

British Epigraphy Society NEWSLETTER

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AUTUMN COLLOQUIUM AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2003

Saturday 15 November 2003; History Department, University College London; Gower Street, London, WC1E 6BT (entry via main gate on Gower St; nearest underground station Euston Square [Circle, Hammersmith & City, Metropolitan]; Warren St. and Euston BR [Northern, Victoria] are also close by).

The meeting will follow the normal format: short reports on epigraphic projects in the morning; longer papers, on the theme of **The Non-Latin Epigraphy of Italy**, in the afternoon.

Programme

10.30 Coffee

11.00 G. Bodard: 'The Aphrodisias in Late Antiquity Project'

11.30 H.K. Lomas: 'The Ancient Literacy Project'

12.00 W. Broadhead: 'The Imagines Italicae Project'

12.30 R. Grasby: 'The Construction and Lettering of Some Latin Inscriptions'

13.00 Lunch (pre-booked sandwich lunch available)

14.15 British Epigraphy Society AGM

15.00 Tea

15.30 M. Watmough: 'A New Etruscan Inscription from Cortona'

16.30 M.H. Crawford: 'Italic Epigraphy at Pompeii'

17.30 Reception

There will be a small fee, payable on the day, for lunch/refreshments: £5 BES members, £7 non-members; for refreshments only £2. If you would like to book a sandwich lunch please contact the secretary, Benet Salway, at the History Dept, UCL (tel: 020-7679 3653; e-mail: ucrarws@ucl.ac.uk), with any dietary requirements, by Thursday 13 November.

The Saturday BES Autumn Colloquium will be preceded by a Workshop on the Friday 14 November organised by the Imagines Italicae Project; for further details of which please contact Michael Crawford, History Dept, UCL (ucramhc@ucl.ac.uk).

2 Conferences ...

THE EUROPEAN CITY IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE: FEEDING THE ANCIENT CITY Call for papers

From 27 to 30 October 2004 the Seventh International Conference on Urban History will take place in Athens and Piraeus. The overall theme is *The European City in Comparative Perspective*. Within this framework Prof. Onno van Nijf (University of Groningen) and Dr. Richard Alston (Royal Holloway, University of London) are organising a panel on the Ancient city with the title *Feeding the Ancient City*.

As in all other pre-industrial economies the food supply of the ancient city was precarious. Capital cities like Athens and Rome had of course privileged access to the resources of an empire, and developed over time a complex administrative and institutional system to provide their citizens with food. But what about the other cities? Not only did they not have similar resources at their disposal, but they also had to compete with the imperial centres in the food market. Hence our main question: how did these cities feed their inhabitants? One set of questions focuses on the degree to which ancient cities were (normally) able to feed their inhabitants from their own territory, and to what degree they had to import food. A second set of questions focuses on the issues of distribution and consumption. How did ancient city authorities regulate the distribution of food among the inhabitants?

This session will consist of c. 10 precirculated papers and we aim to have an equal distribution of Greek and Roman topics. For more information and offers of papers (preferably by 31 October), contact: Prof. Dr. Onno van Nijf, Dept of History, University of Groningen, PO Box 716 ,9700 AS Groningen, The Netherlands (o.m.van.nijf@let.rug.nl); or Dr. Richard Alston, Dept. of Classics, Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham, Surrey TW20 OEX, United Kingdom (R.Alston@rhul.ac.uk).

CULTURES OF COMMEMORATION: WAR MEMORIALS, ANCIENT AND MODERN

A conference to be held at the British Academy, London; Friday 16 and Saturday 17 July 2004

This inter-disciplinary conference will explore cultural responses to the commemoration of war dead, ranging from the Greek and Roman civilisations to practices of the more recent past. The conference will bring together experts working on Vietnam, the two world wars of the 20th century, post-revolutionary France, nineteenth century England, Republican and Imperial Rome, the Hellenistic World, and Classical Greece.

The conference is partly inspired by the desire to focus scholarly attention on the existence of a large, diverse, but often relatively neglected, body of ancient and modern material. But it also hopes to encourage new approaches which embrace a wider historical awareness: the relationship between war, state and the individual, family or social group; the role of monuments in their spatial context; the visual vocabulary of monuments; the interactions between monuments and rituals. The conference will offer ancient and modern historians an opportunity to explore the dialogue between the commemorative practices for the war dead in ancient and more recent cultures.

Participants will include: Avner Ben-Amos, Angelos Chaniotis, Alison Cooley, Stefan Goebel, Vedia Izzet, John Ma, P.J. Rhodes, Larry Tritle, Alison Yarrington.

