

Roman Military Equipment

The Accoutrements of War

Proceedings of the Third Roman
Military Equipment Research Seminar

edited by
M. Dawson

BAR International Series 336
1987

B.A.R.

5, Centremead, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0DQ, England.

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BAR-S336, 1987 : 'Roman Military Equipment'.

ISBN 0 66054 430 3

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Printed in Great Britain

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PREFACE

The Roman Military Equipment Research Seminar was formed in 1983 at a time when specialists felt an increasing need, not only to discuss the relevance and usefulness of their discipline with other colleagues, but to place their studies in the wider context of Roman archaeology and generally to increase awareness in the potential of military studies.

As a measure of enthusiasm and success, the conference which was first held in Sheffield was quickly published¹ and followed by a second conference which was subsequently published as a full BAR volume.² By the third conference, hosted in 1985 by the Dept. of Archaeology at the University of Nottingham, contributions were being received from individuals working on material from sites as exotic as Dura-Europos in Syria and Gilau in Northern Transylvania, as well as from nearer home.

The seminar took a familiar form with a series of papers presented to the participants followed by a period of discussion, often hectic, notes from which in many cases have been included in the submission of papers for publication.

In addition to the presented papers, there was also a display of replica armour by members of the Ermine Street Guard and a photograph and text display mounted by the Dept. of Greater London Archaeology (Southwark and Lambeth).

I should like to take this opportunity to thank all of the contributors - those who have produced papers for publication, and those who have not (L. Allason-Jones and Peter Hazell), for without their work the seminar would have been stillborn. Equally welcome was the presence of the Ermine Street Guard and their excellent repertoire of replicas. Further I am indebted too to the Dept. of Archaeology at the University of Nottingham for hosting the conference and help in the arrangements.

Finally special thanks must go to M.C. Bishop for his help and encouragement throughout as well as his preparation of the typed text during the autumn of 1986.

The Roman military equipment seminars are an annual event that attract both scholars and amateurs and further details of future meetings may be obtained from the editor.

NOTES

1. M.C. Bishop (ed.), Roman Military Equipment. Proceedings of a

Seminar Held in the Department of Ancient History and Classical Archaeology at the University of Sheffield, 21st March 1983 (Sheffield 1983). Copies available from M.C. Bishop (see List of Contributors for contact address), price £0.90.

2. M.C. Bishop (ed.), The Production and Distribution of Roman Military Equipment. Proceedings of the Second Roman Military Equipment Research Seminar, BAR International Series 275, (Oxford 1985)