

The RAG

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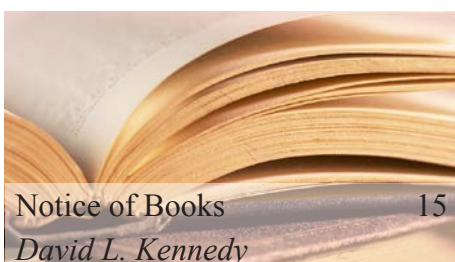
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Bigger than Guy? *Guy de la Bédoyère wins over RAG*



A highlight of our Saturday RAG sessions, not just for the year but since the lecture by Prof Alan Bowman in 2003, was the appearance on stage of GdIB. Guy is well-known to everyone who has watched ‘Time Team’ in recent years – he was (the series is now ended) the resident Roman expert and was notable for his ready ability to identify artefacts and offer interpretations as the excavations unfolded.

Guy’s erudition was on show in a well-attended lecture. Despite it being Easter Sunday and the draw of family or church for many, our regular turnout of c. 60-70 did not fall – instead there were nearly 150 present.

Guy gave an interesting and entertaining lecture to the large RAG audience on the Clash of Cultures - the impact of Rome on the indigenous population(s). The imposition of the name ‘Britannia’ on the part of the island and its peoples misleadingly implies a uniformity amongst the latter. In fact Britain was composed of disparate tribes often with striking differences between them as Roman writers occasionally acknowledged. Those in the southeast had had some exposure to Romanism in Gaul, the tribes of the far north were thought to be Germanic in origin because they even looked different. It might have been thought, however, that



the Romans, with their advanced civilisation, would have dominated culturally and ‘Romanised’ these peoples. In practise there is scant evidence for that. The vast majority of people in Roman Britain of whom we know something are immigrants; very few romanized Britons can be identified and all too often we simply have to admit ‘we don’t know’. Guy alluded to similar experiences in Australia when the First Fleet landed and confronted the indigenous peoples. In Australia as in ancient Britain, many tribes did not speak the same language.

Following the afternoon tea, Guy signed copies of his books and spent half an hour fielding questions from the audience.

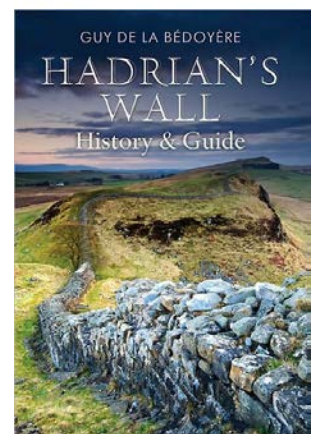
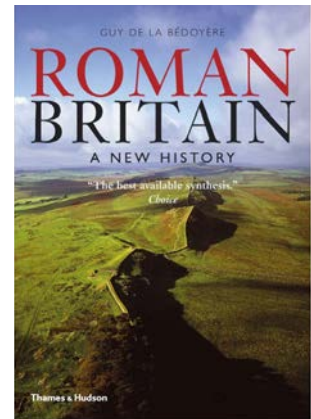
It should be noted that despite not holding an academic post with both incentive and opportunity to publish books, Guy has published far more than most academics of his age. Nineteen books on Roman Archaeology and several more on 17th century English diarists and on the world wars of the 20th century (please see the book list below).

On a more personal level, several members of the RAG Committee were able to join Guy and Rosemary for an informal BBQ – a mild autumn evening, leafy garden and good company and food were plainly appreciated by them.

Hopefully we will see Guy and Rosemary in Perth again soon.

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For several years students from UWA have been able to participate in Roman archaeology overseas thanks to the generous endowment of a travel scholarship by Don Boyer, our Deputy Chair. In 2012, thanks to the support of RAG members, RAG itself endowed a second scholarship with funds to keep it going for 5 years. In 2012 and subsequent years we will have two scholarships each, now called the Don Boyer/Roman Archaeology Group Travel Scholarship. Below is the first of two articles contributed by the first pair of recipients.

-DLK.

Digging at Dorchester-on-Thames

Don Boyer / Roman Archaeology Group Travel Scholarship Recipient 2012

Helena van der Riet



Last day of the season at Dorchester-on-Thames. Image: Helena van der Riet.

The University of Western Australia (UWA) offers a unit called Roman Archaeology. In 2011, I was fortunate to have the unit taught to me by the charming and forthright lecturer Dr. Glenys Wootton. Dr. Wootton, as I am sure you would all agree, is an inspiring lecturer, setting high bench marks for her students which I must have achieved, as I was encouraged to apply for the Don Boyer/Roman Archaeology Group Travel Scholarship.

Travelling to a Roman site naturally required me to make my way to the former Roman world, not a simple task from Perth. Archaeological digs on Roman sites occur during the European summer – the peak travel season. If you think the cost of a summer holiday in Western Australia’s South West is criminal, the airline industry has made “charging like a wounded bull” an art form. Luckily I was organised and fortunate enough to obtain additional funding from the Dean of the School, the Vice Chancellor of UWA, and The Centenary Fund for Women to cover the high-season expenses.

Choosing a site

At UWA the Roman Archaeology unit dealt with some of the following topics: urbanisation of the Roman World, King Herod’s Port of Caesarea, the town plan of Cosa and the role of amphorae in the world of Roman commerce. All of these topics were related to exciting and interesting digs I could choose from.

