

The RAG

IN THIS ISSUE

Vesunna Gallo-Roman Town, Villa and Museum 2—3

Glenys Wootton

Claudius' Invasion Route to Britain in AD 43: Consulting the Tides 3—5

Mark Siford

Ireland: A Proud Celtic Tradition or Another Notch In The Belt Of The Romans? 6—7

Brid Phillips

Jerash Hinterland Survey 2008 8—9

Ann Boyer

The Perth Casts of the Parthenon Ionic Frieze—An Update 10—11

Kevin O'Toole



What can a façade in Beaufort Street tell us about the Parthenon?

See page 11

Ancient Rome: Virtually Around the Corner

Google Earth is now offering Ancient Rome, allowing users to locate and view over 6,700 buildings in the ancient capital by use of over 250 place marks. Below is one of the many views on the Google site of the Coliseum.



Google has used as its basis for the site the *Plastico de Roma Antico* a scale model of the city built between 1933 and 1974 and located in Rome's Museum of Roman Civilization.

3D virtual images of the presumed interiors of buildings (as below) are also displayed on the site.



And virtual reality has also come to tours of Rome. '3D Rewind Rome' opened in November. It combines animation and virtual game technology to reproduce scenes of life in the ancient city in AD 310 during the reign of Maxentius. It uses some 60,000 different characters. The programme includes a virtual 3D model of the city designed by archaeologists,

historians and computing technologists. The virtual tour is shown at 5 Via Capo d'Africa, a location near the Coliseum.

No doubt, as computing technology continues to progress, more and better opportunities will be created to facilitate a more real sense of the scale, proportions and aesthetics of the ancient capital.

In the meantime new archaeological discoveries that will feed into the data for such developments continue to be made.

A recent example comes from the Isle of Wight.

The Brading site on the Isle of Wight has been famous for a long time for its Roman remains and it has again come into prominence by the discovery of another Roman villa, this one dated to c.AD 300. The site of the villa had been explored in the 1880's but research was abandoned in the belief that the visible remains were of a mere barn. The discovery has been compared in importance to the West Sussex sites: the villa at Bignor and the palace at Fishbourne.

It has been speculated that the villa may have been that of Allectus reputed to have murdered and thereby replaced Carausius self styled 'Emperor of Britain', in AD293.

(Ed.)



Brading Site Mosaic discovered in 1879
Photo Clare Molden

Vesunna Gallo-Roman Town, Villa and Museum

Glenys Wootton



Dr Glenys (Glen) Wootton is a Lecturer and Tutor in the Discipline of Classics & Ancient History, UWA. Her field is Roman Imperial History.

This article results from a trip to France in July 2008, where, after two weeks in pursuit of “Le Tour” we passed a wonderful time in southwest France in the Perigord Noir, in the medieval bastide town of Belvès. Belvès is in the vicinity of the national forest of Bessède, the site of Caesar’s camp referred to in Book 1 of the *De Bello Gallico*. On a day trip to modern Périgueux we discovered its Gallo-Roman predecessor, Vesunna, one of the great cities of the province of Aquitania.

"This site must be protected and preserved with nobility, clarity and the sensibility of today's culture".

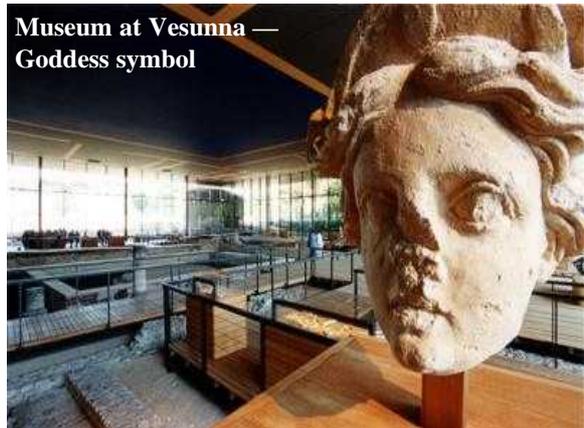
Jean Nouvel

Architect of the Vesunna Museum



Aerial View: The Vesunna Tower and Museum (just behind)

Vesunna was founded by the Romans in the late first century BC and was the capital of the *civitas Petrocoriorum*. The town was named after a goddess known to us from two local inscriptions: *CIL XIII 00949*, which invokes the deity as *Vesunnae Tutelae*, conflating her with *Tutela*, the Roman equivalent of the Greek *Tyche* (Fortune, Chance) and *CIL XIII 00956*, which names her in the plural as *Vesunniae*. As a result of this it is believed that she had something of a ‘split personality’; that at sometime she had, for one reason or another, been considered as a multiple goddess.

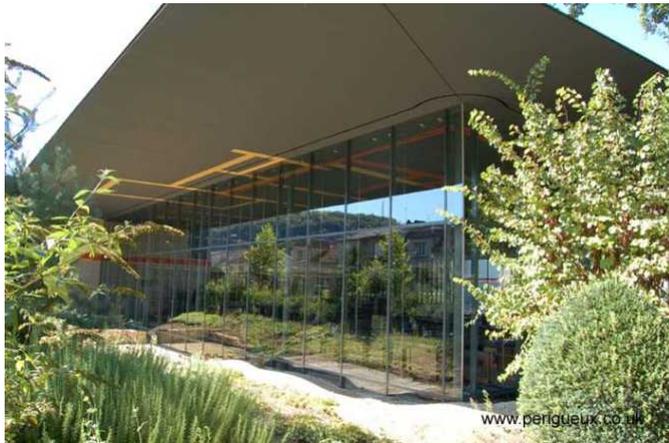


Museum at Vesunna — Goddess symbol

In its heyday, the town of Vesunna was the most splendid of the province of Aquitania and fittingly, from the nation that has given us the pleasures of the Musée de Louvre and the Musée d’Orsay, among many others, France has preserved her Gallo-Roman past with the same consideration.