Further information will appear on the British Academy website (www.britac.ac.uk/events/); alternatively, contact the co-organisers: Polly Low (polly.low@man.ac.uk) or Graham Oliver (gjoliver@liv.ac.uk).

**SECOND INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL IN GREEK AND LATIN EPIGRAPHY 2004
MONDAY 5TH JULY – THURSDAY 15TH JULY 2004**

The Second summer school in Greek and Latin epigraphy will be held at the Centre for the Study of Ancient Documents, University of Oxford, under the auspices of the British Epigraphy Society from 5th-15th July 2004.

The School will be directed by Dr G. J. Oliver, Professor J. Bodet, and Dr D. Obbink. Accommodation with full board in college rooms will be provided in Christ Church College at a heavily subsidised rate. The charge for the course, including accommodation with full board, is £400. Non-residential places are also available for which the course fee will be £100. The number of places on the course is strictly limited.

The Summer School will offer practical instruction in a seminar format to advanced undergraduates and graduate students in Greek and Latin Epigraphy. In addition to the practical seminars, students will attend key-note lectures given by leading scholars (Prof. M. Crawford, Dr J. Ma, Prof. S. Mitchell, and Mrs. C. Roueché), and specialist workshops led by experts (including alphabets, writing tablets, coins, instrumentum domesticum, architecture, information technology and onomastics). The course will offer students the opportunity to develop practical expertise in reading and editing epigraphic texts, and to increase their understanding of the importance of epigraphy for ancient historians.

Those interested in participating should contact Dr G. J. Oliver, (graham.oliver@classics.ox.ac.uk) as soon as possible. Applicants are asked to provide an outline of their current programme of study, educational background, linguistic proficiency in Greek, Latin and English, indicating their preference to specialise in Greek or Latin during the course. Applicants are also required to send two letters of recommendation (referees may wish to send these separately). The closing date for applications is 1st December 2003 (note new deadline), and the outcome of applications will be announced in January 2004.

Address for correspondence: Epigraphy Summer School, Centre for the Study of Ancient Documents, 67 St Giles, Oxford, OX1 3LS.

**An Epigraphic Saturday in
Cambridge**

Joyce Reynolds is hoping to host another 'Epigraphic Saturday' in Cambridge in January or February 2004, and would be very grateful to hear from anyone who would like to offer a paper. She can be contacted by email on jmr38@cam.ac.uk or by post: Faculty of Classics, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge CB3 9DA

Accordia Seminars 2003-2004

The theme for this year's seminar series is 'The Establishment of Literacy in State Societies: The Ancient Mediterranean', and the programme contains many papers of epigraphic interest, ranging from Linear B to Roman Imperial documents. Seminars take place on Tuesdays at 5.15pm in the Institute of Classical Studies, London; full details of the programme can be found on the BES website.

OLD AND NEW WORLDS IN GREEK ONOMASTICS

The Society's Spring Colloquium 2003 was held in Oxford, and was a joint venture with the Lexicon of Greek Personal Names Project and the British Academy. With the help of the Hellenic Society, the BES was able to provide bursaries to help four graduate students attend the conference. Below, they report on their experiences....

Olga Tribulato, Pembroke College, Cambridge:

The annual BES Spring Colloquium was held this year at St Hilda's College, Oxford and coincided with the second colloquium of the Lexicon of Greek Personal Names. The conference's topic 'Old and New in Greek Onomastics' follows the latest developments of the Lexicon which, after its first three volumes dedicated to Greece, is now approaching the far territories of the Balkans, Thracia, Scythia and Russia. Taking inspiration from this topic, the colloquium resulted in a stimulating meeting, where scholars from all over Europe entertained a large audience with a variety of approaches and contents, covering both the 'new' areas (from Hellenistic Egypt to the Iranian influence on Greek personal names of Asia Minor), as well as some 'old' ones, especially Thesaly.

The conference was warmly introduced by Elaine Matthews (Oxford), who took us on tour of the past twenty years of the LGPN, stretching from its establishment in 1972 to the 1998 colloquium and its proceedings (S. Hornblower – E. Matthews, *Greek Personal Names: their Value as Evidence*, 2000). This was followed by Peter Fraser (Oxford), the celebrated father of the project, who got the ball rolling with an analysis of a list of persons in the garrison stationed at Hermopoulis Magna around the second century BC (Bernard, *Inscriptions grecques d'Hermopoulis...* pp. 22-4). Fraser considered the peculiarity of this document, which does not contain ethnics, and proposed that the names and patronymics of the individuals on the list might be used to acquire information on their provenance, as well as on their status (it might be the case that mercenaries belonging to the third or fourth generation descending from immigrants were still considered *xenoi*, thus lacking an ethnic).

