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# TRAC Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference

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# TRAC 94

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THEORETICAL ROMAN ARCHAEOLOGY CONFERENCE

Held at the  
Department of Archaeology,  
University of Durham,  
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edited by

Sally Cottam, David Dungworth, Sarah Scott & Jeremy Taylor

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## CONTENTS

1.	The Just War: Graeco-Roman texts as colonial discourse <i>by Jane Webster</i>	1
2.	Britannia, Origin Myths and the British Empire <i>by Richard Hingley</i>	11
3.	Insignificant Others; Images of Barbarians on Military Art from Roman Britain <i>by Iain Ferris</i>	24
4.	Patterns of Worship in Roman Britain: double-named deities in context <i>by Amy Zoll</i>	32
5.	An Archaeology of Brief Time: monuments and seasonality in Roman Britain <i>by Raphael Isserlin</i>	45
6.	Ritual and Archaeology in Early Latium <i>by Christopher Smith</i>	57
7.	Lighting in Late Roman Houses <i>by Simon Ellis</i>	65
8.	A Quantitative Analysis of the Finds from the Roman Fort of Newstead — some preliminary findings <i>by Simon Clarke</i>	72
9.	Use of Space and Variability of Ground Plans: a study of legionary centurions' Quarters <i>by Birgitta Hoffmann</i>	83
10.	Reading the Tea Leaves, signalling as a means of prophesy on Roman frontiers <i>by D. J. Woolliscroft</i>	90
11.	Treasure: interpreting Roman hoards <i>by Martin Millett</i>	99
12.	Romano-British Precious-Metal Hoards: some comments on Martin Millett's paper <i>by Catherine Johns</i>	107
13.	An Archaeology of Homosexuality? Perspectives from the Classical world <i>by Keith Matthews</i>	118
14.	You Are What You Eat: diet, identity and Romanisation <i>by Karen I. Meadows</i>	133
15.	Roman Imports into Late Iron Age British Societies: towards a critique of existing models <i>by Steven Willis</i>	141

## PREFACE

The Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference (TRAC) began life in 1990 in Newcastle and has been held at a different venue each following year. It continues to thrive as an independent conference, providing a valuable forum of discussion for the innovative application of theory to a broad range of Roman topics. To maintain the originality and variety which have characterised TRAC the organisers of the conference have changed every year, although it has remained (predominantly) in the hands of post-graduate students, research assistants and other archaeologists attached to universities.

The fourth TRAC was held in Durham over two days in March 1994 and organised by the editors of this volume. Twenty-two papers were presented, thirteen of which are published here. The remaining papers were not made available to the editors for publication. The papers encompass the entire Roman period, from the late Iron Age to the Byzantine Empire and deal with a range of theoretical issues including power, space, ideology and identity. Two additional papers, not heard at the conference were submitted by Catherine Johns and Steven Willis. The first is a reply to Martin Millett's discussion of precious metal hoards, the second is a paper originally presented at the TAG conference in 1993. On the face of it, all these papers have little in common, and attempts to group them thematically have only been partially successful; however, they all share a reflexive approach — an attempt to critically re-examine the *status quo* in Roman archaeology.

We would like to thank all the speakers, the discussants and the audience who ensured that TRAC94 was a lively affair. The smooth running of the conference was helped enormously by the co-operation of the Department of Archaeology and St. Cuthbert's Society, University of Durham. Particular thanks are extended to Hilary Bowler, Yvonne Beadnell and Rachel Tyson.

The production of this volume has only been possible with the help of the referees, and we would like to thank them warmly for their invaluable comments and for the promptness with which they responded. The speedy appearance of this volume owes much to the individual authors, who have cheerfully kept to our very tight deadlines, and to the encouragement and assistance of David Brown of Oxbow Books.

We hope that TRAC will continue to prosper and to provide interested scholars with an informal environment for discussion and debate.

Sally Cottam,  
David Dungworth,  
Sarah Scott  
Jeremy Taylor

March 1995.