Those of us who have had the pleasure of travelling through the country will have learned to expect a unique experience from each museum visit, not just from those in Paris, but also from those in the provinces; the Vesunna Gallo-Roman Museum in the ancient city of Périgueux does not disappoint. The innovative museum is built over the remains of a Roman villa discov-

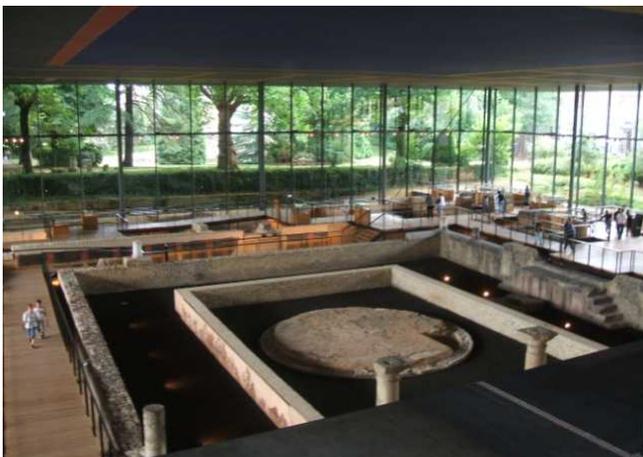
ered in 1959, and was designed by the internationally acclaimed architect, Jean Nouvel. It displays in spectacular fashion all the remains of the villa, known locally as the Domus de Vésone.



The Vesunna Museum of Gallo Roman History

Nouvel, who was also responsible for the splendid Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris, won the competition for the design of the museum in 1999 and the work was completed and opened to the public in 2003. He has enclosed the extensive ruin in glass, supported by thin steel columns. The tall lightweight roof is calculated geometrically from the plan of the house. Nature and views of the surrounding town, visible through the trees or reflected on the glass walls, add to the magic of the building.

Inside the museum the exhibition is permanent and Nouvel has drawn a full-scale mirrored plan on the ceiling, extending beyond the glass walls, to make the layout of the villa understandable. The total area is 2,300 square meters. The house itself was built around a garden courtyard bordered by a peristyle colonnade and this is displayed to dramatic effect. This interior is organized in the form of two mezzanine floors. The structural elements are again glass and lightweight steel with a series of raised wooden walkways allowing the visitor to get 'up close and personal', without the threat of damage to the precious remains, and guiding the visitor through the house amid features recalling the daily lives of its former occupants: heating/cooling systems, wall paintings, bronze fittings, red and black *sigillata* (or Gaulish Ware), cooking utensils, jewelry, and even a water pump.



Peristyle garden inside the Vesunna Museum

Of special interest are the pieces of red and black *sigillata*, (photo below) in particular the latter, known as *terrannigra*, a black or silver-grey coloured Gallo-Belgic tableware produced in Gaul during the first century BC through to the mid-first century AD. It was exported from Gaul to other nearby parts of the Roman empire for military and civilian use, and to communities outside the empire who presumably acquired it as a traded luxury item. *Terra sigillata* is well known and documented, beginning with the production of this style of pottery in Arretium in Etruria (Arretine Ware), in about 50BC. Seeing these few vessels in the context of the house where they would have been put to use is a more satisfying experience than viewing them as part of a much larger but more formal museum exhibit. The same applies to the personal items such as the gems and finger rings, and the pieces of bronze furniture ornament.



The exhibition of artifacts is actually divided into two themes: "House and Private Life" with the above mentioned items, and "City and Public Life" where we see architectural features, grave monuments, evidence of trade, and religious artifacts. Among the last mentioned is a relief of Mercury; according to Caesar he was the most popular god in Gaul.

The scale of religious architecture throughout Roman Gaul is striking and a notable feature in the immediate vicinity of the museum is the Tour de Vésone, the "Tower at Vesunna", a circular structure just over 30m high and 22m in diameter, originally surrounded by a sacred precinct 140 by 120 m in area. The museum lies between this tower and the ancient amphitheatre, which formed a section of the ramparts and now forms a wall (photo below), partially hidden by flowers and natural vegetation, around a pleasant park, the Jardin des Arènes. The amphitheatre seated 20,000 spectators, an indication of the importance of the site in its Roman past.



Claudius' Invasion Route to Britain in AD 43: Consulting the Tides

Mark Siford

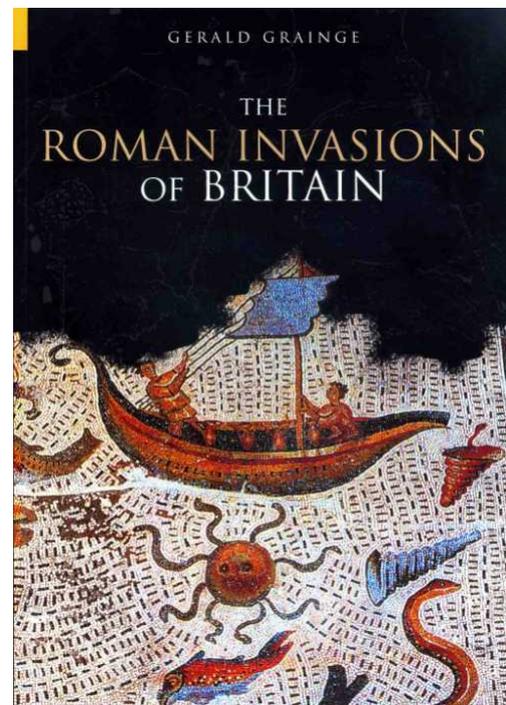


Mark Siford B Comm (Hons) is an investment banker who recently completed the units for his BA majoring in History/Classics and Ancient History and expects to commence Honours in 2009. He is a multiple prizewinner at UWA and in 2005 won The Australasian Society for Classical Studies' national competition for an essay titled, "Thirty Years After Finley's Ancient Economy" for the Majesty of the Roman Empire unit he was taking at UWA in 2005.

The invasion of Britain carried out by four legions plus auxiliaries in the high summer of AD 43 and the subsequent sixteen-day expedition made by the emperor, Claudius, in person form one of the most famous episodes in the history of the Roman Empire. For Britain this was probably the largest army ever to invade the Isles, with most estimates running up to 40,000 men. It is also one of those events with frustratingly little surviving detail and remains an area for academic confrontation. But more broadly the issue matters not only for intellectual enquiry but also for tourism and education.