In the second paper of the morning Denis Knoepfler (Neuchâtel) discussed the question of the existence of an Euboean onomastics in the Western and Thracian colonies of Chalcis and Eretria, and its use as proof for the contacts between the *metropoleis* and their colonies. Up until thirty years ago this was, Knoepfler claimed, 'une petition de principe' since the onomastic data surviving from these colonial areas were

too scanty to allow such research. With the publication of archaic inscriptions from Pithekoussai and Himera, and from the northern coast of the Aegean, the situation has greatly changed, although it remains difficult to decide how, and to what degree, the Euboean colonies have preserved (or developed on) the onomastic patterns of their mother-cities, since the archaic onomastics of Euboea is badly attested. Combining both literary and epigraphic material Knoepfler identified some specifically Euboean features, such as the derivatives in *-inos* (e.g. *Rheginos*), compounded names with a first member *demo-*, *khair-*, *boul-*; or specific forms such as the typical Erethrian *Gorgythos*.

After lunch, Anna Morpurgo Davies chaired a session which hosted three papers considering the evidence from Thessaly. Jean-Claude Decourt (Lyon) examined the incidence of mythological and heroic names in the epigraphic corpus from Atrax, which, comprising more ca. 500 texts (mainly dedications or funerary inscriptions), is the largest from Thessaly. Atrax was also the focus of Laurence Darmezis's (Lyon) paper, which presented an unpublished decree dating from the end of the 3rd/beginning of the 2nd century BC. The decree, which is of forthcoming publication, is written in Thessalian dialect and contains several interesting points. In particular, it confirms that there were twelve tribes in Atrax, the so-called *xenodokoi koinoi*. This is a fundamental discovery, for the names of the tribes had not been attested by any other inscription so far. For the most part they consist of an anthroponym followed by the suffix *-idas* (e.g. *Eumenidas*), but sporadically they can also be based on rare names, e.g. the tribe *Odaidas* (from *Odaios*, a name attested at Tegea); or *Rhinoundas* (from *Rhinuoun*, showing the word for 'nose').

Shortly after J.-L. García Ramón (Cologne) offered an overview of Thessalian personal names as a reflection of the Greek lexicon in Thessaly, discussing a great deal of examples. He considered more in detail those names containing common words, such as utensils or animal-names (e.g. *Kopbidaios* from *kopis* 'knife'; or *Phrounos* from *phrunos* 'toad') and those which attest a continuity between the Mycenaean/Homeric ono-

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mastics and the Thessalian one (e.g. Myc. *ne-ti-ja-no* and Thess. *Nessandros*, both showing the root *nes-* 'to lead back'). The first day was closed by a reception and dinner at St Hilda's, where some forty people greeted Peter Matthews on his birthday.

Six papers exploring the far sides of the Eastern Hellenic world constituted the core of the second day. In the morning session, chaired by Amelie Kuhrt, Louisa Loukopoulou (National Hellenic Research Foundation) tackled various issues of Thracian onomastics, and in particular its 'hellenisation' by using an epichoric form followed by a Greek or Latin suffix. She also showed how some compounded names containing local hydronyms in the first member might be re-interpreted as containing Greek words: such is the case of names in *Abro-*, which refers to the river Ebron, but was also confused with the name of Apollo (*Aplo-*, *Ablo-*).

Thracia was also the focus of Thomas Corsten (Heidelberg), who discussed Thracian personal names and the military settlements in Hellenistic Bithynia, displaying photos of some beautiful funerary monuments from this area. On the basis of these tomb-stones, which, being very elaborate suggested that the buried was well-off, he argued against the common assumption that Thracian names are linked to low social status.

The last two papers of the morning moved on to Persia: Stephen Mitchell (Exeter) covered the onomastic evidence of Persian priesthoods in Asia Minor, demonstrating the persisting influence that Persians had over a considerable span of time on the administration of both Persian and Greek cults in this area. Rüdiger Schmitt, whose paper was read by Maria Brosius, re-opened the problem of the rendering of Persian names in Greek, most of which appear to have been reinterpreted by folk-etymology.

In the afternoon Ted Kaizer introduced Maurice Sartre (Tours) and Margaret Williams (Open University). Sartre proposed a new approach for the classification of personal names from Graeco-Roman Syria, arguing that it is important to assess what the cultural signification for the choice of a specific name (indigenous tout court; or adapted to Greek; or foreign...) might hold for the ancients. Margaret Williams examined the epigraphic evidence for the use of Semitic names in Asia Minor, in particular from Sardis and Aphrodisias, discussing the incidence of Biblical names, the changes that occurred over-time and the various local factors at play in the choice of Jewish names.

