

for Paul Bidwell's scholarship and contribution to Roman studies, but also to his guidance and friendship. It is a sadness that what should have been a great celebration became a volume to his memory.

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London's Roman Tools: Craft, Agriculture and Experience in an Ancient City. By Owen Humphreys. BAR British series 663/Archaeology of Roman Britain Volume 3, BAR Publishing, Oxford, 2021 Pp. 492, illus. Price: £102.00. ISBN 9781407357386.

While the title of this volume is *London's Roman Tools*, it is important to clarify that this monograph is an edited version of the author's doctoral thesis, which focused exclusively on metal (mostly iron) tools, and tools of other materials (wood, antler, bone, etc.) are therefore not included, although tools of other materials are occasionally discussed in the body of the text. That aside, this is an impressive volume, and Humphreys draws together and discusses 837 tools from a range of museums, archives and archaeological contractors found within the city.

An initial chapter succinctly presents the historical and archaeological background to Roman London, along with a useful review of the archaeological study of metal tools that helpfully includes a range of references to continental studies, which will also be of use to specialists outside Britain. This section includes a well-informed discussion of a range of theoretical frameworks used in the study of artefacts and how they contribute towards interpretations of identity and technology. The remainder of the first half of the volume presents a discursive synthesis of Roman tool-use in the city, with a series of nine chapters arranged by tool function, including woodworking, agriculture, horticulture and gardening, metalwork, leatherwork, masonry and stonework, pottery-making, animal husbandry, bone, antler, ivory and horn working, and glass-making. Some of these chapters are lengthier and more detailed than others, with greater numbers of finds associated with woodwork, agriculture, leatherwork and metalwork facilitating wider and more detailed discussion than for other craft types. Given the evidence for glass and pottery production in London, these sections appear notably short, a result of there being few recovered metal finds definitively associated with these industries, which, in the case of pottery, may be a result of the preference for the use of organic materials for tools.

These thematic chapters contextualise the artefacts nicely, presenting both historical and theoretical archaeological evidence for the varying social status of craftspeople such as smiths, woodworkers and leatherworkers in the Roman world. In each of these chapters, the manufacturing process for a range of commodities is described and illustrated, and the scale and methods of distribution of these products is considered. Together, these chapters demonstrate how London was an important centre for craft production, unparalleled in Britain, with manufacturing techniques that indicate a complex, diverse immigrant population of craftspeople. Indeed, the study presents little evidence for local Iron Age influence in the manufacture of tools, with a trend towards the specialist manufacture of 'Roman' tool types, possibly indicating immigrant smiths, and certainly in some instances the importation of tools from the continent.

The author frequently presents useful observations that go beyond the tools he discusses. For instance, he notes that the largest number of stamped tools are those associated with woodworking, possibly highlighting the importance of fine carpentry in London, with carpenters investing in fine tools from specialist producers (some imported from the continent), reminding us that the city would, of course, have been filled with many artefacts and furnishings of wood that rarely survive.

The second half of the volume is typological, with 57 distinct categories of tools identified. The final chapter provides catalogue entries for the 837 metal tools, arranged alphabetically by type, accompanied by illustrative plates, mostly photographs, with some drawings, the latter where they have been reproduced from other sources.

While very occasional typos were noted, the volume is in general excellently written in a lively, humorous and engaging style, which draws the reader into the lived experiences of the people who may have manufactured and used the tools described; the volume is certainly more than a dry typological tome.

The book is very well illustrated, and as well as the photographs and drawings accompanying the catalogue in the second half of the volume, it includes many useful drawings reproduced from other sources showing the process of tool use derived from various types of evidence, including Roman sculptures and frescoes and tool marks left on artefacts. Maps are used to good effect, showing elements such as the chronological development of the Roman city and the distribution of finds (although the author notes how the geographical distribution of the tools relates to depositional practice and not to their use, meaning their distribution cannot be used to consider the organisation of crafts within the city, nor how this changed over time). The reproduction of several colour illustrations showing reconstructions of the city's buildings and tool-manufacturing processes, as well as photographs of artefacts and features under excavation, do much to enliven the volume.

In summary, I found this an excellent and important study of tool use in Roman London, which will be of great value to Roman finds specialists and to those with a wider interest in the historic development of London.

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Life, Death and Rubbish Disposal in Roman Norton, North Yorkshire: Excavations at Brooklyn House 2015–16. By Janet Phillips and Pete Wilson with contributions by Tony Benfield and 20 others. Archaeopress, Oxford, 2021. Pp. viii + 283, illus. Price £48. ISBN 9781789698381 (pbk); 9781789698398 (PDF eBook).

Norton lies to the south of the river Derwent, with the market town of Malton to the north, and together they form the site of an important Roman centre, originating as a fort located on Orchard Fields, Malton. Both towns have witnessed many archaeological interventions since the 1920s and the book begins with a useful and comprehensive summary of these by Wilson. The excavation itself took place prior to the redevelopment of the former Brooklyn House Youth Centre as a primary school, along with a new approach road and associated works. Chapter 2 by both editors provides a phase-by-phase account of the excavation. Although no features were found, Mesolithic to Bronze Age lithics were recovered, demonstrating some prehistoric activity. Geophysical survey revealed a field system and trackway, which was dated by the excavation to the later Iron Age/early Roman period, which after a relatively short time was succeeded by a Roman road and possible roadside ditch sometime in the mid-third century A.D., along with burials including the near complete skeleton of an infant. The most unusual feature, however, was a *bustum*-type cremation consisting of a pit over which there had been a pyre, with the human remains contained in a large calcite gritted jar. In Phase three, as the Roman settlement expanded, the burials were overlain by a series of stone structures. An intriguing discovery was a pit containing the skulls of two geese and nearby pit which also contained goose bones, possibly buried in some form of ritual. After the abandonment of the buildings by the late fourth/early fifth century, the area was used for the dumping of a large amount of rubbish.

What follows are the specialist reports. The longest concerns the Roman pottery, which consisted of 21,000 sherds, by Rowlandson and Fiske, with additional material by Hartley, Mills, Bird and Williams. This is attractively presented with colour photographs of some of the most important types, particularly the Crambeck painted parchment ware and locally made greywares, decorated with faces, wheels and blacksmith's tools.

The identification of the cremated body as a soldier was based on a brilliant piece of observation and deduction from the belt fittings and other items from the pyre material by Cool and Greep, which forms a key part of the finds report presented in Chapters 7a and 7b. This conclusion was also supported by Keefe and Holst's analysis in their report on the human remains in Chapter 13, as they noted similarities with other Roman military cremations in northern England.

Contributions by McCormish on the building materials, also embellished with useful colour photographs, chipped stone lithics by Carter, querns by Cruse, whetstones by Tibbles, vertebrate remains by Foster, shell by