Unfortunately, the sources documenting the expedition are scrappy and confused, like a cryptic crossword with the bulk of its clues missing. The archaeological scraps are scattered and difficult to interpret e.g. does a rusted soldier's helmet dredged up from Chichester harbour imply an invasion up through the Solent? Do 34 gold coins of Claudian issue in the 'Bredgar' hoard near Sittingbourne signify a Kentish route? The literary sources are equally murky, although Suetonius had probably been in Britain with Hadrian and even Tacitus is thought now to have perhaps served in Britain under his father-in-law Agricola, few of our historians had visited Britain or were contemporaries. The gap in Tacitus' *Annals* means we are forced to rely on Cassius Dio writing in the early 3rd century AD whose stated aim was to avoid insignificant detail (53.21.2)! Dio does not identify the Roman landing site, and thus the debate has been fertilised.

Academic commentary has dissected and reassembled the meagre threads to produce plausible reconstructions. There are two competing schools: Frere and Fulford favoured an invasion through Richborough/Kent and carried the argument until Hind reinterpreted the evidence, making a comprehensive case for the south coast. However, few authors have attempted to integrate the naval context of Plautius' cross-Channel operation. Frere and Fulford do touch upon it, but their comments are brief and superficial. Enter Gerald Grainge's recently published book, *The Roman Invasions of Britain* (Stroud, 2005: Tempus). Grainge is a maritime archaeologist and a yachtsman with much experience of sailing in the English Channel and southern North Sea. His work shows the benefit of applying specialist expertise to classical and archaeological evidence to enhance our understanding of 'what might have been.'

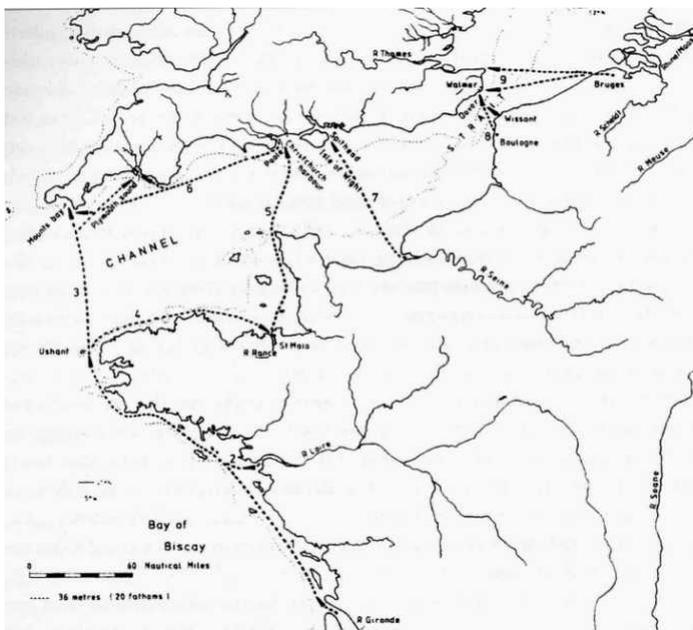


Grainge explores the maritime challenges that would have confronted ancients in seeking a Channel crossing. In a readable style, Grainge explores changes to maritime settings from ancient Rome to now, incorporating topics such as sea levels, coastlines, tidal conditions, weather, weather forecasting and the capabilities of ancient ships.

Most readers would be aware of the change in sea levels. There are different estimates but it seems that modern sea levels are approximately one metre above those of Roman times. This not only reduces the distance across the Channel but would have drastically changed the coastline of ancient Britain. Further transformations have occurred due to warmer weather, the removal of ice from the landmass of Britain has caused it to rise in the northwest and sink in the southeast. Between Dover and Calais lie the Goodwin Sands, above water at low tide and perhaps even more prominent (and protective of the Kentish coast) in Roman times. Lastly there has been extensive silting of an-

cient and medieval harbours. The only reason that Dover continues to be a major ferry harbour is due to recurrent dredging and modern engineering breakwaters.

Tidal conditions are probably the most striking part of Grainge's work. The tidal currents in the English Channel can be very strong, and need to be factored into cross-Channel journeys, especially when the only propellant was the unreliable wind or tired muscle power. For example, arriving off the Owers at the approach to the Solent at the wrong time could result in a ship with an adverse tidal current of 3 knots, which might be more than the ship's speed! Despite the obvious changes to Britain's coastline, Grainge argues tidal conditions facing Caesar and Claudius were very similar to those of today. The argument was summed up by Sir George Airy in 1865 who wrote that the, 'course of the tides from Beachy Head to Dover will depend on the great tides of the Atlantic and the North Sea and will not be sensibly affected by any petty changes at the east end of Kent.' The best evidence in favour of Grainge's views is the continued dominance of certain cross Channel routes (since the first millennium BC) which have been remarkably persistent from ancient through medieval to modern times (See map below: copyright Professor Grainge).



Grainge inclines to the view that the weather in Roman Britain was broadly comparable to that of today, and tackles information in Caesar's *Commentaries* on that basis. The discussion is enlightening i.e. ancient mariners were ill-equipped to forecast weather changes. Today hundreds if not thousands of different weather stations as well as constant reports from Atlantic shipping are used in real time to provide information for computer models that can provide relatively accurate two to three day forecasts. Ancient sailors could rely upon just a single observation. Ancients lacked technical instrumentation such as barometers, which are crucial for detecting pressure changes and were forced to rely upon the direction and strength of wind, cloud formation and movement, and any localised historical knowledge of conditions in that area. This forecast would only be relevant for five to six hours but had reasonable validity for Channel crossings. In Grainge's view, ancient mariners were probably far more sensitive to minute distinctions in weather patterns than would be the case for moderns.

Crossing the Channel therefore presented a formidable challenge, especially with an invasion army. Quite apart from the usual logistical and tactical matters, the commander would need to incorporate the uncertainty of weather, the probability of favourable winds, tidal streams, and the availability of suitable harbours and landing beaches. For Grainge this meant that the Boulogne to Kent route was likely to be favoured over other cross-Channel options such as the Seine to Spithead passage. This appears to be supported by work undertaken by Seán McGrail who devised a method of assessing the relative reliability of the various cross-Channel routes for prehistoric seaman-ship. The relative reliability factors were calculated as 98% for the passage from Boulogne to Walmer and 71% from the Seine to Spithead. Much of this is based on typical wind and weather patterns as estimated by various models. For Grainge the longer distance involved in sailing from the Seine to the Solent (90 sea miles as against 40 from Boulogne to East Kent) means that there is more likelihood of adverse wind shifts, making the passage relatively more difficult. Overall Grainge believes that in AD 43 both Plautius and Claudius took the shorter Boulogne to Walmer passage.