Cristiana Doni, University of Exeter:

The Spring Colloquium of the British Epigraphy Society 'Old and New Worlds in Greek Onomastics' has been the first two-days conference of significant importance in which I have taken part up to now.

Everything was totally new for me: to apply for a bursary, to receive it, to spend the night in St. Hilda's College, to participate in the conference dinner, to meet other students and to have the privilege to listen to so many important scholars.

I cannot deny all my positive emotions, but also my embarrassment and my fear due mainly to poor command of the English language, which is fundamental, in my opinion, to these types of 'public occasions'.

Thus, it was such a surprise for me to see that many of the invited speakers used their own tongue, namely French: somehow, it made me feel less frustrated because even they preferred to give their papers choosing their own language in order to express their concepts in a better and more complete way. At the same time, I felt partly lost since I was expecting a fully English experience, and I had a few difficulties in following some of the talks, since I do not know any French.

This colloquium was particularly important for my own research because it was held during my first year of PhD: not an easy moment in research work. Undoubtedly, the conference helped me gain confidence in dealing with the topic I have chosen to study.

The meeting was focused exclusively on the importance of onomastics as one of the most productive branch of epigraphy for our comprehension of the ancient world, and the onomastic analysis of epigraphic material is the core of my survey. To be more precise, my research consists in identifying epichoric onomastic traditions in the Greek inscriptions of Hellenistic and Roman Pisidia, an inland and mountainous region of the southern coast of Asia Minor. By using the attribute 'epichoric' I intend to refer to personal names which show connections with the Luwian linguistic and cultural milieu, since the Pisidian tongue, as well as Lycian, Sidetan (Pamphylia), Isaurian and Cilician, all belong to the Luwian language group, following the methodological assumption put forward *in primis* by Ph.H.J. Houwink Ten Cate (in his 1961 work on Luwian population groups). One of the aims of my survey is precisely to understand the delicate and complex mediation which took place between the genuinely native Anatolian inheritance and the imported classical culture. It goes without saying that the epigraphic re-

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6 Personal Names ...

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search is an integral part of my onomastic survey, since the anthroponyms taken in consideration for my analysis come exclusively from inscriptions. The material is abundant and includes different types of epigraphs: decrees, agonistic inscriptions, imperial dedications, funerary texts, honorific inscriptions, public texts, dedications to deities and so forth.

The subject is beyond any doubt interesting and fascinating, but extremely complex at the same time: I am completely conscious of the difficulty of the task. Often, studying and analysing 'my names', I have the feeling of swimming in a *mare magnum* without any support. My biggest fear is to find myself in front of a mere and sterile list of anthroponyms with odd morphologies, strange terminations and mysterious suffixes which confuse my ideas and do not provide any inspiration – something which, unfortunately, happens frequently. In this respect, I think that the Spring Colloquium organised by the British Epigraphy Society made me understand a precious detail which I tend to forget. The anthroponyms I am going to consider are not simple names: they are alive, they speak to us, they provide us with so much information about the society, the cultural context in which they were chosen, namely the historical, political, social and archaeological milieu where a population happened to live. The conference taught me a new approach to the subject, a new way of coping with the conspicuous quantity of names I have to analyse: to let them speak to me. Then, with the knowledge at disposal, it should be possible to build a satisfactory picture in which every single name has an irreplaceable role.

Ina J. Hartmann Doettinger, St. Hugh's, Oxford:

'Old and New Worlds in Greek Onomastics', the 2003 Spring Colloquium of the British Epigraphy Society was indeed a journey around the (Greek) world of onomastics, as concerned the variety both of the topics covered and of the speakers and audience present!

Since I work with the personal names of Ancient Elis, two aspects were of special interest to me: on the one hand, the mention of names similar to those found in Elis (e.g. *Kyllos*, which García Ramón, in his paper, noted appearing in Thessaly, in Elis we find a name *Kyllon* [c. 252 - 248 BC]), and on the other hand the various observations on the 'value as evidence' of Greek personal names for cultural aspects, and as indicators of cultural, historical, religious, and social changes, as was discussed by Peter Fraser, Jean-Claude Decourt, Louisa Loukopoulou, Stephen Mitchell, Maurice Sartre and Margaret Williams.

