

Military Equipment and the Identity of Roman Soldiers

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edited by
J. C. Coulston



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ABBREVIATIONS

AA	<u>Archaeologia Aeliana</u>
BJ	<u>Bonner Jahrbücher</u>
Brit	<u>Britannia</u>
CIL	<u>Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum</u>
CSIR	<u>Corpus Signorum Imperii Romani</u>
CW	<u>Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society</u>
ESP	<u>E. Espérandieu, Recueil général des bas-reliefs, statues et bustes de la Gaule romaine, (Paris 1907-38)</u>
ILS	<u>H. Dessau, Inscriptiones Latinae Selectae, (Berlin 1892-1916)</u>
JRGZM	<u>Jahrbuch des römisch-germanischen Zentralmuseums Mainz</u>
JRS	<u>Journal of Roman Studies</u>
MAAR	<u>Memoirs of the American Academy in Rome</u>
MAKW	<u>Mitteilungen der Altertumskommission für Westfalen</u>
NCH	<u>The Northumberland County History Committee, A History of Northumberland</u>
ORL	<u>Obergermanisch-raetische Limes</u>
PSAN	<u>Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne</u>
PSAS	<u>Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland</u>
RIB	<u>R.G. Colingwood & R.P. Wright, The Roman Inscriptions of Britain, I, (Oxford 1965)</u>
RIC	<u>H. Mattingly & E.A. Sydenham, The Roman Imperial Coinage, (London 1923 etc.)</u>
RLO	<u>Römische Limes in Österreich</u>
RM	<u>Mitteilungen des deutschen archäologischen Instituts, römischen Abteilung (Römische Mitteilungen)</u>

PREFACE

The title of this volume was taken as a theme for the Fourth Roman Military Equipment Conference (ROMECE IV) held at Newcastle University (12th-13th April, 1986). It may be pursued on two levels. Firstly, small-finds inevitably have some bearing on the attempted identification of garrisons occupying Roman military sites. Some types of equipment may be seen as specific to certain types of troops (Coulston) or they may be judged to have been in general use (Poulter). Cavalry may be distinguished from infantry in the archaeological record and even cavalry horse harness may have been different from pack or draught harness (Bishop). Such issues might seem to be confused by the contemporaneous use of a variety of forms of one class of equipment (van Driel-Murray) whereas a broad study of one type of site (Allason-Jones), or of one geographical region (Wickenden), often reveals interesting patterns which might otherwise have been missed in an artifact-specific approach. Whatever conclusions are arrived at with regard to equipment specificity, they have an importance far beyond just the field of Roman military equipment studies.

The second level on which the volume's theme might be pursued is more anthropological and hinges on the personal identity of a man as a soldier in ancient society. Before the mid-late 17th century the concept of 'uniform' in the modern military sense was unknown and most 'soldiers' wore normal 'civilian' dress, commensurate with their rank and social status. In many periods the violent sub-culture of soldiery sets them psychologically apart from the rest of society. Thus visible identifiers of military occupation were often necessary for troops when they were not in full armour. Macedonian military boots or the slashed extravagance of Renaissance Landsknechte are cases in point, as are the characteristic waist-belts and noisy aprons or strap-ends worn by Roman soldiers. Thus the role of military equipment in the identity of Roman soldiery transcends the bounds of Roman studies and forms part of a much longer-term process of development.

No apology is necessary for the inclusion of Mr S. James' definitive article which does not accord directly with the volume's title, and which was read in a shorter version at the 1984 Sheffield seminar. It is very pleasing to see this work and Dr M.C. Bishop's study of cavalry equipment appear after a long period in limbo.

The editor would like to take this opportunity to thank those people who have contributed papers to this volume. In addition, the following people delivered papers at the conference itself: Dr D. Baatz, Mr M. ~~R~~drich, Dr K. Griffiths, Dr M. Grünewald, Mr P. Johnson and Dr V.A. Maxfield (kindly read in absentia by Mr M.W.C. Hassall). Dr M.C. Bishop and Mr S. James read papers different from those appearing here. The editor is very grateful indeed to the following colleagues and friends who helped to organise, chair and run the conference and who contributed in no small part to its success: Miss L. Allason-Jones, Ms M.V. Andrews, Mr J. Bennett, Mr C.M. Daniels, Dr H. Dodge, Prof P.J. Fowler, Mr P.W.M. Freeman and Mr M.W.C. Hassall. Thanks are due to the Departments of Archaeology and Fine Art, Newcastle University, and to the Museum of Antiquities of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne, for the use of their premises, and to Mr P.G. Masterman of

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