
TRAC Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference

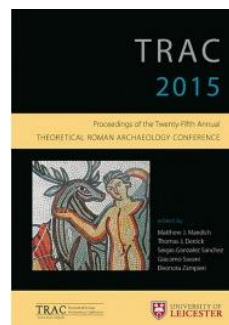
www.trac.org.uk

Paper Information:

Title: Front Matter and Editors' Preface
Author(s): Matthew J. Mandich, Thomas J. Derrick,
Sergio Gonzalez Sanchez, Giacomo Savani, and
Eleonora Zampieri
Pages: i–vii

DOI: http://doi.org/10.16995/TRAC2015_i_vii

Publication Date: 16/03/2016



Volume Information:

Mandich, M.J., Derrick, T.J., Gonzalez Sanchez, S., Savani, G., and Zampieri, E. (eds) 2016. *TRAC 2015: Proceedings of the Twenty-Fifth Annual Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference, Leicester 2015*. Oxford: Oxbow Books.

Copyright and Hardcopy Editions:

The following paper was originally published in print format by Oxbow Books for TRAC. Hard copy editions of this volume may still be available, and can be purchased direct from Oxbow at <http://www.oxbowbooks.com>.

TRAC has now made this paper available as Open Access through an agreement with the publisher. Copyright remains with TRAC and the individual author(s), and all use or quotation of this paper and/or its contents must be acknowledged. This paper was released in digital Open Access format in April 2019.

TRAC 2015

Proceedings of the Twenty-Fifth Annual

THEORETICAL ROMAN ARCHAEOLOGY CONFERENCE

which took place at

The University of Leicester

27–29 March 2015

edited by

Matthew J. Mandich, Thomas J. Derrick, Sergio Gonzalez Sanchez,
Giacomo Savani, and Eleonora Zampieri



Oxbow Books
Oxford & Philadelphia

Published in the United Kingdom in 2016 by
OXBOW BOOKS
10 Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford OX1 2EW

and in the United States by
OXBOW BOOKS
1950 Lawrence Road, Havertown, PA 19083

© Oxbow Books and the individual contributors 2016

Paperback Edition: ISBN 978-1-78570-287-7
Digital Edition: ISBN 978-1-78570-288-4

A CIP record for this book is available from the British Library

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical including photocopying, recording or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission from the publisher in writing.

For a complete list of Oxbow titles, please contact:

UNITED KINGDOM
Oxbow Books
Telephone (01865) 241249, Fax (01865) 794449
Email: oxbow@oxbowbooks.com
www.oxbowbooks.com

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Oxbow Books
Telephone (800) 791-9354, Fax (610) 853-9146
Email: queries@casemateacademic.com
www.casemateacademic.com/oxbow

Oxbow Books is part of the Casemate Group

Front cover: Antiquarian illustration of a mosaic pavement discovered in Leicester c.1675, depicting Cyparissus and the stag. Used by kind permission of the Society of Antiquaries of London.

Contents

Preface.....	v
Debating Roman Imperialism: Critique, Construct, Repeat? <i>Andrew Gardner</i>	1
Distraught, Drained, Devoured, or Damned? The Importance of Individual Creativity in Roman Cursing <i>Stuart McKie</i>	15
Fear of the Dead? ‘Deviant’ Burials in Roman Northern Italy <i>Alessandro Quercia and Melania Cazzulo</i>	28
‘Landscapes of Life’ and ‘Landscapes of Death’: The Contribution of Funerary Evidence to the Understanding of the Perception and Organisation of Roman Rural Landscapes in Northern Italy <i>Chiara Botturi</i>	43
<i>Lieux de Mémoire</i> , Central Places, and the Sanctuary of Ribemont-sur-Ancre: A Preliminary Look <i>David S. Rose</i>	57
Agency, Structure, and Place: Finds in the Landscape in the Late Iron Age / Early Roman Transition <i>Nicky Garland</i>	76
A Context for Roman Priestly Regalia: Depositional Practices and Spatial Distribution of Assemblages from Roman Britain <i>Alessandra Esposito</i>	92
From Treasured Items to Trash? The Use of Brooches in Roman Cornwall in the Creation of Identity and Social Memory <i>Siân Thomas</i>	111