The talks were fascinating and made one wish there

were more intensive contact between people working on names of all sorts (web pages, workshops, informal meetings). But, in addition, simply getting acquainted with more people in the field and getting to know better those whom one already knew made the Colloquium time extremely well spent. To mention just a few of the talks over drinks, coffee, and lunch: Jennifer Cargill Thompson knew all about the unpublished Elean coins in the British Museum, Mustafa Sayar had news and new stories about the Institut für Altertumskunde und Epigraphik in Vienna, and there was the chance to continue discussions with Jose-Louis García Ramón – on issues such as the origin of *Kassandra*, the continuation of Mycenaean names in Greek, and the advantages and disadvantages of the Spanish and the German university systems respectively – which we had begun at 'Nommer les Hommes' in Athens in December 2002!

The conference dinner, with a special toast to Peter Fraser, continued in the same vein, and featured, befitting the location in Oxford's only still all-female college, Harriet Vane and Lord Peter Wimsey, as well as Kate Ivory, Maigret, and other eminent personalities who spend their time uncovering bizarre and unexpected connections - very like onomasticians, really!

One of the highlights of the colloquium was undoubtedly the workshop on Saturday morning, chaired by Elaine Matthews, in which the role of the *Lexicon of Greek Personal Names* was discussed, as well as two other important projects which are closely connected to LGPN: García Ramón's Mycenaean *Bechtel* and the new *Bechtel* initiated by Rennes. This led to two main questions: firstly, the all-important question as to whether Mycenaean names should now be included into LGPN, and what that would entail (a major problem being, of course, that there are a number of words of which we cannot be absolutely that they really are names), and in how far, in the Rennes project, which was presented by Jacques Oulhen, the interpretation of names should be used for the structure of the work.

The colloquium was, in my eyes, a great success in every respect, a wonderful opportunity not only to hear about the latest research in Greek onomastics and beyond, but also and especially for the ample opportunities it gave to start, refresh, and renew 'onomastic acquaintances', and I am extremely grateful to the BES for making it possible for me to join this fun!

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Pasi Loman, University of Nottingham:

This was the second time in a short while that I visited Oxford. In late February, I faced the Oxford University Ice Hockey 'B-team'. I scored and we (Nottingham) won. On 27th and 28th March I met an epigraphic 'A-team' at the BES Spring Colloquium (= 2nd Colloquium of the LGPN) *Old and New Worlds in Greek Onomastics* at St Hilda's College. There would be no scoring or winning, as such, but I certainly gained a lot from the colloquium, which was sponsored by the British Academy and the BES. The event was, marvellously, organised by Elaine Matthews.

The generous BES bursary, of which I am most grateful, allowed me to arrive to Oxford a day early, thus making sure I would not miss any of the papers on Thursday morning. Arriving on the day before the colloquium also enabled me to use the Bodleian Library, where I consulted some inscriptions not available in Nottingham. Moreover, the bursary saved my day on Friday when I was unexpectedly forced to spend extra money on an alternative method of transport back home due to the industrial action of most train operating companies.

The first paper of the colloquium was given by Peter Fraser, the founder and the intellectual guide (as Simon Hornblower, the chair of the session, put it) of the LGPN project. It had earlier been advertised that he'd be speaking about the early population of Ptolemaic Alexandria, but this was replaced by an equally interesting paper on mercenaries at the Hermoupolis Magna garrison in Middle Egypt. He highlighted the possibilities that onomastics offer in tracing the origins of persons attested in inscriptions without ethnics. The discussion after the paper, prompted by a key question by John Ma, centred on the difficulties of this process; conclusion being that nothing can replace hard work and years of experience.

The second speaker was Denis Knoepfler of Université de Neuchâtel. He opened by *not* apologising the fact that he would be speaking in French. He jokingly said that the audience was more likely to understand him if he speaks in French than English; the joke was to be repeated a number of times during the conference (four papers in total being in French). For an outsider, it would undoubtedly have sounded most strange that much of the discussion on the foreign papers was conducted bi-lingually, i.e. questions asked in one language, while the answers were given in another.

For me, one of the most interesting of the French papers was the one given by Laurence Darmezín on an unpublished decree from the Thessalian city of Atrax. This inscription proves there were twelve tribes in

the city. Speaking at a conference on onomastics, Darmezín focused our attention on the names of the tribes; most of them have a suffix -daj, but others are based on rarer anthroponyms (look out for the publication of this decree in the corpus of Atrax by A. Tziafalias).

Papers by Thomas Corsten (University of Heidelberg) and Stephen Mitchell (University of Exeter) gave fascinating insights on the existence of non-Greek names and cultures within the Hellenistic kingdoms after the conquests of Alexander III of Macedonia (aka 'the Great'). The latter in particular raised some fundamental questions, as pointed out by Simon Hornblower, about the continued Persian presence in the Hellenistic kingdoms.

