

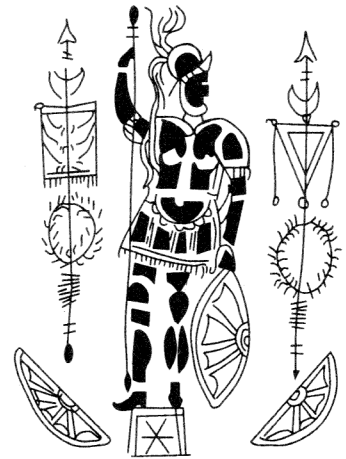
# Arma

## Newsletter of the Roman Military Equipment Conference

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Summer 1994



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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- AN EARLY FITTING FROM ESSEX
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#### Plus these regular features:

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### CVSTOS ARMORVM

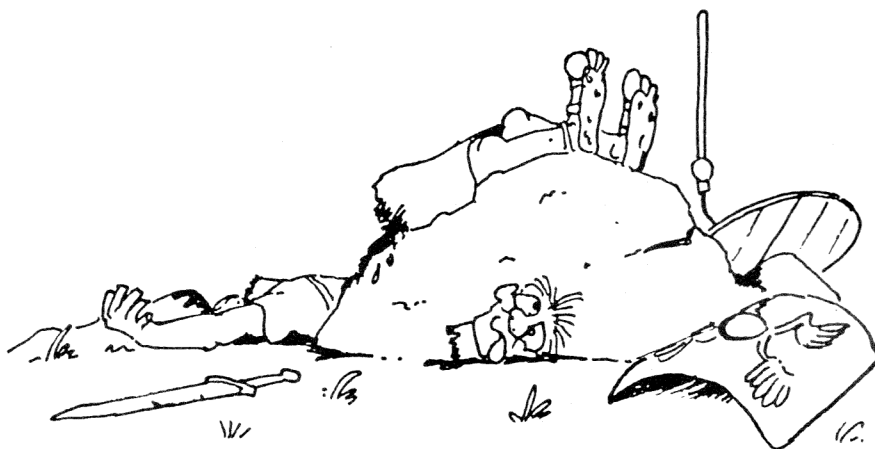
*Arma* is on the move, both figuratively and literally. First there is a change of appearance to brighten things up a little, with more photographs than before (we have the technology!). Then your editor has moved operations to the Scottish borders and *Arma* has duly changed its address (but mail sent to the newsletter at the old address will be forwarded for a few months – but please address it to me by name).

The next issue will see the start of a new series of cartoons by Neil, as well as a preliminary report from ROMECE IX which, at the time of writing, has just taken place. I always look forward to military equipment conferences because they *still* delight and surprise, where most other conferences bore and depress, me; ROMECE IX lived up to all expectations.

As ever, the range of reports in this issue is wide, but central to the whole volume (literally and thematically) is the feature on re-enactment groups. Many have been mentioned before, some are more recent additions, and some have ceased to exist since the last reports were carried by *Arma*. Some appeared at the Leiden ROMECE special event at the Archeon. I have had the opportunity to see many of the British groups in action and whilst it is occasionally possible to nit-pick on items of equipment, the only negative aspect must be the intensity of the personal feelings and inter-group rivalry which can verge on the venomous. In fact, the only sphere I can think of that is even more catty is the academic world. Luckily, I belong to neither any longer; I think I must lack the killer instinct!

Finally, did you know that Oxbow are offering *JRMES* to regular subscribers at £18 per annum? It is not often that academic journals manage to go down in price! With volume 3 out, volume 4 nearly ready, and volume 5 already being prepared, we can look forward to a feast of military equipment in the coming months.





" BUT SARGE , I DISTINCTLY HEARD HIM SAY ' ALL

## NEW CONNOLLY POSTERS AND POSTCARDS

Peter Connolly has produced some more postcards and a poster of his work. The postcards include British and Gallic warriors, the Housesteads latrine, a Celtic warrior and his wife, a Celtic warrior burial, the *Hippika Gymnasia*, and the landing of Caesar's Tenth legion on the beach during his invasion of Britain in 55 B.C. (see illustration to right). The last subject is also available as a splendid A2-sized poster.

