

# Editorial

Readers of this journal will quickly notice a significant change in presentation, in that there is no separate 'Plates' section at the end. The Editorial Committee resolved, in the light of technological advances and improved printing techniques, that photographs be incorporated as text-figures within the main text. The decision was taken easily, though not lightly, with consideration given to maintaining the quality of illustration, which the reader has rightly come to expect. Many other journals have made a similar change, some long since. One advantage will be that, in the epigraphic section of the annual Roman Britain survey, line-drawings and photographs of the same stone can appear side-by-side. The option remains of printing photographs within the body of the volume on glossy art paper, where this seems advisable.

This year's annual report on new discoveries has a number of geographical lacunae, a consequence of last year's foot-and-mouth outbreak. The impact is especially obvious in sections covering Hadrian's Wall, Northern England, and to a lesser extent Wales. The section on Scotland is now being compiled by Fraser Hunter, curator at the National Museums of Scotland, Edinburgh, to whom contributions must henceforth be directed.

The JSTOR archiving project (noted in last year's editorial) is after all to include *Britannia* (as well as *JRS*), allowing on-line consultation of back numbers by subscribing institutions. In 2000 a fund for purchasing books for the Joint Library was established in memory of the Society's former Secretary, Mrs Patricia Gilbert. The books were to be in fields covered by *Britannia*, and I can report that a substantial number of volumes has consequently been added to the Library's holdings.

Interest in the archaeology of Roman Britain is certainly not flagging. A walk around Roman London, organised by the Society, and led by Harvey Sheldon and Robin Densum, was so over-subscribed that it had to be repeated twice. Among conferences and day-events already this year have been the 12th Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference (held at Canterbury), a two-day conference on 'Promoting Roman Finds' (held at Durham), and a day-conference to mark the centenary of the birth of Sir Ian Richmond (held at Newcastle), which assessed his contributions to the archaeology of different regions within the UK, and beyond. A two-day conference in London, entitled 'Documenting the Roman Army' honoured the particular achievements of Dr Margaret Roxan over many years in the study of military diplomas.

The International Congress of Roman Frontier Studies (or Limeskongress) continues to hold regular and ever more popular meetings. Participants met in Romania in 1997 and Jordan in 2000. Preparations are underway for a meeting in Hungary in 2003, and an offer has been received for a Congress in Spain in 2006. There was a 50-year tradition of a meeting in Britain on a ten-yearly basis, in the ninth year of each decade; but the last British Congress was at Canterbury in 1989. I am glad to report a proposal to hold the Congress in Britain once more, at Newcastle, in 2009.

On 14 February 2002 Professor John C. Mann died at the age of 80. Best known for his work on the Roman army and on the military occupation of northern England, especially on Hadrian's Wall, he was the author of *Legionary Recruitment and Veteran Settlement during the Principate* (University of London, Institute of Archaeology Occasional Paper no. 7, revised for publication by Margaret Roxan, 1983), and a LACTOR volume (no. 11, rev. edn 1985, co-edited with R.G. Penman) entitled *Literary Sources for Roman Britain*. John Mann was on the staff of the Department of Archaeology at the University of Durham from 1957 to 1981, and was awarded a personal chair in 1979. He was a Vice-President, later Honorary Vice-President, of this Society from 1988 until his death. John Mann had read history at London under A.H.M. Jones, inheriting from his mentor the need for close attention to the primary sources, whether literary or epigraphic, in the assessment of

any historical problem. He took a particular interest in Roman frontier works: readers who may wish to gauge the long-term influence of his scholarship should look at his paper on 'The frontiers of the Principate' in *Aufstieg und Niedergang der Römischen Welt* II.1 (1984), 508–33, and his review article on Edward N. Luttwak's *Grand Strategy of the Roman Empire* ('Power, force and the frontiers of the Empire' in *JRS* 69 (1979), 175–83). A selection of his papers, characteristically unmodified, and published by Variorum under the title *Britain and the Roman Empire* (1996), reveals an unexpectedly wide range of interests and a key to his method. Professor Mann was a frequent contributor to *Britannia*; his final paper, a typically concise contribution, is published in this volume (below, pp. 183–8).

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