In summary, Grainge's book shows the benefit of adding contemporary specialist knowledge to the cocktail of archaeological, literary and environmental evidence to distil a clearer picture of where and how the Claudian invasion of Britain in AD 43 was conducted. Future academic debate must address Grainge's analysis, particularly supporters of the Hind view on south coast landing sites in the Chichester area which would have presented far more formidable sailing problems for an invasion force.

Remembering Nigel Nicolson

Mark Siford's article brings to mind the very first issue of RAG.

This in my photo of Nigel Nicolson taken on the Roman Britain tour of 2003 published in RAG 1.1. He died in September 2004 just over year after the photo was taken.

In an extraordinary life Nigel Nicolson wrote many books and amongst many other achievements founded the well known Weidenfeld & Nicolson publishing house.

He was a passionate advocate for the Kent landing as opposed to the Sussex landing theory for the Roman invasion of AD 43 and pressed his cause in that regard by having the stone next to which he is pictured standing here set near where he believed the landing took place. The full text of the memorial stone can be seen in RAG1.1. He will be recalled pleasantly by the members of the Roman Britain Tour of 2003. (Ed.)



Ireland: A Proud Celtic Tradition or Another Notch In The Belt Of The Romans?

Brid Phillips



After a long career in Emergency Nursing in Ireland and Australia, Brid Phillips is now following her real interests and is a third year undergraduate in arts at UWA winning a prize in Latin in 2007.

In recent times there have been heated academic debates in the public domain about the possibility of a Roman invasion of Ireland. The latest argument has been ongoing since an article in the *Sunday Times* newspaper in 1996 which boldly declared: 'Fort discovery proves Romans invaded Ireland'. A provocative statement to say the least and the ensuing argument predictably descended into political rhetoric and became a tool with which to offend the independent, anti-authoritarian Irish psyche.



The Drummanagh site in North County Dublin

Furthermore the site in question at Drummanagh in North County Dublin has yet to be excavated properly, with initial observations indicating a substantial settlement more in keeping with a native Irish settlement than a typical Roman fort. It is true that some artefacts found at the site are known to be Roman and a number of coins would suggest occupation from at least AD 79 – 135 but these items are in storage at the National Museum of Ireland and have not been made available for general academic study.

Whilst this modern debate is thought-provoking, it is equally fascinating to note how long this debate has indeed been raging. In 1866, the scholar Thomas Wright read a paper at the Ethnological Society of London entitled 'On the intercourse of the Romans with Ireland'. This paper discussed the probability of a Roman incursion into Ireland in the later first century AD and was written to refute the flat denial of such an event by previous writers. Wright used the example of the invasion of Britain by Julius Caesar (twice!) to strengthen his argument. He argued that the autobiographical evidence left to us by Caesar himself provides documentation relating to battles, long marches, river crossings and the submission of local chiefs. All these exploits are known to us only because of that written evidence - the physical remains of these campaigns are lost and the expeditions would have been totally unknown if not for Caesar's account in his *Gallic Wars*. So, too – goes the argument - may it have been with Ireland.



Roman coins found in Ireland

That contact did exist between Ireland and the Classical World can be evidenced by the amount of Roman material which has been found to date. As well as the material at Drummanagh, first century artefacts have been found elsewhere on the east coast, north coast and a small amount further inland. At Lambay Island just off the coast of Drummanagh, a series of inhumation burials have been found which include warrior artefacts, a beaded torc and a jet bangle. The fact that the items are most likely of British origin, which can be further pinpointed to the tribe of the Brigantes (due to the parallels in jewelry making), has been seen as suggestive. The latter had suffered a huge defeat by the Romans in AD 74 and these may have been a refugee community. Clearly there was contact across the Irish Sea at this time.

Newgrange on the Boyne River has produced clear Roman material ranging from the first century through to the fourth century – notably at least 21 coins from the emperor Domitian (AD 81–96) through to Arcadius (AD 383–408). Another interesting

artefact found here is a late-second-millennium BC Irish gold torc notably reworked later with a Roman lettering inscription. These finds which extend from the Boyne Valley down to Drummanagh may indicate that the site at Drummanagh was a trading post for Roman goods entering Ireland.

Several second century AD finds have also been discovered, including Gaulish Samian shards from Dalkey near Dublin and what is possibly a Roman inhumation cemetery near Bray Head. Inhumation (burying the corpse) was not common amongst the native Irish at this time. These skeletons were found with coins near the upper part of the remains. This may have been the coin needed by Romans of this period to pay the ferryman to cross the River Styx to the underworld. Coin hoards have been found at Feigh Mountain and Flower Hill in County Antrim. With no other evidence available it is difficult to ascertain whether these coins point to a permanent residence of individuals of Roman extraction, the pay of Irish mercenaries working abroad, or the booty from Irish raids in Britain.

Minimal finds have been recorded from the third century but from the fourth and early fifth century there have been significant coin hoards found and some major items such as silver ingots with stamped Roman inscriptions and a curious item known as an occultist's stamp. This stamp was used by Roman eye doctors to individualize sticks of salves for eye complaints. This points to a specialized trader, resident and productive in Ireland, but again there is no collaborative evidence available. Warner argues that these later finds are consistent with an Ireland that had been Romanized perhaps through incursions in the first and second century. This Romanization was completed by refugees from the nearby collapsing Roman Empire in the fifth century and the missionaries of the sixth century.

There is a paucity of literary sources which could explain, substantiate or refute a Roman landing in Ireland. Julius Caesar gives one of the first certain references to Ireland in 54 BC as the island 'Hibernia' which he estimated to be half the size of Britain. Strabo c AD 19 mentions Ireland as a wretchedly cold place on the periphery of the inhabitable world, home to people who eat their dead fathers and whose sexual practices are best not discussed here! Pomponius Mela, c AD 44 is a little more positive describing Ireland as "a fertile land where the livestock have to be restrained from overeating to avoid having them burst!" (Perhaps the origin of a family saying following a large meal, 'Stand back for if I burst I'll scald youse!).