Unfortunately, Peter cannot supply these on an individual basis, but museums or shops wishing to buy them wholesale should contact him at 22 Spring Street, SPALDING, Lincs., PE11 2XW.

If you want copies, then keep your eyes peeled at all the better museum outlets, but note that for some curious reason, English Heritage marketing refuse to carry these at the moment, so you won't find them at any of their sites (although they *are* well-stocked with useless nick-nacks and junk). If any member of EH's marketing staff would like to explain their policy on this, we would be only too happy to print a letter in the pages of *Arma*.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Michel Feugère has produced another book on

military equipment for those with a penchant for headgear, whilst the Ermine Street Guard and the National Museum of Wales have co-operated on a glossy, full-colour, booklet that, like Dan Peterson's recent *oeuvre*, should grace the shelves of any self-respecting exercitologist.

M. FEUGÈRE, *Casques antiques. Les visages de la guerre de Mycènes à fin de l'Empire romain*, Editions Errance: Paris (1994) 195FF

D. ZINKIEWICZ, *Roman Legion*, National Museum of Wales: Cardiff (1994) £3.50  
ISBN 0-7200-0401-2

## BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ROMAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT SINCE 1980 *Papers (Part 11)*

BISHOP, M.C. 1992: 'The early imperial "apron"', *JRMES* 3, 81-104

CZARNECKA, K. 1992: 'Two newly-found Roman swords from the Przeworsk culture cemetery in Oblin, Siedlce District, Poland', *JRMES* 3, 41-55

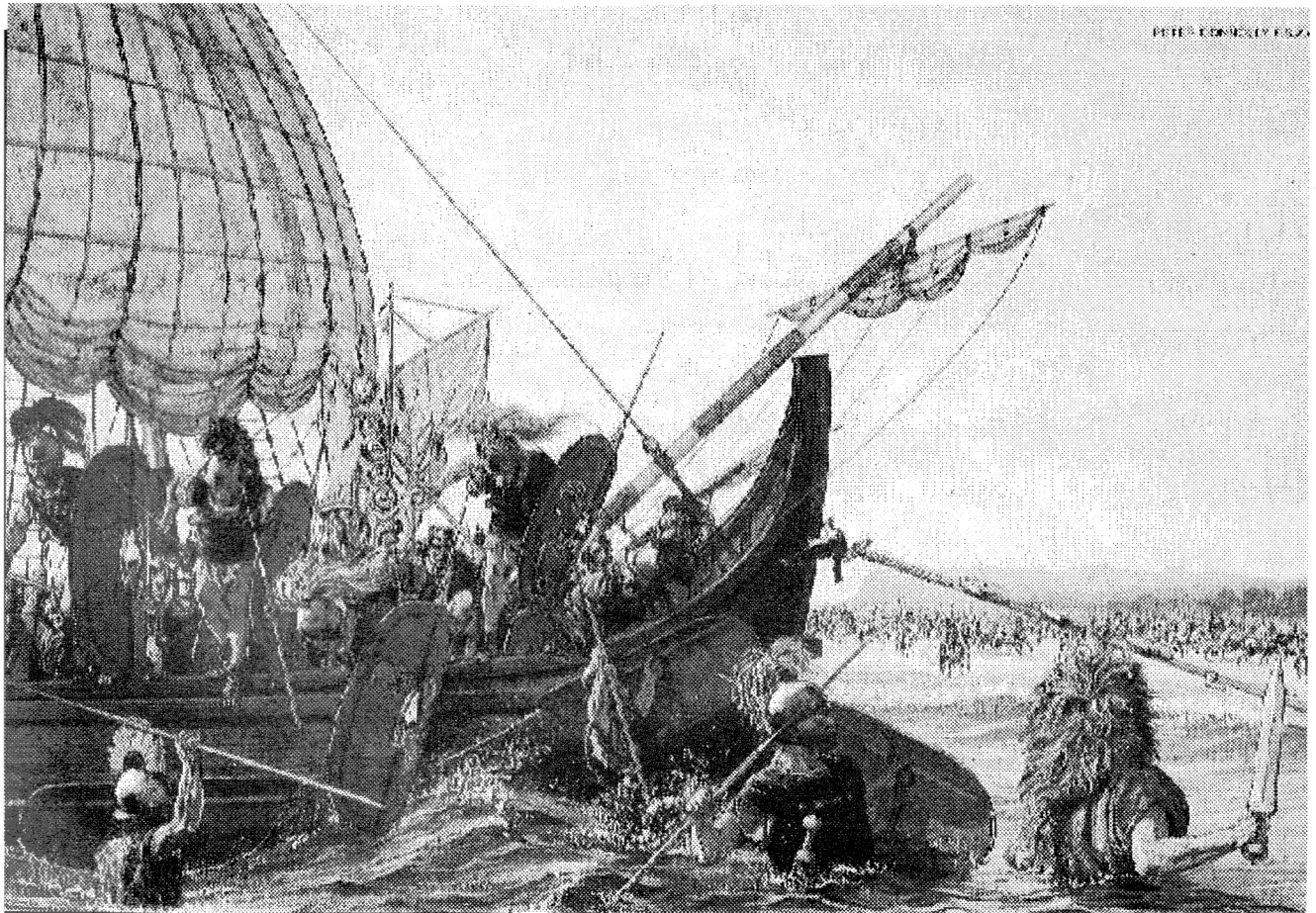
FLÜGEL, C. & OBMANN, J. 1992: 'Waffen in Heiligtümern des Mithras', *JRMES* 3, 67-71

