

Editorial

Professor Michael Fulford's valedictory editorial in *Britannia* volume 30 for 1999 reviewed developments and trends in Romano-British studies as the new millennium drew nigh, alluding to a seeming recent decline in the number of university-based Romano-British specialist teachers, a matter currently being considered by the Society's Archaeology Committee. It is sad to record that the last twelve months have seen the deaths of several distinguished scholars still in post. Professor G.D.B. Jones (1936–1999), Professor of Archaeology at the University of Manchester from 1971, had a wide range of interests. A keen aerial surveyor, he followed up his sorties with excavations in areas as diverse as the Moray Firth, Cumbria, and the Welsh Marches. He was active also in central and southern Italy, in Libya, in Spain, and elsewhere. A pioneer in rescue archaeology, Barri Jones (as he was universally known) did much to popularise the subject to the general public over a long period, not least as a co-founder of *Rescue*, and editor of *Popular Archaeology*. Readers of this journal will particularly recall his *Atlas of Roman Britain* (co-written with Professor D.J. Mattingly, 1990).

Dr T.W. Potter (1944–2000), Keeper of Prehistoric and Romano-British Antiquities at the British Museum from 1995, had a similar breadth of interests and a similarly exhilarating effect on all those who met him. While on the staff of the University of Lancaster (1973–78), Tim Potter excavated in North-West England, then later, after his move to the British Museum, in the South-East and the Fenland. He maintained a lifelong interest in the archaeology of Italy, and undertook excavations at Cherchel in Algeria between 1977 and 1981. He will perhaps be best known to *Britannia* readers for the massive volume reporting recently on work at the enigmatic Fenland structure at Stonea, Cambridgeshire (written jointly with Ralph Jackson, 1996), as well as two volumes in the British Museum Press *Exploring the Roman World* series (which he established and edited), characteristically one on *Roman Italy* (1987) and the other (co-authored by Catherine Johns) on *Roman Britain* (1992).

Dr John Lloyd (1948–1999), formerly of the University of Sheffield and latterly of the Institute of Archaeology, Oxford, was best known for his work in Libya and in central Italy, but he also excavated in England, at Brough; he was serving on the Society's Council at the time of his death. These scholars saw Roman Britain in the context of a geographically wide-ranging empire, particularly appropriate at a time when pan-European ties grow ever closer, leading to more co-operative projects by workers in several countries, and the increasing mobility of scholars. Philip Bartholomew (1937–2000), who had retired some years ago from his post at the Ashmolean Library, Oxford, was the author of several articles and reviews in *Britannia*, an unassuming and meticulous scholar, perennially helpful and welcoming to that Library's readers.

The many new archaeological discoveries during the last twelve months have included the discovery and opening (under the television camera's eye) of a fine stone sarcophagus from Spitalfields, London, with subsequent close study of the lead coffin, and the remains of its occupant, her features restored and details of her lifestyle recovered (for a colour photograph see *Minerva* 11.2, March/April 2000, p. 2). The impact of the media in broadening the appeal of Roman archaeology is not to be underestimated. The *Time Team* programmes (Channel 4) continue to draw attention to archaeological projects. Caesar's bridge across the Rhine in 55 B.C., before his first landing in Britain, was the subject of a televised partial reconstruction, in the series 'Secrets of the Ancients' (BBC 2). The reconstruction of a working bath-house at Wallsend on Hadrian's Wall nears completion as I write; modelled on the bath-house at Chesters, it is part of a wide-ranging project centred on the fort of Segedunum; bookings are now being taken!

The circumstances and the location of the invasion of Britain in A.D. 43 continue to excite interest, with a major day-conference at Chichester in October 1999 (see also in this volume, pp.1–10). The success of the Twelfth Pilgrimage of Hadrian's Wall (for the first time in half a century not held in tandem with the Congress of Roman Frontier Studies) demonstrated the continuing fascination with frontier works in the North. The Society's Third International Roman Archaeology Conference was held at Durham in April 1999, to great acclaim, and the Fourth Conference is scheduled for Glasgow in March–April 2001. These gatherings, together with the annual Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference (TRAC), offer further opportunities for forward-looking assessments of Britain in a wider Roman context.

The *Britannia* monograph series has been substantially augmented over the last twelve months — four monographs have been published: No. 14, *The Excavation of a Ceremonial Site at Folly Lane, Verulamium*, by Rosalind Niblett; No. 15, *Late Iron Age and Roman Silchester: Excavations on the Site of the Forum-Basilica*, by Michael Fulford and Jane Timby; No. 16, *The Caerleon Canabae: Excavations in the Civil Settlement 1984–90*, by Edith Evans; No. 17, *Cannington Cemetery*, by P. Rathz, S. Wright and S. Hirst. Another monograph (No. 18), *Fosse Lane: Excavations of a Romano-British Roadside Settlement at Shepton Mallet, Somerset*, by P. Leach *et al.*, should be available soon. Substantial financial support for some of these volumes has been provided by English Heritage and CADW: Welsh Historic Monuments. Copies can be obtained from the Roman Society's office.

I should announce here some changes to the personnel involved in the major task of compiling the annual Roman Britain survey, long known (but, for obvious reasons, no longer) as 'Roman Britain in 19xx'. For many years, as readers will remember, the task of compiling the report on 'sites explored' was undertaken by Professor Sheppard Frere; his retirement from this task in 1991 (but not from assisting successive editors in less conspicuous ways) prompted some measure of devolution: *England*, by far the most substantial element, was subsequently undertaken by Dr Simon Esmonde Cleary, *Wales* by Dr Barry Burnham, and *Scotland* by the present writer. After the recent appointment of Dr Esmonde Cleary as Review Editor, some realignment was required. Readers will find that the *England* section of 'Roman Britain in 1999' in this year's volume is the joint work of Dr Esmonde Cleary and Dr Burnham; from next year, *England* will be the joint responsibility of Dr Burnham for northern counties and of Dr Andrew Fitzpatrick of Wessex Archaeology, whom we are delighted to welcome to the team, and who will be responsible for the sections on central and southern counties. Readers will find information on areas of responsibility and contact details in the *Notes for Contributors* (p. xii). Dr Roger Tomlin and Mr Mark Hassall happily continue to provide the report on 'inscriptions'. The incoming Editor has become quickly aware that the production of a volume is very much a collaborative effort, not only between the Editor, the Review Editor and the quinquevirate compiling the annual survey, all in conjunction with Dr Lynn Pitts, the Society's Publications Officer, but also the authors of articles, notes, review articles and reviews, and the anonymous referees whose expertise informs the Editor's decisions and those of the Editorial Committee, as they seek to maintain the journal's high international repute.

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