I decided that I wanted to attend a dig under the tutelage of a University. For example, a field school under

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the auspices of Oxford University would probably have excellent teaching, field techniques and technology at the cutting edge and easy access to a museum like the Ashmolean would be an advantage. I am pleased to say that Oxford's fieldwork methodology is every bit as good as field schools run by UWA!

Other options were to assist on a dig at Caesarea, Israel under the auspices of the University of Haifa, and at Mount Testaccio in Rome, but I decided to focus on a site in the United Kingdom.

Britain: a large Roman Site?

Typing the above sub-heading into your search engine on your computer provides you with an enormous choice of sites. Refining your search to archaeological Roman digs, then "ping," loads of options appear. Several UK universities run their training field schools at Roman sites. The choice for me came down to field schools run by Bournemouth University (BU), Oxford University (OU) and The University of Reading (UR).

BU manages the *Durotriges Project* (<http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/discover-the-past>) which is studying the transition from late Iron Age to the early Roman period in Southern England. Archaeological evidence showed the natives living in the area during this period were thriving on Spanish wine, olive oil and other Mediterranean goods introduced to Dorset by the Romans. Traditionally this period is viewed as a time of conflict, the Roman army forcing its way across Dorset: the native Britons conducting a brave but ultimately futile resistance with large numbers dying in the process. Archaeological evidence from the site seems to indicate that whoever lived there regarded Rome as a good thing and were already part of a long distance trade network before Rome invaded Britain. This, of course, flies in the face of traditional and rather entrenched views of native relations.

UR has been conducting archaeology field schools at Silchester since 1997, *The Silchester Town Life Project*, investigating one block or "insula" of the Roman Town (<http://www.reading.ac.uk/silchester/>). The aim is to provide details of the town's origins in the late Iron Age to the time it was abandoned. Several previous recipients have attended this dig and I thought it was time to follow a new path (see Vol. 3 Iss. 4–Rebecca Banks, Vol. 4 Iss. 4–Ian Gately, Vol. 6 Iss. 1–Ben Barwood).

Oxford University's *Discovering Dorchester-on-Thames Project* (<http://www.arch.ox.ac.uk/DOT1.html>) hopes to achieve a better understanding of three of the key transition points in English history: the move away from tribal society with the growth of urbanisation in the late Iron Age, subsequent incorporation into the Roman Empire, and the rise of early Saxon society from the confused situation arising from the withdrawal of the Roman legions in AD 410.

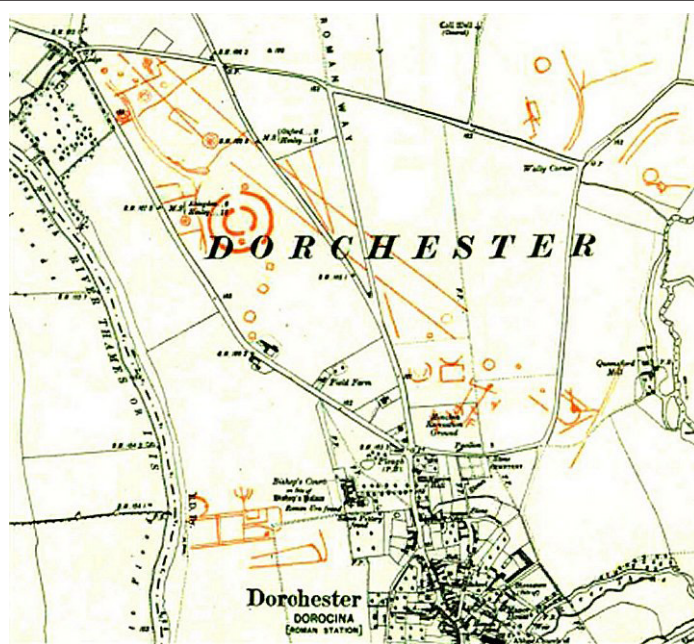
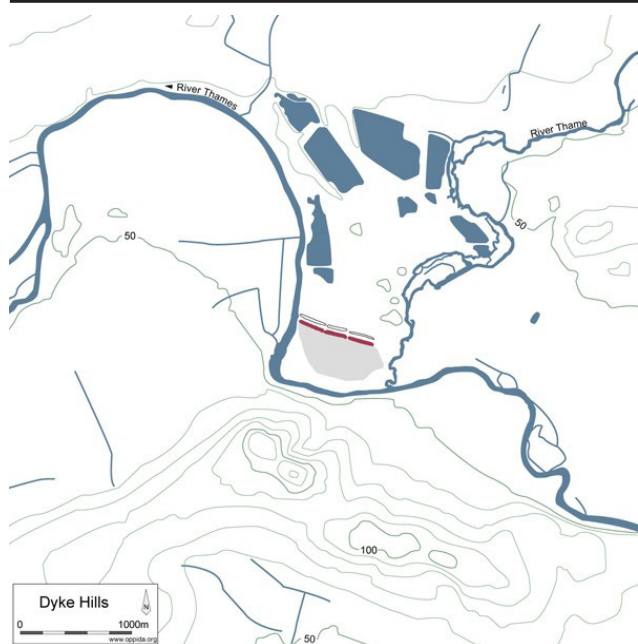


Choice: Discovering Dorchester with Oxford University

My interest in OU's Discovering Dorchester-on-Thames was stimulated because it is largely undisturbed and the succession and transition zones were of particular interest to me and should be well defined. Also I thought the scale of the excavation over a fairly large open area rather than in trenches would allow a greater scope for interpretation of the site. Most helpfully I have a girlfriend living in Oxford and she was happy to have me as a lodger for the month of the training school.