HYLAND, A. 1992: 'The Roman cavalry horse and its efficient control', *JRMES* 3, 73-9



GAULS TO BE DIVIDED INTO THREE PARTS'!"

Neil '86



*Peter Connolly's new postcard and poster*

OBMANN, J. 1992: 'Zu einer elfenbeinernen Dolchgriffplatte aus Nida-Hedderheim/Frankfurt am Main', *JRMES* 3, 37-40

QUESADA, F. 1990: 'El casco de Almaciles (Granada) y la cuestion de los cascos de tipo "Montefortino" en la peninsula Iberica', *Verdolay* 4, 65-73

SIM, D. 1992: 'The manufacture of disposable weapons for the Roman army', *JRMES* 3, 105-19

WILHELMI, K. 1992: "'Isa pantae tois prosopois" Die bronzeisenversilberte Helmmaske aus der frühen Kaiserzeit am Kalkrieser Berg. Germanische Beute aus römischer Paraderüstung "haerentia corpori" tegmina? Ein status quaestionis', *JRMES* 3, 1-36

WILLEMS, W.J.H. 1992: 'Roman face masks from the Kops plateau, Nijmegen, The Netherlands', *JRMES* 3, 57-66

## Reports (Part 10)

BIDWELL, P. & SPEAK, S. 1994: *Excavations at South Shields Roman Fort Volume I*, Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne Monograph No.4, Newcastle upon Tyne

## CHANGES TO ARMA

If you intend submitting anything to *Arma*, please read the **Notes for Contributors** very carefully, as they have changed since the last issue. This particularly applies if you want to include illustrations or hope to send your contribution on a computer disc. Most importantly, **please note the new editorial address!**

## CAVALRY SPORTS EQUIPMENT IN SOUTHERN GAUL

M. Feugère

Roman cavalry equipment – or at least what is now identified as such: numerous types of pendants, all sorts of harness fittings – is well attested in *Narbonensis*, and its abundance on civil sites (town and country) belongs to one of the most irritating research problems in the field of militaria. On the other hand, sports equipment is extremely rare here: only two finds can be noted. Both of them were discovered a long time ago, but are worthy of description: the Rodez face-helmet does not often appear in the literature, and the Nîmes cuirass plate has, until now, seldom been published.<sup>1</sup>