Public and Private Bathing in Late Antique North Africa. Changing Habits in a Changing Society? <i>Sadi Maréchal</i>	125
Understanding the Status of the Cult of Mithras in the Tetrarchic Period: A Socio-Archaeological Approach <i>David Walsh</i>	141
<i>Adventus</i> : Conceptualising Boundary Space in the Art and Text of Early Imperial to Late Antique Rome <i>Maria Kneafsey</i>	153
On Gender and Spatial Experience in Public: The Case of Ancient Rome <i>Amy Russell</i>	164
Imperial Statues and Public Spaces in Late Antiquity: Conceptualising 'Constantine' at York as an Ancient Public Commission <i>Brittany Thomas</i>	177
Urban Scaling and the Growth of Rome <i>Matthew J. Mandich</i>	188

Preface

The 25th Anniversary

TRAC began in 1991 at the University of Newcastle with over 90 delegates from the UK, USA, the Netherlands, and Germany. Over the course of two days, 18 papers were given in a single-session format, and fruitful debate and discussion ensured that what was originally conceived as a one-off event became a regular series. From the outset TRAC was unorthodox, radical, and highly critical, yet distinctly inclusive and egalitarian. Several participants of those early conferences now hold prominent academic positions at universities across the USA, UK, and Europe. When TRAC began, the conference founder Eleanor Scott noted a “fierce resistance” to theory in Roman archaeology. However, over the past 25 years TRAC has continued to fight against this, contributing to the progressive integration of theory into the wider field. During this time TRAC has grown in both size and scope, and has now become a truly international operation, with conferences held across the UK, as well as abroad in Amsterdam, Ann Arbor, Frankfurt, and Rome. The TRAC Standing Committee continues to work for the promotion of theory in Roman archaeology, ensuring continuity between annual conferences and *TRAC Proceedings* publications, but also developing new initiatives that continue to honour the aims, objectives, and spirit of TRAC’s earliest years while adapting to current challenges and fighting off theoretical stagnation.

In recent years TRAC has undergone significant changes, and as the field of Roman archaeology continues to progress in new directions, it is hoped that TRAC will always be able to adjust, improve, and evolve. Major new initiatives have been promised in the past few years, and these have been steadily materialising. From expanding TRAC’s role through a new publication series and additional events, including TRAC Workshops, to making the most of new technologies and social media, TRAC’s future success lies within its community, which continues to strengthen. Leveraging this community to lead Roman archaeology into new theoretical directions, and to fuel TRAC’s organisational engines is perhaps our biggest challenge, but one that we are eager to take on as we move forward into this exciting and progressive era. As we celebrate and reflect on the past 25 years of TRAC it is our hope that the next 25 years will continue to stimulate the growth and success of TRAC as a conference, publication outlet, and community.



The twenty-fifth Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference (TRAC) was held at the University of Leicester between the 27th and 29th of March, 2015. This is the third time that the School of Archaeology and Ancient History has hosted this event (1996, 2003), and given the involvement of both staff and students with TRAC over the years it proved to be an ideal venue for the anniversary celebrations. The conference drew over 180 delegates of 17 nationalities from a variety of universities, museums, and research institutions in the UK, Europe, and North America with the goal of contributing to the progressive integration of theory into the wider field of

Roman archaeology. Over the course of the conference, delegates were provided with a total of 13 themed sessions and a ‘Lightning Round’ (a new addition to the standard format) to attend. Session topics were wide ranging in period, geographical location, and theoretical approach, featuring papers from UK and international delegates (from postgraduates to professors). Session topics ranged from public architecture to small finds (sponsored by the Roman Finds Group), Roman magic to military forts, and environmental archaeology (sponsored by the Association for Environmental Archaeology) to historical fiction as archaeological technique.

The conference format was largely traditional, featuring opening proceedings with a keynote address presented by Dr Andrew Gardner (UCL). This keynote paper, titled ‘Debating Roman Imperialism: Critique, Construct, Repeat?’ is the opening paper in the volume and aptly reflects on the current state and future directions of theoretical discourse in the field of Roman archaeology, as well as TRAC’s role in this process. The subsequent selection of papers was taken from a variety of sessions presented at the conference, with topics wide ranging in both geographic and thematic scope and period.