Corsten had intended to speak about Thracians and Galatians in Asia Minor, but, as it often happens in research, the results of one's work do not always match the initial assumptions. In this case, Corsten had found only two (late) Hellenistic inscriptions containing Galatian names, hence he spoke only about the Thracians. What he did have to say about the Thracians was, however, most interesting, and he supported his paper by excellent slides of tombstones. He was able to demonstrate that some of the Thracians were of significant social status, contrary to what one might have expected after the arrival of the Greeks. He also, interestingly, pointed out that all of the Thracian onomastic evidence from north-western Asia Minor comes from rural areas, whereas Greek examples are more numerous in cities; he concluded that these Thracians would have been mercenary settlers in *katoikiai*.

Mitchell painted a picture of Hellenistic and Roman Anatolia in which the Persians, no longer being in administrative control of the area, adopted a kind of professional responsibility of promoting religious cults. Interestingly, the onomastic evidence points out that this practice extended beyond cults that were strictly Persian. There was some lively discussion afterwards on mountain peak gods, an aspect of his paper: were the mountains worshipped as divinities or were they merely seen as the residence of divinities?

All the papers were of interest and one should not think that the ones not mentioned in this brief report were any less good or less important. I'm sure that all of the 59 delegates, many from foreign universities, would agree with me that the conference was useful and well organised. The feeling among the delegates was most friendly and welcoming. My thanks go to the organisers and once again to the BES.

LGPN Website

The Lexicon of Greek Personal Names (LGPN) launched its new web site in August 2003. New sections include 'Names', with information about the formation, content, and development of Greek personal names, and the sources for them (illustrated); 'Online', offering the bibliographies and reverse indexes of all published volumes, and the addenda and corrigenda to LGPN II, all in pdf format for downloading. LGPN and the Editors of LGPN II, Michael Osborne and Sean Byrne, have entered an agreement which provides for the exclusive publication, with regular updates, of their Attic addenda and corrigenda on the LGPN web site. The address: <http://www.lgpn.ox.ac.uk/>

NEWS FROM ROMAN BRITAIN ...

Third inscribed Hadrian's Wall souvenir discovered

On 30th September 2003 Sally Worrell of The Portable Antiquities Scheme (www.finds.org.uk) publicised the discovery of an enamelled Romano-British bronze cup. Found by two 'metal-detectorists' in the Staffordshire Moorlands, it had been reported to Jane Stewart, the Scheme's local Finds Liaison Officer at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. The bowl, which measures c. 5 cm high x 9 cm diameter at the rim, is described by Ralph Jackson, Curator of Romano-British Collections, at the British Museum, as 'a patera, a handled pan which was rather like a small saucepan in appearance. Its base and handle were made separately and soldered on, but both are now missing. To judge from other finds the handle would have been flat and bow tie shaped and also inlaid with coloured enamel. These ostentatiously colourful pans, manufactured in the second century AD, had varied decorative designs but the present example is unusual in its curvilinear scrollwork – a balanced design of eight roundels enclosing swirling six-armed whirligigs. It is also notable for the fine preservation of so much of its enamel inlay and for the large number of colours used – blue, red, turquoise, yellow and (possibly) purple.' The most remarkable aspect is that this 'Celtic-style' pattern is found together with a Latin inscription running around in a continuous band below the rim in inlaid azure blue enamel that lists five toponyms, four certainly from Hadrian's Wall, as well as a personal name: *MAIS COGGABATA VXELODVNUM CAMMOGLANNA RIGOREVALI AELI*

DRACONIS.



The first four toponyms relate to forts located at the western end of Hadrian's Wall in modern Cumbria, in the correct geographical order from west to east: Bowness (MAIS) and Drumburgh (COGGABATA), both on the Solway Firth, and Stanwix (UXELODUNUM) and Castlesteads (CAMMOGLANNA), to the northwest and northeast of Carlisle respectively. This feature puts this cup in close company with two other similar bronze cups naming forts on Hadrian's Wall: the 'Rudge Cup' (RIB 2415.53: *a Mais Aballaua Vxelod(un)um Camboglan(i)s Banna*) discovered in Wiltshire in 1725, and the 'Amiens patera' (AE 1950, 56: *Mais Aballaua Vxelodunum Cambogla[ni]s Banna <A>esica*), found in Amiens in 1949. However, in both these cases the inscription is coupled with a rectilinear castellation design, quite unlike the curvilinear style of the Staffordshire Moorlands cup. In the press release Roger Tomlin of Wolfson College, Oxford, sums up the significant aspects of the inscription: 'The bowl confirms the ancient names of four forts in sequence from the western end

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of the Wall, and for the first time suggests what is likely to be the correct ancient form for the name for Drumburgh [*Coggabata*]. In addition, there are further important differences from the other examples; it incorporates the name of an individual, AELIUS DRACO and a further place-name, RIGOREVALI which may refer to the place in which Aelius Draco had the pan made.' Despite the overlap in forts named, the individuality of each list, combined with the name on the latest example, strengthens the case for the argument that they were souvenirs personalised to reflect the specific locations where the commissioner had served. Unless simply the result of loss, the respective findspots may suggest that two out of three of these veterans decided to settle in the province in which they had served, albeit in less rugged areas away from the Wall itself.