### 1. The Rodez face-helmet (fig.1)

H: 19cm; Musée Fenaille, Rodez; Bibl.: CÉRÈS, 1873, 197; REINACH, 1894, 346, no.465; DREXEL, 1924, 59, no.B.15; KLUMBACH, 1932, 56, fig.3; ALBENQUE, 1947, 113-14, no.297 with pl.V2; BRAEMER, 1963, 66;



Fig.1

ROBINSON, 1975, 131, pl.389; GARBSCH, 1978, 74, O64 (dating the piece in the first half of the 3rd c. AD); FEUGÈRE, 1993, 192.

Although not discovered within the limits of the *Provincia*, this helmet is the most important find of cavalry equipment ever found in Southern Gaul. With its *repoussé* decoration illustrating Hercules with his club, a helmeted Minerva, and a Medusa head and serpents, it can rightly be compared with some of the best pieces of sports helmets.<sup>2</sup> The circumstances of the discovery are better known than that was written: although not very detailed, the report of Abbé Cérés clearly mentions the helmet among the finds made in 1862 under the chapel of the 'Covenant de la Providence', in Ridez itself, NW of the town centre. The helmet was found, along with a great variety of other remains, including Roman leather shoes, numerous remains of baskets, wood, grain, perfectly preserved in the wet levels of the bottom of a large basin (or cistern?) measuring 5.30 × 4.70m. The nature of such an accumulation of ancient debris could be connected with various events, such as a desertion level of the settlement, but we can be sure, at least, that this helmet does not come from a military tomb, like other Gaulish finds such as Chassenard, Neuvy-Pailloux or Hellange.

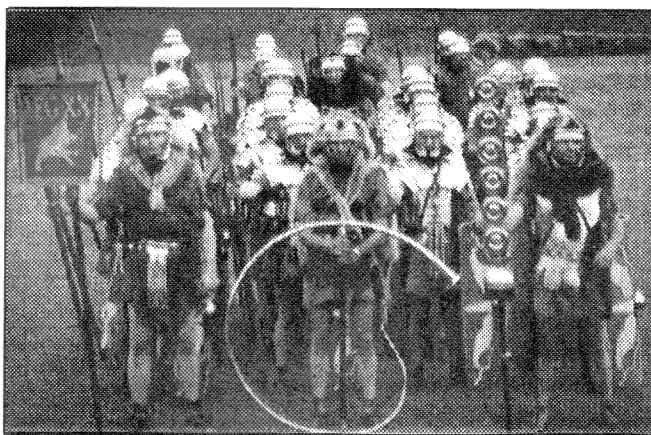
### 2. The Nîmes cuirass plate (fig.2)

Dim. 65 × 140mm; Musée Archéologique, Nîmes; Bibl.: DREXEL, 1924, 58, no.A4; KLUMBACH, 1962, 192, no.9; GARBSCH, 1978, 78, P11.<sup>3</sup>

When it was cleared of its corrosion in 1914, this object was reported by F. Mazauric, the former curator of the Museum, as a find made 'long ago' at Nîmes itself, but without any further precision. It is now a thin bronze plate of no more than 0.5mm thickness, worked in the *repoussé* technique and tinned. An unfortunate restoration recently