None of these references advance the theory of Roman intervention in Ireland until c AD 98 when there is the literary work by Tacitus called *The Agricola*, a biography of his father-in-law who was the governor of Britain from AD 78—85. He speaks of Agricola placing a garrison facing Hibernia, of the approaches and harbours of Hibernia being well known and of Agricola taking in one of their Tribal Kings. This Tribal King has been identified by Dr Richard Warner (formerly Keeper of Antiquities at the Ulster Museum) as Tuathal Techtmar who returned to Ireland in AD 76 with foreign forces to reclaim his territory. Dr Warner suggests that this circumstantial evidence could be the basis of an Irish oral folk memory of a Romanized incursion of Ireland. This could have been the return of exiles with sympathetic allies or foreigners forging a connection with an Irish past to better explain their hostilities. Tacitus also states that Agricola was of the opinion that a single legion with a few auxiliaries could conquer and occupy Ireland; perhaps indicating an expedition to Ireland was being mooted at this point—not the last to be wrong on this score!

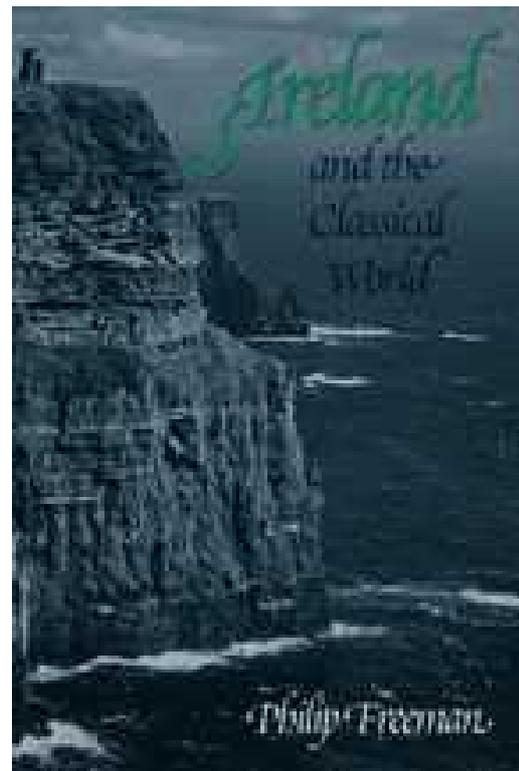
The second ancient reference of note is that of the Roman satirist, Juvenal written early in the second century AD. In *Satire 2* he states "we have advanced arms beyond the shores of Iuverna". Some historians suggest this means Ireland was conquered in some sense and R. Knox McElderry even suggested in 1922 that Juvenal himself may have commanded a force to Ireland in AD 81 and that the line in the Satires comes from first-hand knowledge.

The historian Thomas Wright also made the slightly curious observation that the three main Roman roads in Britain converge at a Roman town called Segontium (near Carnarvon) with a road onwards to a Roman post at modern Holyhead. He suggested that then, as now, this may have been an accepted passage to Ireland.

In conclusion, the evidence available to us at present doesn't support claims that the Romans invaded or conquered Ireland in the traditional meaning of the words. However, there is enough evidence to suggest a certain amount of Roman influence on the Irish way of life. The extent of this influence may become more evident in the future when more detailed examination of the controversial site at Drummanagh has taken place. Perhaps then, as now, Ireland was a land easily contacted but not easily conquered.

Further reading:

Freeman, P. *Ireland and the Classical World*, University of Texas Press, Austin, 2001.



Knox McElderry, R. 'Juvenal in Ireland?' in *The Classical Quarterly*, 16. 1922: 151-162

Mattingly, D. *An Imperial Possession: Britain in the Roman Empire*, London, 2007.

Warner, R. B. 'Tuathal Techtmar: A Myth or Ancient Literary Evidence for a Roman Invasion?' in *Emania*, 13. 1995: 24-32

Wright, T. 'On the Intercourse of the Romans with Ireland' in *Transactions of the Ethnological Society of Great Britain and Ireland*, 5. 1867: 168-173

Jerash Hinterland Survey 2008

Ann Boyer



Ann Boyer has been a Roman Archaeology Group member since its inception and was a member with her husband Don of the Roman Britain Tour of 2003.

Retired, looking for “adventure before dementia”? Look no further! How about working as a field assistant on an archaeological survey around the Roman town of Jerash/Gerasa, part of the Decapolis in Jordan?

Professor David Kennedy had whetted our appetites with a quick tour of Jordan the previous year and Don (my husband) had been back for a second look as well as spending many hours researching on Google Earth for sites and circles – so why not get involved? Pack a sensible hat, cool, long-sleeved shirts and trousers, comfortable working boots, sunscreen and bring tape measure, pencils, camera and GPS. The weather in September would be hot and it would be the time of Ramadan so consideration for fasting locals would be more important than thirsty workers.

Jordan, full of wonderfully hospitable people, who have accepted waves of refugees from Palestine, Iraq, Lebanon and Syria, has a growing population and really cannot afford the luxury of preserving all its archaeology when housing and development are so necessary. Our task was to record, map and photograph the area outside the relatively safe, fenced, archaeology site of Jerash before the modern world and bulldozers destroy the sites. This involved walking the steep streets of the hillside town, and climbing the wadi banks checking waste ground, back gardens, olive groves and cellars as well as assuring the locals that they will not lose their land if something of interest is found. In some cases finds could be removed to safer sites.

We used the campsite within the Roman walls – waking to the amazing panorama of a partially reconstructed Roman city of colonnaded, paved streets with stone manhole covers and underground drains. There are two theatres, temples (including

two of the biggest in the Near East), 16 churches, three bath-houses, shops and a huge plaza – all built in honey-coloured stone that glows at sunset. We woke in the dark to the Muslim calls to prayer and to eat before sunrise to prepare for the day’s fast. Early breakfast was a very individual affair from – tea and cigarettes, brewed coffee, Fanta (Miranda in Jordan) and cigarettes, to muesli with yoghurt and fruit – some healthy participants! To be out early was delightful – cool, clear skies and clean children heading to morning school with inquisitive looks and shy greetings – “As-salaam alaykum.”