Dea Senua: a newly discovered Romano-British goddess

As reported by Ralph Jackson (Department of Prehistory and Europe) in the *British Museum Friends Magazine* 46 (Summer 2003) and featured on the BBC2 television programme 'Hidden Treasure' this September, a recent hoard of votive items has revealed the existence of a new Romano-British goddess: Senua. In September 2002 a 'metal-detectorist discovered a hoard of twenty-six gold and silver objects in a field near Baldock, outside Letchworth in Hertfordshire. Amongst these were gold and enamelled jewellery, brooches with coloured glass settings, a silver female figurine, two silver model arms, and nineteen votive plaques, twelve of silver alloy and seven of gold. Twelve of these are embossed with the image of a deity that, in eleven cases, suits the standard iconography of Minerva. However, five of these also bear an inscribed text, which in every case name the deity as the otherwise unknown 'Senua'. In addition, a detached statuette base, which in all likelihood belongs to the very classically styled silver figurine, bears the same name: Senua. The close iconographical similarity with Minerva suggest that Senua may have been a local syncretism with the Roman goddess of wisdom

and skills, perhaps also with attributes of healing (cf. Sulis at Bath). The inscriptions on the plaques also reveal the names of the dedicators, the majority of whom have standard Latin names, e.g.: *Celsus, Firmanus, Lucilia*, though amongst them there is the more unusual *Cariatif[alus]*. Two of these plaques record the fulfilment of the same vow: 'Servandus Hispani willingly fulfilled his vow to the goddess Se(nua)'. Either Servandus had promised a double dedication should his wish come true or he was a satisfied customer who successfully resorted to Senua's aid a second time.

Although the treasure would appear to relate to a shrine or temple of Senua, no trace of such a structure has yet been found and from the position of the finds it seems that the hoard was carefully buried together in one act, rather than representing the natural accumulation of a votive deposit. The approximate date of the deposition would seem to be the later third or fourth century AD. The hoard was declared Treasure at a Coroner's inquest on 20 March 2003 and, having been purchased for the British Museum by the British Museum Friends and the National Art Collections Funds (Art Fund), is currently on display in the Weston Gallery (No 49, case 20) and will feature in the forthcoming BM exhibition 'Buried Treasure: Finding Our Past', which opens on 21 November 2003.

Meanwhile in Oxfordshire...

During this summer's season of the excavations at the Roman fort and city site of Alchester,, directed by Dr Eberhard Sauer of Edinburgh University, almost all the fragments of the tombstone of a Roman legionary veteran were discovered. This find substantially adds to the number of Roman inscriptions known from this site, and indeed Oxfordshire as a whole. The context and content of the stone should significantly add to our understanding of the history of Roman Alchester and the presence of the Roman army in the south east of Britain. Look out for the full publication of the epitaph by Dr Sauer, which is likely to appear in next year's issue of the journal *Britannia* (35 [2004]).

Benet Salway

BRONZE TABLETS FROM ARGOS

More details about the inscribed bronze tablets from Argos were revealed by Charalambos Kritzas speaking at a conference on 100 years of archaeological activities at Argos, 'Sur les pas de Wilhelm Vollgraff', organised by and held at the French School in Athens (Thursday 25 September 2003).

In an excavation 200 m. north of the St. Peter's Cathedral and the central square of Argos, excavators under the direction of Ms. Alkestis Papademetriou (4th Ephoreia of prehistoric and classical antiquities) discovered in October 2000 what appears to be an annexe to a sanctuary. The structure had been abandoned soon after the end of the fourth century. In stone chests covered with large heavy stone slabs the excavators found many bronze inscribed tablets. It turns out that there are references in the bronze inscriptions to the stone chests. Not all the stone chests contained inscribed plaques but from those that did some 150 bronze plaques have been recovered so far.

The poor condition of these plaques, many of which were corroded together, has demanded considerable care in conservation. Many of the plaques were perforated at the corner to be stored in bunches. The size of the plaques varies; some are strips 15 to 20 cm long and 2 to 3 cm. wide, others are larger rectangular shapes 15 by 20 cm. or more.