History of the Dorchester-on-Thames Area

According to the School of Archaeology at Oxford University: "The village of Dorchester-on-Thames lies in a loop of the river Thames at its confluence with the river Thame and is on a peninsula above the river floodplains. Today, the village is encircled by gravel quarries which are mainly lakes, giving Dorchester the appearance of sitting on an island. Indeed, over half the peninsula has been quarried away. These quarries were largely active from the 1940s, when one of the most important Neolithic and Bronze Age ceremonial centres in the British Isles was destroyed following only a limited excavation of selected sites. Large areas between



Left: Location of possible Iron Age dykes at Dorchester at the confluence of the River Thames and Thame. The location of lakes show the position of the former gravel quarries (source: oppida.org).

Right: Map of Dorchester with features drawn from aerial imagery c.1930s (G. W. G. Allen (1938) Oxoniensia).

trenches were not explored, a number of monuments visible on aerial photographs were not investigated at all and there was very little environmental sampling. Excavations undertaken in advance of further quarrying and the construction of the road bypass in 1981 examined the south-east terminal of the Cursus and an early Neolithic enclosure and demonstrated the range of small, but important features which probably would have been present over much of the ceremonial monument had it been possible to observe the entire area” (<http://www.arch.ox.ac.uk/history-DOT1.html>).

History of the Dorchester Excavation

Dorchester is a key site in British history. It was a prestigious ceremonial centre in the Neolithic and Bronze Age, and is highly unusual in having important Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon towns in a single place, which have suffered remarkably little damage from occupational development (until the 1940s quarrying). Dorchester is one of only two walled Roman towns known in Oxfordshire. The 2nd-century ramparts and later stone defences enclosed an area of 6 hectares to the west of the River Thame.

Since 2007, beginning in the Minchin Recreation Ground, OU has been investigating the Roman archaeology of the town and in the village allotments in subsequent years.

Three nationally important early 5th-century burials have been discovered at Dorchester: a man and a woman found in the Dyke Hills Iron Age ramparts and a woman from a gravel quarry next to the Minchin Recreation Ground. These individuals provide tantalising and, in many ways, unique evidence of society at the end of the period of Roman rule in Britain. The early 5th-century objects buried with them suggest that they were not merely Roman provincials and that the women at least may have come from north-west Germany. The female burials contained an intriguing combination of Romano-British and Germanic artefacts while the man seems to have been associated with the Roman military.

One of the most significant objects found from the 2012 season is a very late Roman buckle with



Aerial view of Dorchester on Thames with excavation sites indicated: the village allotments (c. 300-410 A.D.) indicated by a ‘☆’. Image: Oxford University.



Roman buckle with two horses' heads - this specimen was found during the 2010 excavations. Image: Ashmolean Museum.

two horses' heads. This is the third example of this type of buckle found in the present excavations (see photo) and was probably worn by late Roman officials or quasi-official personnel. This remarkable concentration of such buckles at a single site underlines the importance of Dorchester at the very end of the Roman period. This is further underscored by the Roman coins: a high proportion of the coins date to AD388-402, perhaps indicating enhanced activity at the very end of the fourth century. It raises the key question of the nature of the relationship between this activity and the earliest Saxon occupation.

2013 Season

The 2013 dig will commence again in the European summer and will continue to address the question of transitioning; the 2012 season I was involved in was unable to provide any conclusive answers and possibly created more tantalising questions. The stratigraphy will be more "Roman" as almost all of the Anglo Saxon period has now been removed.

When the dig commences it will resume at the stage in the photo at the beginning of this article which was taken on the last day of the 2012 dig as we were preparing the site to be covered in plastic and for the spoil heap to cover it. This photo could easily be the first photo of the 2013 season!

As a recipient of the scholarship I felt very privileged and humbled. Furthermore I was pleased to have been accepted to attend an undergraduate field school at Oxford University. In terms of Roman Archaeology, I had perhaps made an error. I deduced that the transition between the Anglo-Saxon and Roman abandonment



Torrential downpours on the site: digging still continued. Image: Helena van der Riet.

was still too cluttered thus making it too difficult to distinguish any features as 'Roman'. This was confirmed by the Field Director's closing remarks where he commented that the ditches/drains running throughout the site are causing confusion and more excavation will be required to reveal answers.

On a personal level I have made many friends who shared the hard slog of digging in all the weather conditions the British climate can produce.

Furthermore, I have realised that I would prefer to work in the field of archaeology rather than in education and as a result I shall be starting Honours in Archaeology in 2013. My only regret is that I did not complete sufficient units in Classical History to be able to do Honours in Classics and Ancient History (my bad)!