Because of this diversity, the volume is not broken into specific sections, however, papers with similar themes have been grouped accordingly, allowing the text to flow and be read as a whole.

The first group of papers focuses on concepts of landscapes, death, magic, and memory. Stuart McKie discusses the role of creativity in the writing of lead curse tablets, while Alessandro Quercia and Melania Cazzulo present new work on non-normative burial practices in northern Italy. The next three papers are primarily concerned with the heuristic benefits of conceptualizing landscapes: Chiara Botturi considers the potential for funerary monuments and markers to reconstruct lost topographical relationships; David S. Rose analyses the relationships between Iron-Age sanctuaries as *lieux de mémoire* in Roman landscapes; and Nicky Garland presents a framework for understanding the relationship between finds in the landscape, and agency and identity in Late Iron-Age to early Roman-Britain. The next two papers discuss the deliberate burial of metal objects and the potential social and ritual meanings that this process may have entailed. Alessandra Esposito discusses the so called ‘priestly regalia’ deposits from Roman Britain and the meaning of their spatial distribution, and Siân Thomas presents evidence for the manipulation of memory through the use and deposition of Roman brooch types in Cornwall.

The second group of papers shares a focus on the societal construction of public and private spaces and boundaries. The first two papers within this group use architectural remains and sociological approaches to examine specific religious, political, and bodily practices within distinct communities. Sadi Maréchal focuses on the multifarious public and private functions that baths and bathing could play in Late Antique North African society, while David Walsh takes a socio-archaeological approach to investigating the composition and devotion of Mithraic congregations and the evolution of Mithraism in the Tetrarchic period. The next two papers take more classical approaches to examine concepts of space, boundaries, and gender in, respectively, Late Antique and Republican Rome. Maria Kneafsey uses iconographic and literary evidence to better understand the meaning behind Late Antique representations of the *adventus*, with a specific focus on the City’s boundaries; Amy Russell then considers the role of gender in structuring public spaces in Republican Rome, particularly in the Forum Romanum, with a specific emphasis on rediscovering often-ignored female experiences.

The final two papers take innovative and interdisciplinary approaches in order to develop a more nuanced understanding of the Roman world. Brittany Thomas provides insights into the processes behind Roman imperial public statue commission developed from interviews with a modern sculptor involved with royal commissions, and Matthew J. Mandich discusses the theory

of urban scaling and how it may be used in a Roman context to answer questions concerning the demographic and economic growth and decline of both the City and Empire of Rome over the *longue durée*.

The success of the conference and production of the volume is due to the support and involvement of many individuals and organisations. Financial support for the conference was provided by the School of Archaeology and Ancient History Business Group (UoL), the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society, and the College of Arts, Humanities, and Law (UoL). In addition, bursaries were provided to postgraduate speakers (both international and UK based) by Barbican Research Associates and the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies; helping to broaden both student and international participation. Many thanks go to the numerous student volunteers, university support staff, and departmental administrators (especially Sharon North and Selina Thraves) for ensuring the smooth running of the conference. Particular thanks also go to Prof. David Mattingly, Prof. Lin Foxhall, and Dr Neil Christie for their involvement. For the conference excursions, our thanks go to the staff at the Harborough Museum, especially Wendy Scott and Helen Sharp, for the talk and tour around the Hallaton Hoard, and to Prof. Jeremy Taylor for his tour of the Iron-Age hill fort at Burrough Hill. Special thanks are also due to the TRAC standing committee for their guidance and support, from the initial bid for the conference through to the publication of this volume.

The editorial committee would like to thank our peer reviewers from the TRAC Advisory Panel and the School of Archaeology and Ancient History at the University of Leicester, Oxbow Books for the publication of this volume, Val Lamb for the typesetting of the volume, and the Society of Antiquaries of London for the permission to use the antiquarian illustration of the Cyparissus mosaic found in Leicester as a cover image. Finally, the editors would like to thank all of the session organisers, chairs, speakers, and delegates that attended TRAC 2015 and contributed to such a successful conference.

Matthew J. Mandich
Thomas J. Derrick
Sergio Gonzalez Sanchez
Giacomo Savani
Eleonora Zampieri

School of Archaeology and Ancient History, University of Leicester