Roman surface was the almost complete handle of a Dressel 20 amphora and this, with amphora sherds picked up just outside the fort, confirms Malcolm Lyne's note in 1996 (talking about Syndale) that "it is clear that the inhabitants of Faversham had access to unusually large numbers of such containers." David Miles (pers. comm.) has suggested that large numbers of amphora sherds on a site usually indicate a military presence. Apart from the post-holes, some of which indicate at least one rectangular or square building at right angles to the ramparts, the metalled road was also exposed. This is the via praetoria leading to the porta praetoria, which at Syndale seems to be a titulus entrance. The interior of the fort had been levelled. The natural slope of the hill was to the north, and this end of the fort interior had been raised in the Roman period by adding about a metre of topsoil above the natural greensand. The interior of the fort has never been ploughed so offers a unique opportunity to preserve the
layout of an early Roman fort in Kent. The fort, adjacent to the later Watling Street, dominated the surrounding area, and had access to the sea via Oare Creek. Further research may show that it was situated inside a fortified Iron-Age township.

The finding of the fort, along with the geophysical data, the known Roman cemeteries and the Roman standing monument at Stone Chapel confirms that this could be the lost Roman town of Durolevum.

Professor Rivet in 1980 suggests that Duro- is a 'specifically Belgic linguistic peculiarity', and ascribes its appearance in Britain to the Belgic migration recorded by Caesar. Professors Frere and Rivet in 1971 suggested that Duro- names were transferred to Roman towns from
neighbouring comparatively short-lived forts of the early Roman period.

The geophysical survey by Malcolm Davies has also recorded large features to the east of the fort, and future investigation may reveal a mansio building as used by the Roman Imperial post system. These inns for state use were spaced some 25 miles apart along major Roman roads. One is known to exist at the Roman town of Dover (25 miles to the east of Syndale) and at the Roman town of Springhead (25 miles to the west). The system, organised by Augustus, was composed of relays of posting-carriages travelling between mansioes and covering about 50 miles in an ordinary day's journey. These posting stations tended to develop into villages or small towns providing hotels, baths, shops, etc., and form a definite class of Roman settlement, of which Durolevum may be one.

Postscript.
Spot dating by Dr. Malcolm Lyne of pottery retrieved from the silt infill layers of trenches one and two confirms the Claudian date. Dr. Lyne reports, "the pottery from the ditch is almost certainly Pre-Flavian and would fit in with a Claudian date for the fort."

**ARBEIA ROMAN FORT AND MUSEUM**
Reprinted from Tyne & Wear Museums Report for the Year 1998-99

Much of this year has been spent on preparations for major new developments at the Fort. There are now detailed proposals for reconstructions of a third century barrack block and part of the late Roman courtyard house which probably provided accommodation for the commander and his household in the fourth century. The cost of this work will be £1.2 million and most of the funding will come from the SRB and ERDF. Provided the statutory consents can be obtained, work will start in July 1999 and should be completed by the end of 2001.

This is an exciting development which, together with the current programme of re-examination and display, will transform the site. Work has continued on the enhancement of the existing displays: an armoury for the re-enactment group Quinta has been installed in the West Gate and the ringmail shirt has been displayed in the Museum. Improvements have been made to Time Quest, including the installation of scientific equipment funded by COBUS.

Visitor figures showed a record rise of 20% to 86,880. This is probably accounted for by increased marketing, the success of the Hadrian’s Wall Tourism Partnership, the new excavations and the high profile of Arbeia in the media.

**The 1998 excavations**
Excavation continued in the south-eastern quadrant of the fort, with external sponsorship received from the Earthwatch Institute and the Arbeia Society. Approximately 80 volunteers, from the US and elsewhere, were accommodated in South Shields and participated in the excavations.

Excavation of Barrack II (c. AD 222 – c. AD 300) was completed, revealing much about the living arrangements of the soldiers of the Fifth Cohort of Gauls. Circular areas of burnt clay partly recessed into the centre of the front wall of each living-room previously described as hearths, more probably represent a regular provision of small bread ovens for the preparation of food by each mess-unit of eight soldiers.

The external doors of the barrack swung on pivots (as demonstrated by a pivot stone in situ); finds of hooks and bands showed that the internal doors leading from the passages into the front and rear rooms were hung on iron hinges.

Hearths for cooking and heating were located in the rear rooms. Such detailed knowledge will be invaluable if plans to reconstruct the building to full scale proceed.

The deposits accumulated in one of the hearths produced a lead sealing from the property of an Emperor of a later period than Septimius Severus, showing that Arbeia continued to be a base for military supply after Severus' death in 211. Continued study of the fierce fire in which this barrack was destroyed has pointed to the conclusion that enemy action must have been responsible.

Excavation of the street between the back of Barrack II and the granaries to the north-west continued. A short length of flat-bottomed ditch had been dug to impede access to the granaries of the supply-base from the...
accommodation area of the Fort. A wall which may have served the same function was discovered blocking entry to a street between two granaries. Thus the barracks (and the pilfering soldiers?) were physically partitioned from the granaries.

Work also began on a new three-year project of excavation granted by the Heritage Lottery Fund in advance of re-consolidation in the central part of the Fort (the old 'Roman Remains park' area). The north end of Granary C7 was located for the first time. Work has now proceeded to what is possibly a workshop.