Getting Ready for a Day’s Survey

Three little teams of Recorder, GPS reader, Camera person with hopefully one Arabic speaker set off each day determined to come back with something special as a discovery to announce, and each day they did—a tomb which intrepid members had clambered into with head torches; a figurine; pale blue/ green Roman glass; water channel; architectural fragments; quarries; sarcophagi; tesserae; churches; pottery sherds; and, so much more. Hot afternoons were spent in our shaded courtyard washing, sorting, counting, recording, drying and bagging the finds. A final tally of 5,669 pottery pieces were packed into crates, handed over to the Department of Antiquities for storage and await an expert’s report.



A Milestone of Septimus Severus

Having an Arabic speaking, ex-school teacher, Anne Poepjes from Perth as our “Camp Mother” made it so much more enjoyable. The fridge was stocked and replenished, the locals and the Rest House, where we ate, welcomed her and us as friends when we descended for real breakfast after three hours of field work and again for late lunch at the end of the afternoon. Anne found us toilet cleaning materials, a water cooler, fresh fruit, fans, and so much more. We learnt to sit very carefully on toilets that were not fixed to a thin floor held together with gaffer tape and to flush them with water, which we caught in basins as it dribbled out of the showers.

We worked six days and then had archaeological excursions to other sites on our day off! What do archaeologists talk about at breakfast, lunch, drinks before bed and on their day off? You guessed it - archaeology!

Each person on the team – 4 archaeologists from Scotland, two Aussies from UWA, (one now living in Jerash,) the Professor, a geologist, a retired school teacher and Anne’s daughter, who joined in the last week – would tell you a different highlight of the survey. Was it the gourmet meal in the garden surrounded by his 17 cats and a parrot, cooked by the French caretaker of the campsite and shared with the French archaeologist and architect who are restoring the Temple of Zeus? Was it the one eyed kitten, recently rescued from a Bedouin camp and called Polyphema after the Cyclops, who adopted us for the chance to share our yoghurt? Was it rescuing the first milestone from Jerash on the road to Birketein (two reservoirs and a bath-house complex still being excavated)? The milestone inscription for the Emperor Septimius Severus was clearly visible and was immediately translated for us.



A Jarash Repast

Was it rediscovering the huge olive and wine press complex of a villa farm with mosaic floors for the surrounding buildings? Was it watching and smelling the Prof. and Don determined to map and record the underground – grotto, tomb, olive and wine press, Bedouin camp – the theories of ancient use were endless but the aroma of the rotting rubbish and used, disposable nappies made its modern use very obvious! (Photo opposite). In fact two boys arrived with more rubbish just as Don fell through the crust of nappies and David had real problems extracting him.

Indiana Jones and Time Team never mention nappies!

The Jordanian Department of Antiquities gave us our own Liaison Officer whose enthusiasm and delicious Yemeni coffee kept us going for the three weeks of field work and who farewelled us with two magnificent Jordanian feasts; hospitality is second nature to Jordanians who will offer strangers mint tea or ask them in for dinner with the family, as one walks past their house.



Washing Pottery

We retired to Amman and when joined by Francesca, there for the upcoming aerial photography survey, headed off for more adventure visiting the Desert Castles and the Azraq Oasis before finding and climbing Maitland’s Fort – a basalt Mesa near the Saudi border. The Scottish team remained in Amman to complete a detailed report of the survey and to cross reference the maps, photos and records onto a computerised data base available to all. A job well done! The sites surveyed in 2005 were revisited and 30% have disappeared under development – a loss of 10% per year but now we have a record of what was there.



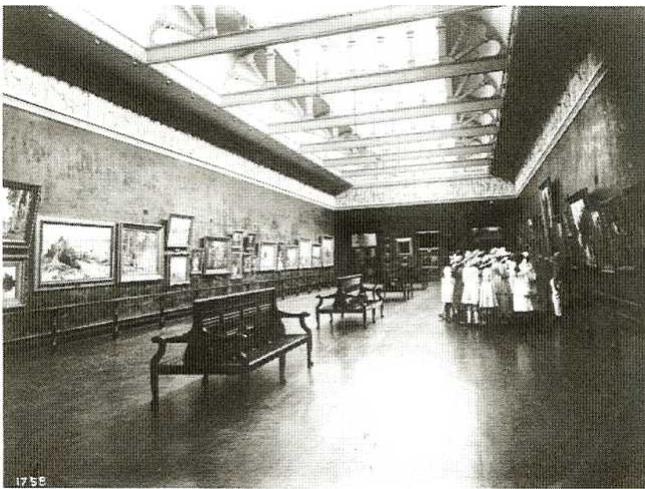
Tomb Exploration—sometimes a lot of garbage!

The Perth Casts of the Parthenon Ionic Frieze—An Update

In RAG Volume 2 Number 4 I wrote an article about the 90 meters of casts of the Parthenon Ionic Frieze in the Western Australian Museum. I foreshadowed there that I would write a publication on the subject. A small publication was issued on October 19 in conjunction with a function put on by the Art Gallery of Western Australia in celebration of the centenary of the first public display of the casts in 1908. The following is made up of some extracts from the original publication and some thoughts expressed in an article in UWA News of 3 November 2008.

Readers wishing to consult the original articles will find them at www.ausicl.com and <http://uwanews.publishing.uwa.edu.au/> respectively.

The formal opening of the Western Australian Museum in 1891 would bring to fruition the first of a three phase development, the second phase in 1899 and the third in 1907, of a Museum and Art Gallery complex on a site that had been in part occupied by the colony's old gaol. Against this background, the city of Perth, by then capital of the federated State of Western Australia, acquired and put up for display in the first decade of the 20th century full sized casts made in London of some 57% of the Parthenon Frieze.