Aerial Archaeology in Jordan, 2013

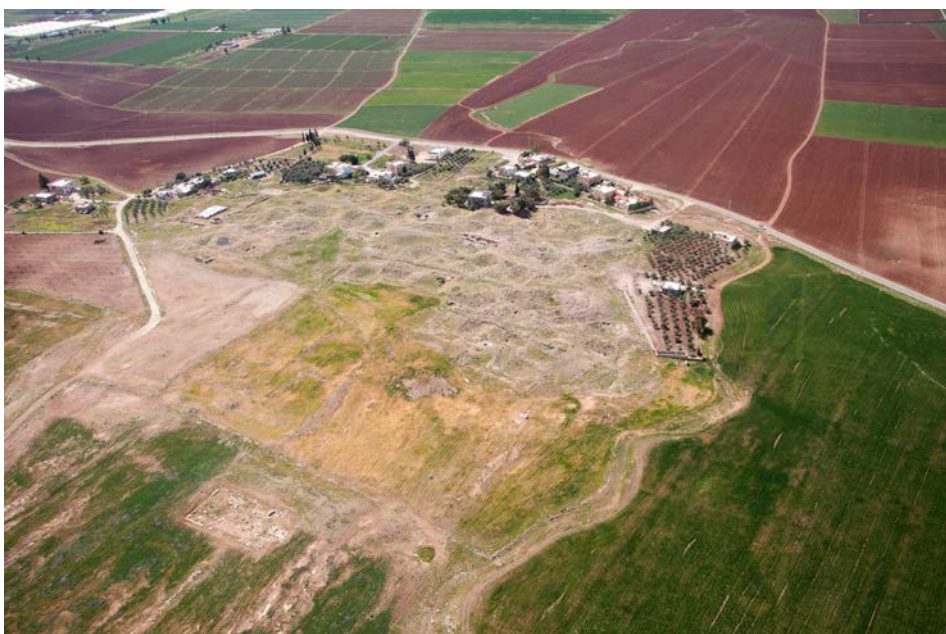
Rebecca Banks

2013 sees in the 17th year of the Aerial Archaeology in Jordan Project, directed by David Kennedy and Robert Bewley. We chose the season to be during Spring this year in the hope of seeing the landscape in full verdure, and we have not been disappointed. We have thus far completed three flights: east to the black desert, the greater Amman area, and then out again to the east in the vicinity of the Araq Oasis. We have followed up the flights with a few ground visits to selected sites including desert castles, WW1 Trenches, and Roman roads. The fourth and last flight for the season is to be completed at the end of the month (April).

The following pictures are a selection of Roman and related sites photographed this year in the greater Amman area that we hope you will find interesting. To find more photographs of these, or other sites, please remember to log on to our online archive at <http://www.flickr.com/apaame/collections> and search or browse the catalogue. To keep up to date with what we are doing, you can follow our blog at <http://www.apaame.org> or on twitter at @APAAME.

Roman town of **Masuh**. The fertile red soils of the region are vibrant in this photograph. The remains of the town are being slowly encroached upon from the road side by modern building.

© APAAME_20130414_MND-0278. Photographer: Matthew Dalton.



'Kafrein Site 6' - Tell Umm Hadar: occupied as early as the late 3rd century BC down to the 1st century BC/1st century AD. It has been put forward that it was a military outpost between the territories of the Judaeans and Nabataeans.

© APAAME_20130414_RHB-0404. Photographer: Robert Bewley.





Madaba City Tell Excavations: the town is famous for its Roman ruins of churches and mosaics, including the famous Madaba Mosaic depicting a map of all the major centres in the region dating to the 6th century AD.
© APAAME_20130414_DLK-0313. Photographer: David L. Kennedy.



Machaerus: Active under Hasmonaean and Herodian rule, the fortress was destroyed by the Romans in 72AD in response to the continual Jewish revolts in Judaea. No occupation is evident on the site after the destruction by the Romans. Today it is a place of pilgrimage for Christians as the site of John the Baptist's beheading.
© APAAME_20130414_DLK-0369. Photographer: David. L. Kennedy.



Khirbet ad-Deir: The late Roman, early Islamic site has the Arabic 'Deir' in its name to denote a monastery or convent. The site preserves evidence of agricultural industry, such as a wine press, terracing, and numerous cisterns.
© APAAME_20130414_DLK-0511. Photographer: David L. Kennedy.

Sumiya (Sumia) - This site overlooking the Wadi Hesban has evidence of occupation from Early Bronze Age through to the early Islamic era. Terracing and a mill on site suggest agricultural production at the site.

© APAAME_20130414_REB-0039. Photographer: Rebecca Banks.



Tell Kafrein (or Sharab) is one in a series of tells located in the fertile intersection of the Wadi Kufrein and the Jordan Valley. The area is rich in history, including occupation during the Roman era.

© APAAME_20130414_MND-0624. Photographer: Matthew Dalton.



Khirbet el-AI: This fortified settlement between Amman and Madaba is located in a rich agricultural area and survey has revealed evidence of religious structures and agricultural activity.

© APAAME_20130414_MND-0225. Photographer: Matthew Dalton.



Rome: Recycled - Rediscovered - Reborn!

Don Boyer / Roman Archaeology Group Travel Scholarship Recipient 2012

Rebecca Norman

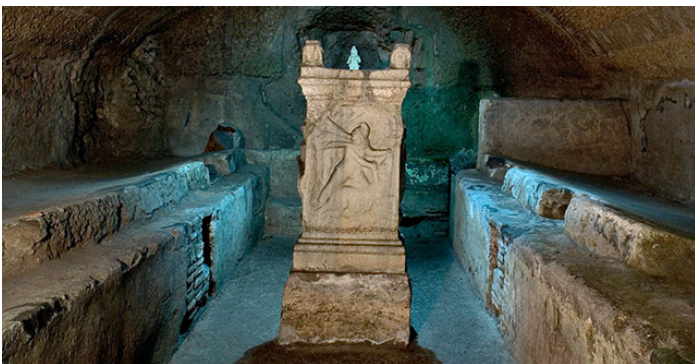
Rome: just saying the word is enough to stir the imagination, conjuring up a world of gladiators, chariot races, vast amphitheatres, soaring monuments, political intrigue, huge armies, great battles, victorious generals and its notorious rulers, all culminating in one of the greatest Empires the world has ever known. For a student of classical history, seeing this city is like being in the ultimate lecture theatre!