Many of the plaques are fragmentary and more may be found when the bronze sheets are separated from each other. So far the contents of one chest - 53 inscribed bronze plaques - have been conserved and studied. These inscriptions formed the basis of the presentation by Charalambos Kritzas, Director of the Epigraphical Museum in Athens, who is preparing the material for publication.

All the inscriptions probably date from the second decade to the last third of the fourth century B.C. They are of a financial nature, accounts that seem to relate to the goddess Athena and the institutions of the *polis*. They provide important information about Argive institutions and identify administrative responsibilities vis à vis the goddess and the city. In many cases the texts record sums of money either as deposits or withdrawals to or from the goddess. In all cases, transactions are made by civic bodies. In some cases one body is transferring money to another.

Mr. Kritzas has been able to identify 522 persons in the texts. Much valuable onomastic information is contained within the documents and that aspect of the material has already been presented in December 2002 at an earlier conference on onomastics held at the French School; that material is in press. The September 2003 conference has now highlighted other important aspects of this material and we are grateful to Mr Kritzas for his time in providing additional details for this report.

G.J. Oliver

LINEAR B IN CAMBRIDGE

It is fifty years since the publication of the decipherment of Linear B, and an anniversary exhibition – focussing on the Ventris/Chadwick correspondence – will be running at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, until December 21. Cambridge's Mycenaean Epigraphy Group has also launched a small website, which details the history of the decipherment, as well as providing much other information about the script and its significance:
<http://www.classics.cam.ac.uk/everyone/linearb/>

NEW BOOKS: ROMAN DIPLOMAS, GREEK HISTORY

Roman Military Diplomas

The proceedings of the BES Spring Colloquium 2002, 'Documenting the Roman Army', will appear this December as *BICS* Supplement 81, edited by J.J. Wilkes (ISBN 0 900587 92 X). The volume will include chapters by: A.R. Birley (on equestrian officers); D.B. Saddington (on *militaria* in Velleius Paterculus and some inscriptions); Lawrence Keppie (on 'Having Been a Soldier'); Werner Eck (on imperial administration), Slobodan Dušanic (on propaganda and dates); Paul Holder (on auxiliary deployment in the reign of Hadrian); David Breeze (on auxiliaries, legionaries, and the operation of Hadrian's Wall); Valerie Maxfield (on ostraca and the Roman army in the Eastern desert); Roger Tomlin (on Roman army at Carlisle); and Peter Weiss (on the future of Roman Military Diplomata).

Also published this December, as *BICS* Supplement 82, is *Roman Military Diplomas*, Volume IV, edited by Margaret Roxan and Paul Holder (ISBN 0 900587 93 8). The volume includes 121 complete and fragmentary diplomas, which range in date from AD 61 to AD 245, and of which 69 have not previously been published. These and most of the published diplomas had been worked on by Margaret Roxan. Nine have been prepared by Paul Holder, who has also standardized entries and updated references and notes where necessary. The appendices include a new 'Revised chronology of diplomas', and updated witness lists.

This volume is issued as a continuation of Margaret Roxan's *Roman Military Diplomas 1954-1977* (1978), *1978-1984* (1985) and *1985-1993* (1994), which were published as Occasional Papers (Nos 2, 9, and 14) of the Institute of Archaeology, University of London. The new volume, volume IV, will follow the established format.

The volumes will be launched on 2 December 2003 at the Institute of Classical Studies, Senate House, Malet Street, London, WC1E 7HU, following a lecture by Mark Hassall, 'Trajan's army and Trajan's column', organized jointly with the Roman Society. For details of the lecture, check the Institute's website: www.sas.ac.uk/icls/institute/londonmeetings.htm

SPECIAL OFFER

To register for a pre-publication offer on these volumes, please email your details to the Institute's Publications department on icls.publications@sas.ac.uk; or fax them to + 44 (0)20 78 62 87 22. The offer is open to individuals only, and closes on **15 November 2003**.

Greek Historical Inscriptions

The long wait for a new handbook of fourth-century Greek inscriptions is almost over. P.J. Rhodes & Robin Osborne's *Greek Historical Inscriptions, 404-323 B.C.* is expected to emerge from the Oxford University Press in November. Like its predecessor, the venerable *Tod Volume II*, it will include Greek texts of and commentaries on the classic inscriptions of the period. Unlike *Tod*, it will also offer an introduction, English translations, photos and illustrations, and a less narrow focus on Athens and on political history. The ISBN is 0198153139, and it will cost £95.