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TRAC 96

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Preface

The sixth annual Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference (TRAC 96) was hosted by the University of Sheffield's Research School of Archaeology and Archaeological Science. The conference was organised by the editors of this volume, who are currently post-graduates at the Research School.

Of the twenty-eight papers presented, seventeen are published here with an additional paper submitted by Simon Clarke. His paper was originally given at TRAC 95, the proceedings of which will not be published as a collected volume. The papers appear here in roughly the same order in which they were delivered at the conference, and although the topics covered are thematically diverse, the resulting body of work is surprisingly complementary. Be it through the deliberation of the materials we use to illustrate our ideas (the contemporary sources, the sculpted stones, pots, bones, metals, and water) or through the consideration of the ways in which buildings and landscapes are inhabited, in each paper stereotypes are questioned and our assumptions are challenged.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the audience for their enthusiastic participation, and congratulate the speakers and discussants on ensuring that all twenty-eight papers could be heard in two days! We would also like to thank Bill Frazer, Matt Lemke, Matt Seymour, Dr. Barbara Ottaway and Mrs. Dorothy Cruse for their various contributions with regard to the logistics of hosting TRAC 96. Sheffield Hallam University also merits an honourable mention for providing an affordable venue. The adherence to tight deadlines by both contributors and referees ultimately made this volume possible, and they are all equally deserving of our gratitude. Finally, we would like to thank David Brown of Oxbow Books for his support of the continued publication of the TRAC proceedings.

Karen Meadows
Chris Lemke
Jo Heron

February 1997