The Hellenic Gallery in its original conception. The Frieze casts lining the top of the walls can be just made out. Light floods in from the lantern ceiling above. (Photo courtesy Art Gallery of Western Australia)

The first public display of Perth's casts of the Parthenon frieze was an occasion of great celebration and publicity. The government of Western Australia had commissioned the construction of a new annex to the then Museum and Art Gallery in the city. The commencement of construction of the building in 1907 was 6 years overdue, the foundation stone with gilded inscription having been laid on 21 July 1901 following Australia's federation, by HRH the Prince of Wales (then Duke of Cornwall and York). The new annex built in the Federation Romanesque style included a capacious upper floor room, to be called

'the Hellenic Gallery', 33.8m long, 11.6m wide and 8.7m high, with a lantern ceiling running the whole length of the Gallery. The purpose of the new annex with its upper floor picture gallery and its ground floor sculpture gallery was to accommodate the display of some original and some cast replicas of classical art works, along with some 70 original canvases and numerous other artefacts which, because of the inadequate spaces available, had not been able to be appropriately displayed, or had long been in storage. From the mid-1890s, the Museum and Art Gallery had been acquiring casts of classical art works by order from Brucciani & Co cast makers in London. John Hackett, a lawyer by profession, and by 1900, a prominent citizen of Western Australia, played an instrumental part in this. By 1908 he had had a significant career in Western Australian politics, had been granted an honorary doctor of laws by Dublin University, was a co-proprietor of the West Australian newspaper, and was a director of the Western Australian Museum and Art Gallery. The correspondence held in the archives of the Western Australian Museum indicates that the Museum and Art Gallery was dealing with Brucciani & Co from at least as early as 1895 and that John Hackett had personally attended on Brucciani & Co in London to order casts for himself and for the Museum.

The casts are sited at the top of the walls beginning some 7.5m metres above floor level (see diagram opposite). The rectangular Hellenic Gallery is essentially oriented North/South on its long side with its entrance facing north. Thus, the long walls are to the west (left) and east (right) respectively as a visitor enters the room. The Parthenon is orientated not north/south but east/west. Furthermore, the Hellenic Gallery has roughly only half the length per side (59.7m), and the width per side (20.8m), that the Parthenon required for the Frieze.

Whilst all the 6 Elgin east, the 2 Elgin west and the 22 Elgin north slabs are represented in the Perth casts, for the following reasons it is not strictly accurate to say that the Perth casts comprise a cast of the Elgin Marbles: (i) Of the 28 Elgin slabs and part slabs from the south length of the Frieze 19 are not represented as casts in Perth; (ii) the Perth casts include augmentation of the Elgin slabs by pieces of Frieze, or casts of pieces of the Frieze, found in Athens and elsewhere in Europe, or donated to the Museum from private collectors, in the decades after the Elgin slabs were brought to London, and before the moulds from which the Perth casts were made; (iii) the Elgin marbles included much more than just the Frieze slabs, but also, and dealing only with the Parthenon, pediment sculptures, much of the Doric frieze (metopes) and structural elements from the Parthenon; and, (iv) the casts in Perth include casts of 24 original blocks that are in Athens, along with casts of the block in Paris, blocks not removed by Elgin's agents.

The Origin and Acquisition of the Casts: Lord Elgin did not arrange just the removal of sculptures from Athens to London. Amongst the party he organized to do his work in Athens Elgin included *formatori* to make moulds of Parthenon sculptures. The casts from these 'Elgin' moulds supplemented the actual sculptures that got to London. Thus, in relation to the 16 West blocks of the Frieze, Elgin's agents took down only the first two, however, Elgin's *formatori*, Bernardino Ledus and Vin-

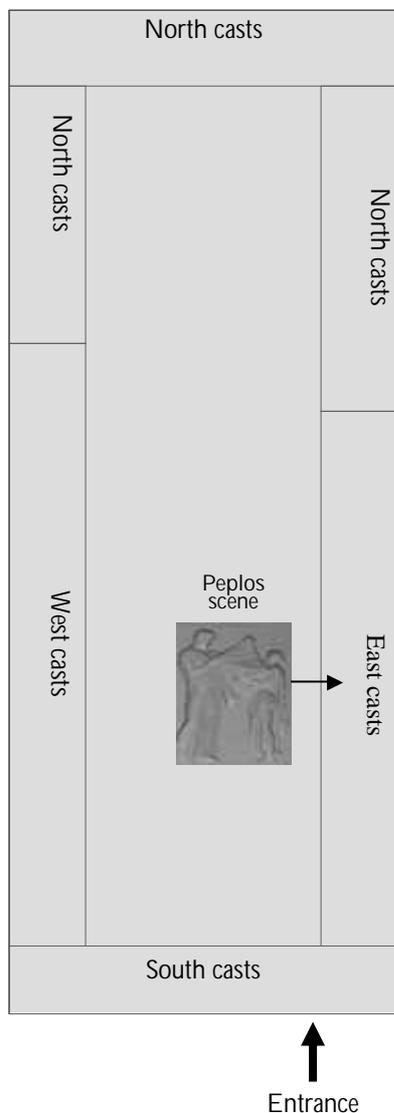
cenzo Rosati, made moulds of the other 14. The Elgin moulds therefore made it possible for there to be a more complete display of the Frieze in London, albeit in part a facsimile display, and also to make it possible to provide copies to the large number of private individuals and institutions and public institutions worldwide who sought them after it became known that much of the original Frieze and moulds was in London. However, moulds under wear and tear become unusable and if by 1869 Elgin's moulds had not been scrapped they were, at least apparently, lost. Two ways were open to replace the moulds. The replacement moulds could be made from casts that had been made from the Elgin moulds or new moulds could be commissioned from the original stones in Athens. The British Museum engaged the *formatore* Domenico Brucciani, who had set up his own cast making business in Covent Garden, to make new moulds from the Museum's casts.

The casts were acquired piecemeal. There is some evidence that a one-off Frieze cast purchase was made in 1890s as the Museum's curator B. H. Woodward began to put together a fine arts collection, however it was not until 1904-05 with the purchase of 13 slabs of the West length of the Frieze that the acquisition became systematic. There were further acquisitions annually thereafter until the opening of the new Museum and Art Gallery annex in June of 1908.