Although the area has been excavated twice before (in 1875 and 1949–53), many archaeological deposits survive undisturbed, and the workshop contains much pottery and a series of well-preserved hearths. Part of a bone covering for a sword scabbard was found during work here; remarkably, it joins a fragment discovered in 1875 (and cared for in the Roman Fort collection ever since) to form the complete item.

An amusing discovery this year was an engraved gem from a fingerring: such gems are usually carved with an image of a goddess or hero, but this one was just that little bit different – it had a shrimp on it instead. Another intriguing find was an enamelled brooch in the shape of an eagle, which is the exact mirror image of one we found a few years back, raising the possibility that they were once a matching pair.

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**ARA FIELD EXCURSION EVENTS IN 1999**

*by Grahame Soffe*

This year's programme was launched on 28th March with a guided tour of Roman Bath led by members of the Bath Archaeological Trust, Peter Davenport (Director) and Marek Lewcun. The tour included a perambulation of the line of the city rampart and the wall inserted in front of it after the end of the 2nd century, and a visit to the excavations on the Spa Development Site, Beau Street, in the south-western quadrant of the Roman walled area. This has revealed massive stone public buildings with hypocausts of mid- to late 2nd-century date on the same alignment as the Temple and Great Baths. They were probably part of the Roman complex of buildings associated with the Cross Bath Spring and the Hot Bath Spring. After lunch members visited the Great Baths, Temple and Museum.

The Annual Fund-Raising Dinner and Field Excursion was based at the Stakis Hotel, near Arundel, West Sussex, over the weekend of 29th / 30th May. The guest lecturer was Dr. Martin Henig of Oxford University who spoke on *King Togidubnus of Fishbourne*. The Sunday tour of the Fishbourne Roman Palace and Museum was led by its Director, David Rudkin who included a fascinating account of the recent excavations to the East of the main palace buildings. At the Chichester District Museum and Guildhall Museum, Su Fullwood (Principal Curator) and Simon Kitchin showed the collections (including several new finds) associated with Roman Chichester and Martin Henig discussed the monumental sculpture and inscriptions. Later, several members visited Bignor Roman villa and reviewed recent conservation problems with the owners Mr. and Mrs. Jack Tupper, Tom Tupper and the Custodian, Gerry Compton. They also visited the excavations being carried out by David Rudling of the University College London Field Archaeology Unit.

The summer Tour of Roman Cumbria was based at Newton Rigg College, Penrith, and took place from 30th July to 2nd August. About a hundred members took part. We are grateful to the college staff, especially Janet Rowbury, for making us so welcome and comfortable. The tour was led by Percival Turnbull of the
Brigantia Archaeological Practice and former Assistant County Archaeologist for Cumbria, and Deborah Walsh (also of BAP), assisted by Don Flear, Janet Teague and Grahame Soffe. Dr. David Shotter of Lancaster University gave the keynote lecture on Roman Cumbria, emphasising the complicated history of Roman military occupation in an area with a rich and varied native agricultural economy. The tour started with visits to the Roman forts at Brough Castle (Verterae) and Brougham Castle (Brocawum), passing Kirkby Thorpe fort and Crackenhorpe and Warcop camps en route, and included the new Brougham visitor centre containing inscriptions from the site. At Old Penrith fort (Vorada) the sites of the vicus and marching camps were also seen, and at Birdoswald fort on Hadrian’s Wall, Tony Wilmott, English Heritage’s Archaeological Project Director, gave a talk on the recent excavations. This was followed by a visit to Banks Turret (T52A) on Hadrian’s Wall and the large and well displayed Roman collections at the Tullie House Museum, Carlisle. The second day was devoted to sites on the West Coast. Here Percival Turnbull guided members round his own excavation of Milefortlet 21 at Swarthy Hill, the structures of which have recently been partly reconstructed. Three miles to the south at Alnuna fort, Maryport, members examined the large and fine collection of inscriptions and other Roman material at the Senhouse Museum. Maryport was followed by two more forts further south, at Moresby and Ravenglass, and it was at the latter that members toured the upstanding remains of the extremely well preserved military bath-house (Walls Castle), recently conserved by English Heritage. The day ended with the Gosforth Cross, one of the finest Viking sculptured monuments in Britain, and the hogback Warrior’s Tomb and Saint’s Tomb in Gosforth Church, also of early 10th-century date. The final morning was devoted to an upland hike over the extensive remains of the Romano-British settlement and field enclosures of Ewe Close near Crosby Ravensworth. This completed a varied tour taking in some magnificent scenery, with fine, dry weather.

The AGM was held as usual at Oxford University’s Rewley House, by special arrangement with the Department of Continuing Education, on 4th September. David Ridgus was elected to the Board and replaced Dorothy Lawson as Minutes Secretary. Sue Jones and James Letham were confirmed as the new Membership Secretariat to relieve Don Flear (Treasurer) of those duties. Bryn Walters and Anthony Beeson were re-elected to the Board. The meeting also discussed the distribution and return of the new publicity/membership leaflet in advancing the ARA membership. Following lunch, the Symposium was devoted to two illustrated lectures. The first speaker, Francis Grew (Museum of London), brought members up to date with the latest discoveries, research and thinking on the development of Roman London. The second, Dr. David Neal, described his continuing work with his colleague Stephen Cosh on the Corpus of Roman Mosaics in Britain, the first volume of which is now completed and ready for publication.