I was one such student, lucky enough to attend a UWA Summer School in Rome, for a course designed to provide an overview of how the archaeology of ancient Rome inspired architectural and artistic development throughout history. Furthermore, we were introduced to the many issues confronting a major European city when faced with the demands of conserving its archaeological and artistic heritage.

Held over a two week period, all lectures took place on-site, including visits to archaeological sites, museums, art galleries and churches. Layers of evidence reveal an unequalled historic kaleidoscope: from the ruins of classical Rome to its Renaissance and Baroque churches and palaces, from the late nineteenth-century monuments to the new Italian state or from boulevards built under Mussolini's fascist regime to the twenty-first-century museum buildings.

The delight of Rome is that its heritage is not set apart, tidily sectioned off away from the main city, rather it simply exists everywhere. You never know what you will come across around the next corner; one moment you are walking down a busy shopping street, the next you are in front of Trajan's column. As you stroll around the back of the Capitoline Museum, you realise that the ruins spread out before you are those of the *Forum Romanum*. Rome and its history envelop you becoming as much a part of you as breathing.

One of the most interesting aspects of this course, for me, was the realisation that many ancient Roman buildings or monuments have survived due to a form of recycling or relocation, as once discovered, the only way to protect them was adaptation or removal. Throughout the ages, within the city of Rome, land levels changed and old buildings collapsed or were destroyed to make way for replacements, meaning many ancient artifacts and important sites were lost. Some however were lucky enough to be re-used as foundations or shells for new buildings, protecting and preserving the ancient archaeology. Although there are far too many to discuss here, three stood out to me as worthy of further consideration: one beneath the surface, one above



Left: Mithraeum at the Basilica of San Clemente. Image: <http://www.basilicasanclemente.com>.



Right: The Basilica of San Clemente. Image: Flickr Hen-Magonza.

and one relocated.

Rome Recycled: Basilica of San Clemente

Just a short walk from the Flavian Amphitheatre is one of the best places in Rome to witness the layering effect of its history; a twelfth century church, built over a fourth century church, which is itself on top of a pagan temple. Although this is not unusual *per se*, the whole of the modern city is built directly over the ancient one, the difference here is that you can actually walk down through the layers, exploring each level in its own right and in context with the other tiers.



The four sides of the (unrestored) altar of the Mithraeum: (in sequence) front relief depicting Mithras slaying a bull; right side depicting a Cautes, attendant of the god Mithras; back depicting a serpent; and the left side another attendant, Cautopates. Images: Claudia Porcel.

The Basilica of San Clemente that we see today was completed around 1123, after the earlier building was destroyed during the Norman sack of Rome in 1084. The unassuming exterior is in stark contrast to the interior, which, although relatively simple compared with some of the churches in Rome, is quite beautiful.

With its marble choir, Cosmati* style floor, altar canopy and stunning twelfth century mosaic in the apse, this church is historically important in its own right. However, through the sacristy to the right of the main building is a passageway with steps, leading down to two lower levels. To understand the context of the archaeology, it is helpful to go down to the lowest level first.

Here you find a *Mithraeum*, originally built in the inner courtyard of a Roman *insula*. Its position is directly underneath the altars of both of the surviving later churches. The cult of Mithras is still shrouded in mystery, but probably originated in Persia. Peering through the grating into the gloom, it is possible to distinguish a carving depicting the sacrifice of a bull on the side of the centrally positioned altar, which itself is flanked by stone benches.

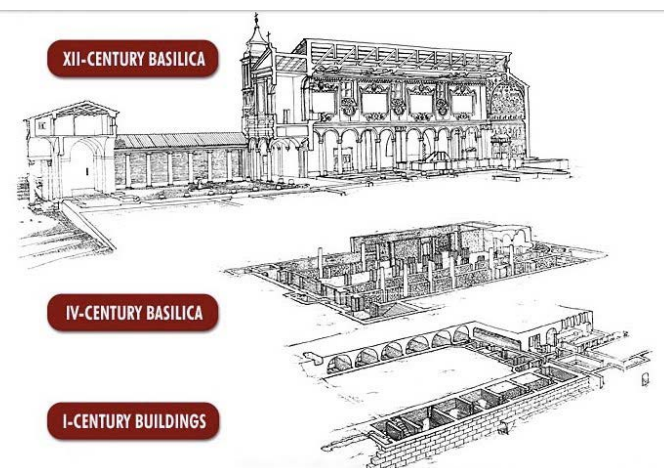
The cult of Mithras was an enormously popular pagan cult, especially among the Roman military, and is mentioned by Cassius Dio (63.5.2). Remarkably, you are able to continue on across a narrow alleyway into the remains of a Roman *palazzo*, also of the first century AD, where it is possible to see and hear water rushing through and along the ancient pipes and aqueducts between the walls. The *palazzo* is postulated to be that of an individual called Flavius Clemens.