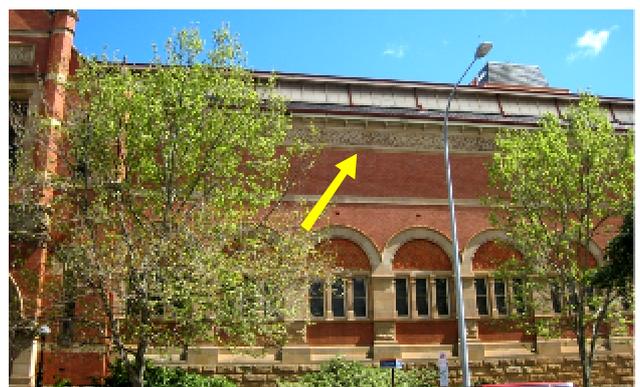
The Significance of the Perth Casts: The importance of casts as preservers of what they copy cannot be doubted. At about the same time (c.1870) as Brucciani was making new moulds from the casts made from Elgin's moulds a new set of casts from the West Frieze were made by Napoleone Martinelli. When these were brought to London in 1873 and compared to the Elgin casts it was shocking to see how much the West Frieze had deteriorated in the 70 years or so since the Elgin marbles and moulds had left Athens. This of course emphasized at once the importance of casts. By 1873 there was a better record in London of the West part of the Parthenon Ionic Frieze even though the original blocks were in Athens.

Graeco Roman Materials in Perth: Those such as Sir John Hackett who appreciated Western Australia's classical heritage were inspired to bring to Perth not just the Parthenon Ionic Frieze casts but also casts of numerous others items of classical art, no doubt thinking that Western Australia would at some stage gather a collection, however modest, of original pieces of classical art and artefacts. Not only is there not today in Perth a public collection of original classical art but the whereabouts of most of the casts that Perth had is not known—there is some speculation they were dumped in lake Monger.

Is it too much to hope that Western Australia's covert recognition of its classical heritage reflected in its political and legal institutions will be supplemented at some time by overt recognition in its Museum?



In the photograph below, the Beaufort Street façade of the 1907 Museum annex is reproduced. Notice that at the top of the façade just below the windows of the Gallery's lantern ceiling there is a continuous low relief frieze (arrowed). In the Classical Greek conception it is an Ionic frieze. The frieze is about the same height above the ground, and about the same width, as the height and width of the Parthenon Ionic frieze. It also corresponds in position to the casts on the opposite internal East wall of the Gallery. It is not unreasonable to think that the architect's placement of the frieze in its position and dimension so similar to the Parthenon frieze was not a mere coincidence.



By the time of his death in 1880 Domenico Brucciani's business, Brucciani and Co, was flourishing and making casts from the collections of the British Museum and the South Kensington Museum (the original name of the Victoria and Albert). It was from the catalogues of Brucciani & Co that the Western Australian Museum selected the Frieze casts that it acquired.

Roman Archaeology at UWA Membership of The RAG

Notes and News

SUMMER PROGRAMME

The final details are not yet in but the programme will be broadly as follows:

Saturday 17 January 2009:

Roman Technology

What the Romans did for us – Roads, etc (DVD)

Water Technology in the Roman Empire

David Kennedy, UWA

(Illustrated Lecture)

Saturday 21 February 2008:

The Tetrarchy

Sea Change: Diocletian and his retirement villa at Split

Tree Change: Galerius and his retirement villa at Gamzigrad

(Illustrated Lectures)

Dr Bill Leadbetter, Edith Cowan University

Saturday 28 March 2008:

Roman Women

Women in Roman Art

Dr Glenys Wootton, UWA

Women in Archaeology

Lecturer to be arranged

(Illustrated Lectures)

Where:

Social Sciences Lecture Theatre at University of WA

(on the south side of main Car Park at Hackett Entrance 1)

When:

1.30 pm

(programme will normally finish c. 4-4.30 pm.

Cost:

Free

Refreshments will be available at the mid-session break: \$7 pp (Members) and \$10 pp (Non-Members).

Please RSVP for yourself and friends to Maire Gomes by telephone 9439 2828

or email gomescm@bigpond.com

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION COURSE

There will be a new course on the Roman army early in 2009. It follows on from previous Roman army courses but requires no previous knowledge.

Roman Archaeology: The Face of Battle

Prof. David Kennedy, UWA

It has only been in the last two centuries that we have begun to get accounts by private soldiers of what it is actually 'like' to take part in war and battles. There are, however, numerous anecdotes and other snippets of information that give some insights into the nature of ancient warfare. This course will explore some of this experience through examining ancient accounts of a variety of wars and battles in the Roman period, from Cannae in the Hannibalic War of the late 3rd century BC, to the account in the later 4th century AD by historian Ammianus Marcellinus of the warfare in which he participated

The course will be extensively illustrated and include looking at a selection of original documents in translation.

Thursdays at 6.30-8.30: **(Feb 5 12 19 26)**

Session 1: Introduction. The Roman Army. Battles

Session 2: Cannae

Session 3: Mons Graupius

Session 4: Strasburg

Bookings direct to:

<http://www.extension.uwa.edu.au/>

Follow 'Extension Courses' then 'Intellectual Adventures'.

RAG Members can request a \$10 pp discount.

\$25.00 Ordinary membership
\$35.00 Family membership 1 (2 adults; 1 copy of RAG magazine)
\$50.00 Family membership 2 (4 family members; 1 copy of RAG magazine)
\$50.00 School membership (2 copies of RAG magazine)
\$10.00 Student membership
Complete and post the form with this edition of the RAG or contact The Treasurer at the email address below.

The RAG Inc

www.romarchgroup.humanities.uwa.edu.au/

Chairman

Professor David Kennedy
M205 Classics and Ancient History
University of Western Australia
Stirling Highway
CRAWLEY WA 6009

Tel: 08 64882150 Fax: 08 64881182
E-mail: dkennedy@cyllene.uwa.au

Deputy Chairman Rodney Greaves

Secretary
Michael Manley
4C/25 Victoria Ave., CLAREMONT, WA
6010, 04179 32031

E-mail: mike1155@iinet.net.au

Treasurer

Maire Gomes
E-mail: gomescm@bigpond.com

The RAG

Newsletter

Correspondence to the Editor:

Kevin J. O'Toole
M461 Legal Services
University of Western Australia,
Stirling Highway,
CRAWLEY WA 6009

Tel: (08) 64884709

E-mail: kevin.otoole@uwa.edu.au