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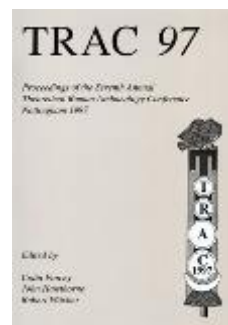
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TRAC 97

Proceedings of the Seventh Annual

THEORETICAL ROMAN ARCHAEOLOGY CONFERENCE

which formed part of
The Second International Roman Archaeology Conference
University of Nottingham
April 1997

edited by

Colin Forcey, John Hawthorne & Robert Witcher

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Preface

The seventh annual Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference was held in association with the second International Roman Archaeology Conference at University of Nottingham in April 1997. This was the second time that the two conferences had run concurrently (the first occasion was at the University of Reading in 1995). Broadly, the relationship was seen as successful, allowing TRAC a wider audience than it might reach when run independently. It was also interesting to note that many contributors to earlier TRACs delivered papers in sessions organized by as part of the Roman Archaeology Conference. Some former TRAC papers were also reincarnated.

Hopefully this can be taken to affirm TRAC's status as a forum for new ideas, with the potential to reach out beyond its immediate audience to influence the wider community of Roman studies (time-lag accepted). This would be satisfying in the light of the continued depiction of TRAC from some quarters as a 'fringe conference for those people interested in *that sort of thing*'.

Of twenty-two papers presented at the conference, fifteen are published here. They cover a broad range of subjects and issues, varying in scale from nails to entire provinces. They also explore contemporary archaeology as a discourse - John Peterson demonstrates how theory influences our observations, and Eleanor Scott offers a polemic on the position of women in academic archaeology. Given that the papers here were originally grouped under four separate session headings at the conference, they are surprisingly complementary. The arrangement of the papers broadly reflects these common themes.

We would like to thank all the speakers and discussants for their contributions to the conference, and the audience for choosing to attend the TRAC sessions in preference to two parallel sessions of equal interest. We are also indebted to our referees for their constructive comments. Thanks are due to Chris Lemke who helped to organize the original conference sessions and to Eleanor Scott for her encouragement. We are very grateful to Martin Millett and the Roman Society Committee for financial assistance towards the publication of this volume. Deborah Miles-Williams and Pam Thornett have helped enormously with administration and technical assistance. Rosemary Hayden helped with proof-reading, and Robert Hosfield and Sarah Poppy assisted with the computing. Thanks are also due to those Leicester postgraduates and members of the Sangro Valley 1997 team for reading contributions and offering comments. Finally, the continued support of David Brown and Oxbow Books is gratefully acknowledged.

Colin Forcey
John Hawthorne
Robert Witcher

February 1998