Ascending to the middle level, the fourth century church takes shape. Close scrutiny reveals pillars and archways, bricked up by contemporary builders as they re-cycled the ancient Roman structure to fortify their church. Frescoes depicting the life of San Clemente and the story of St Alexis can be seen on the walls, but interestingly some have been cut in half where the floor of the upper level starts, suggesting that those building the current basilica did not find these frescoes particularly important, or of any intrinsic value.

Amazingly, being recycled into the foundations of an early Christian church, itself the foundations of the current basilica, has protected the ancient Roman ruins. The archaeology, which might easily have been destroyed, has been preserved and although reused, provides us with a rare glimpse into a mysterious cult.

Unfortunately, the general public are prohibited from taking photographs within this church, on every level, however the official website listed at the end of this article is worth checking out.

*Cosmati style floor: A type of marble floor of decorative geometric mosaics from small triangles and rectangles of coloured marble, which were used



The three levels of the site of the Basilica of San Clemente. Image: St. Clement of Rome Parish website.



The Pantheon in Rome, front and back. Images: Rebecca Norman.

typically for church floors, but can also be found on walls and church furniture.

The Pantheon

The Pantheon that we see today is thought to be the third incarnation of Marcus Agrippa's original temple built in 27BC to commemorate Augustus' victory at the Battle of Actium. This temple and its successor were destroyed by fire in AD80 and AD110 respectively. Hadrian rebuilt the Pantheon between AD118-125 retaining the original dedication, possibly as a mark of respect for the victory at Actium, or a symbolic gesture linking him to the Imperial Roman line. Built on what was in antiquity the *Campus Martius*, the Pantheon would have towered over its surroundings, a highly visible landmark. Today it nestles in a dip, the modern city level slightly higher, indicating how much the ground level has changed since Roman times.



The Pantheon interior, looking towards the entrance. Image: Rebecca Norman.

From the back you are unprepared for the impact of the Pantheon, as it appears rather non-descript, a curved brick structure adorned with the odd piece of decorative marble. However on reaching the front the sheer size of the building is breathtaking: sixteen soaring granite Corinthian columns supporting a rectangular portico bearing the now famous dedication, with the immense dome rising behind the triangular pediment. Despite re-appropriation long ago of all of the exterior bronze, gold and marble, the pockmarked pediment is a testament to their removal, the Pantheon is still stunning.

Under the portico, the great bronze doors open into a circular interior, which is a marvel of engineering. A cylinder topped with a hemisphere, the height from the floor to the tip of the dome exactly matches its diameter.

Clever use of niches between the supporting wall buttresses along with the coffers in the ceiling belies the weight of the structure, giving the impression that the dome floats effortlessly above your head; the massive proportions making you feel rather inconsequential. In the centre of the dome, the oculus (circular opening in the centre of the dome) draws the eye and, other than the doors, is the only source of natural light. Open to the elements, the floor beneath the oculus gently slopes allowing drainage after rain. The marble on the floor and walls is largely original, sourced from across the Roman world at no small



The Ara Pacis Augustae in its new housing, first opened in 2006. Image: Rebecca Norman.

cost, creating an image of luxury. Despite this, today an elegant simplicity is retained, allowing the building itself to impress rather than the decoration.

Although originally dedicated to ‘all gods’, the Pantheon was re-consecrated in the seventh century into a Christian building honouring one god and has remained so. An active church and subsequently the burial place for several famous Italians including Raphael, Vittorio Emanuele II and Umberto I, explains why the Pantheon is the best preserved of all ancient Roman buildings. The niches, which once housed statues of Roman gods, now display Christian images and act as side chapels. The main altar, opposite the entrance, features a beautiful icon of the Madonna and Child under an apse decorated with crosses in a mosaic of gold and blue.

Seeing an ancient Roman building such as the Pantheon in its original position, more or less intact and being able to walk on the same floor on which an emperor did nearly two thousand years ago is, for a classics student, extremely rewarding, making the past seem more tangible. To see exterior architecture confirming the innovation of the Romans seamlessly united with an interior modified to include Christian heritage is, to me, the essence of history and this beautiful building will continue to inspire me.

Rome Re-discovered: Ara Pacis Augustae

Another facet to the archaeological fascination of Rome is how ancient artefacts once re-discovered, are removed, re-built and preserved on a completely different site, instead of being conserved in situ, yet retain the same historical importance and impact. Although many have been removed into museums, one in particular stands out, the Ara Pacis, Augustus’ triumphal dedication to peace commissioned by the Senate in 13BC in honour of Augustus’ victory over Spain and Gaul. This beautiful marble altar was placed, in antiquity, near the via Flaminia (where generals ceremonially changed military attire to civilian dress) and acted as a powerful reminder that peace had replaced war. Representations of the imperial family headed by Augustus on one side and the Senate depicted on the opposite, provide a scene of unity and stability. The altar is completed with scenes of Roman piety along with mythological and historical illustrations of deities and heroes, its creation, the embodiment of the peace Augustus was promoting. Although some of the images have been subtly drawn in and there has clearly been restoration in some sections the overall impact of this exquisite altar is not lost.

Over time, as the level of the land around the Ara Pacis rose, this beautiful temple disappeared and was lost to history for several centuries. The first clue that it had been re-discovered was during the sixteenth



Reliefs of the processions from the Ara Pacis Augustae. Images: Rebecca Norman.

century when pieces of marble were found in the foundations of the *Palazzo in via di Lucina* (later *Palazzo Fiano*). Subsequent excavations resulted in fragments being spirited away, either to reappear in the one of the great museums or art galleries or to disappear altogether into private collections. However, much had to be left in place due to concerns over the structural integrity of the palace. It wasn't until 1903, when Frederick von Duhn recognised what these marble pieces constituted, that permission was granted to excavate as much of what remained buried as possible without damaging the foundations of the palace, unearthing around 53 fragments.

Final excavations began in 1937 under Mussolini who also instructed that a new pavilion be built next to the Mausoleum of Augustus to house the altar. Eventually, the original pavilion was replaced by an architecturally similar building designed by Richard Meier, opened in 2006. Despite not being particularly welcomed by many Italians, the huge expanses of glass, which make up the museum, allow the Ara Pacis to be bathed in full natural light, maintaining its continuity with the outside world. Without removing this treasure from its original location, its historical value and significance would probably have remained lost forever.

Rome Reborn

Sadly, because the modern metropolis of Rome is built on top of the ancient city, many archaeological discoveries remain unexcavated due to their locale. Others, such as the Theatre of Marcellus, were subject to several modifications, which often destroyed much of the original structure. Just recently, Hadrian's auditorium was discovered under the Piazza Venezia, during tunnelling work for the new underground metro line. Although authorities hope to allow public access by constructing a visitor's centre adjacent to the metro station, the need to conserve such archaeological discoveries has to be balanced with the requirements of a rapidly growing city whose current infrastructure is inadequate.

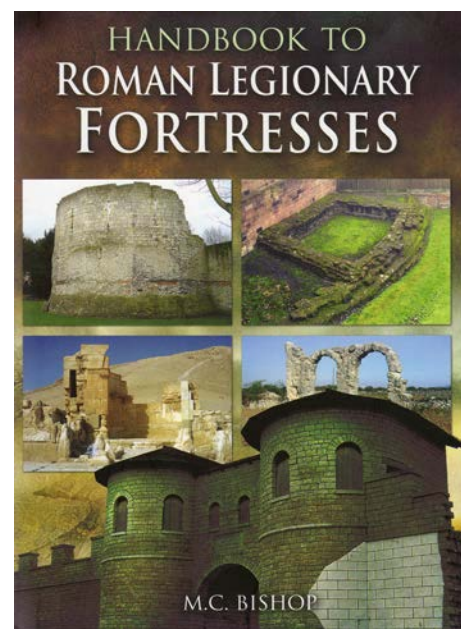
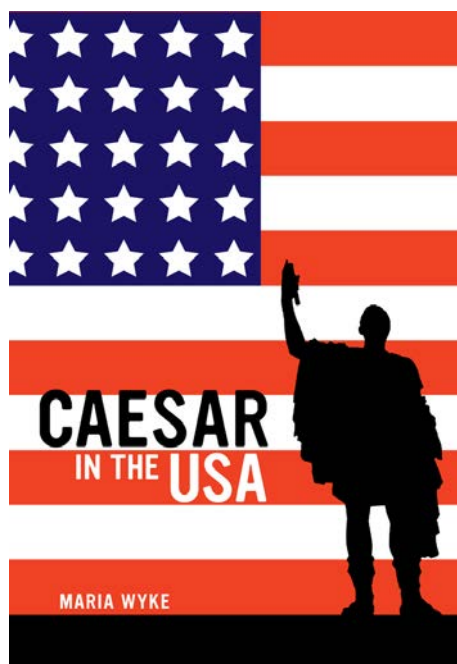
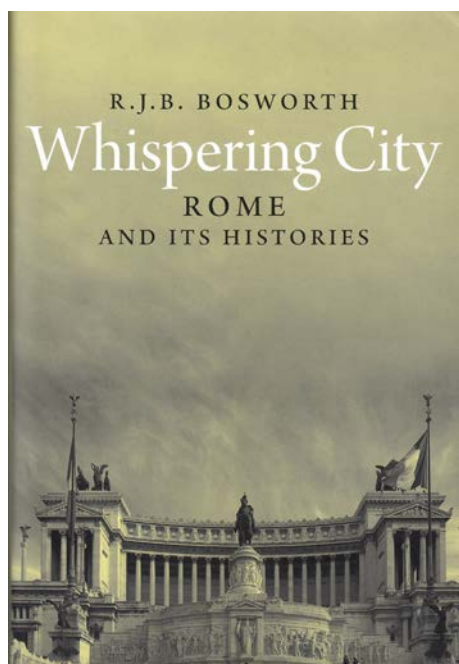
Even though I realise that it is preferable for the relics of ancient Rome to be preserved in situ, it is also possible to appreciate that which has been recycled or rediscovered. The pagan Mithraeum under the Basilica of San Clemente survives because it was re-used as a Christian church and the Pantheon remains the best preserved of all Roman buildings for the same reason. The Ara Pacis survives because it was removed from underneath a structurally unsound palace, whose repair may have destroyed the altar forever. There are countless other examples, too many to recount here. For me, the understanding of how these sites relate to the overall archaeological environment merely increases my fascination with Rome: a city reborn by allowing its past to exist alongside its present.

On a personal note, I would like to express my grateful thanks to the Don Boyer/Roman Archaeology Group Travel Scholarship Committee, whose extremely generous grant made my attendance on this course possible.

Links: <http://www.basilicasanclemente.com> offers further information and photographs of the Basilica of San Clemente
Editorial note: see the note on the next page on Richard Bosworth's superb book on Rome.

Notices of Books

David L. Kennedy



Bosworth, R. J. B. (2011) *Whispering City. Rome and its Histories*, New Haven and London (Yale UP).

Readers of Rebecca Norman's article on Rome will get plenty of reminders of the enormous depth of history – literally and figuratively, to found in the city of Rome. There are many excellent books on the city but one of particular interest to readers here in Perth is that by Richard Bosworth, formerly Professor of History at UWA.

Wyke, M. (2012) *Caesar in the USA*, Berkeley-Los Angeles-London (University of California Press).

RAG Vol. 6.4 carried an article on 'Rome in America'. Readers of RAG may like to look now at this recently published volume by Maria Wyke.

The book examines the role of Caesar – the forceful, talented, soldier, amoral politician and

statesman, in the imagination of Americans in the 20th century. Several figures have been cast as a new Caesar, perhaps a dangerous man aiming to overthrow the Republic, as Caesar did in his time, and establish a personal autocracy. Perhaps most famous was Douglas MacArthur in William Manchester's biography of the general – *American Caesar* (1978). That other outrageous American general of the same war, George Paton, was famous for claiming that in a former life he had (amongst other roles) been a legionary in Caesar's army.

Bishop, M. C. (2012) *Handbook to Roman Legionary Fortresses*, Barnsley (Pen and Sword Books Ltd) - £19.99.

Those of you who joined my 'Tour of Roman Britain' in 2003 or 2004 will remember Mike as our admirable guide at Housesteads and Vindolanda. I had known him since

he was an undergraduate at Sheffield University in the late 1970s and I subsequently supervised his PhD there. We have kept in touch for 30 years and I had the enormous benefit two years ago of collaborating with him on a project when he came to UWA as a Research Associate for several weeks. While he was here in Perth he was just starting research on a book which has now been published. As always it is elegantly written and highly professional ... and beautifully illustrated. If you are interested in the Roman military this is one for your shelf.

But if you are looking for something lighter ... and a good (fictional) read, Robert Harris' trilogy on the Late Republic focussed on Cicero is what you need.

Harris, R. (2006) *Imperium*; (2009) *Lustrum*; (2011) *Conspirata*, London (Simon & Schuster).

Roman Archaeology Group News

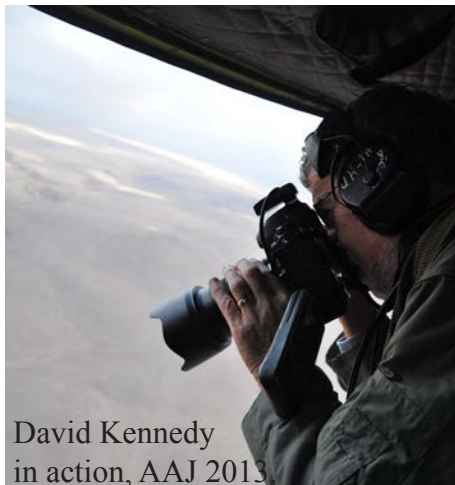
Afternoon Teas

A huge thank you is owed to the increasing number of RAG members that donate their time and baking skills to help with the afternoon teas. The proceeds from these afternoon teas are the reason why we have been able to continue the Roman Archaeology Travel Scholarship and extend it to a second recipient per year, as well as support the continued running of the group's activities. Thank you indeed.

Don, Water, and Jarash

UWA PhD candidate and Deputy Chairperson of the RAG, Don Boyer, has recently returned to Jarash (Gerasa), Jordan to continue his survey of the water systems of the town and its hinterland.

Don Boyer/RAG Roman Archaeology Travel Scholarship
The Summer archaeological field season for the Northern Hemisphere is almost upon us. If anyone is a UWA student and interested in applying for a Scholarship to attend a field school this season, please go to our website to see how to apply. <http://www.humanities.uwa.edu.au/research/cah/roman-archaeology/travel-scholarships>



David Kennedy
in action, AAJ 2013

The Roman Archaeology Group Remembers...

Barbara Logan
Norma Dawlings
David Gibb
Stuart Gunson

The Roman Archaeology Group Committee extends its sincere condolences to the families of members listed here who have sadly passed on. We remember their enthusiasm and support for the group. They will be missed. Our thoughts are with their families and friends.

International Conference for the History and Archaeology of Jordan, Berlin 2013.

Professor David Kennedy, Dr. Robert Bewley, PhD candidate Don Boyer, and Rebecca Banks will all be presenting papers at this year's ICHAJ Conference in Berlin in May. The topics are as follows:

David Kennedy - The Hinterland of Roman Philadelphia.

Robert Bewley - Heritage Management and the Contribution of Aerial Archaeology in Jordan and Beyond.

Don Boyer - The Ruins of Gerasa in 1816-19: an analysis of the plan and drawing archives of William John Bankes and Charles Barry.

Rebecca Banks - Digitising APAAME: methodologies and tools for managing modern and historical aerial imagery of Jordan and greater Arabia in a digital environment.

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The RAG Inc

<http://www.humanities.uwa.edu.au/research/cah/roman-archaeology>

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