*Continued on p.7*

## SPECIAL FEATURE: RE-ENACTMENT GROUPS IN 1994

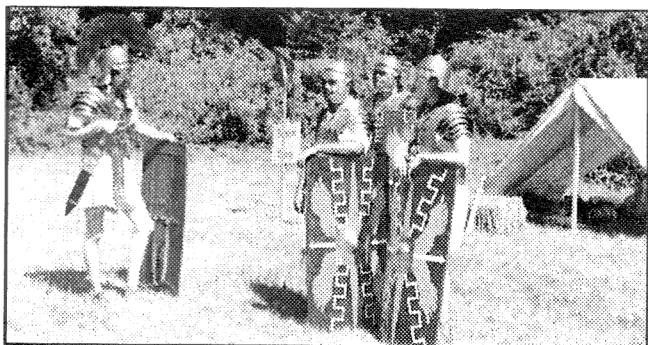


**THE ERMINE STREET GUARD** are the longest-running of the Roman military re-enactment groups. They have 45 full members (capable of fielding over 30 men), and 300 associate members. They perform widely in Britain and Europe, ranging from small visits to full-scale displays. They publish a new bulletin and *Exercitus*, an A4 publication dealing with various aspects of Roman life. They charge £10 per annum for full members, £7 for associates. Contact address: Oakland Farm, Dog Lane, Crickley Hill, Witcombe, Gloucester, GL3 4UG.

**ALA II FLAVIA**, representing Roman auxiliary cavalry of the Flavian period (but also experimenting with later sports equipment) was formed in 1987 and has 8 members, fielding 4 men with horses. The group have been featured in several books (*Die Reiter Roms I-III*), a booklet (*Römische Kavallerie* in the series *Schriftenreihe des Limesmuseums Aalen*), films, and postcards.

**LEGIO XXI RAPAX** was founded in 1985 and has 10 members (and a current maximum field strength of 4). Depicting Augustan legionary infantry, it was famous for its march across the Alps, recorded in the book *Die Legionen des Augustus*. Their feats have been recorded in booklets, namely *Nuli Mariani* and *Panis Militaris*, both in the series *Schriftenreihe des Limesmuseums Aalen*. They too have featured in films for Austrian and German TV.

Contact address for both groups: Dr Marcus Junkelmann, Schloss Ratzenhofen, D-84094 Elsendorf, Germany; Fax: 08753-8328.



**TWENTIETH LEGION** is the name of a comparatively new group founded in early 1991. Representing legionaries of the mid-first century A.D., there are 15 members, 8 available in the field. Subscription for members costs \$5, but only \$4 for non-members (more for overseas postage). A monthly newsletter, *Adlocutio*, is produced, and the contact address is: Matthew Amt, 9416 Rhode Island Ave., College Park, MD 20740-1639, USA

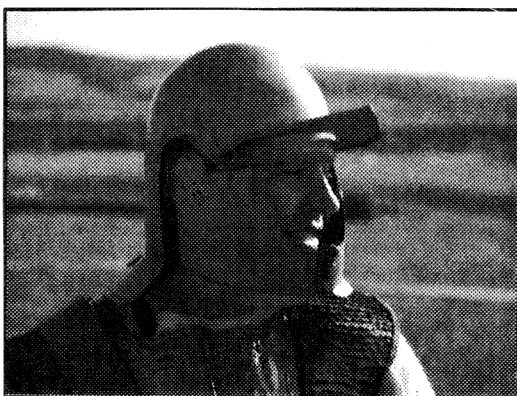
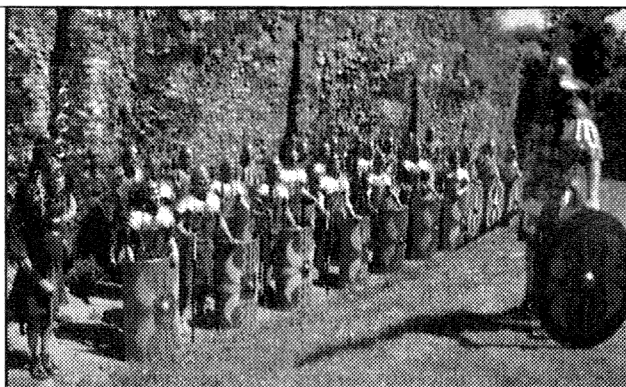
**LEGIO SECUNDA AUGUSTA** was established in 1989-90 and now has 20-25 members. It can field a total field strength of 21 (1 centurion, 10 legionaries, 2 standard bearers, and 8 women) with artillery added this year. Equipment is provided by the society and members pay £1 each per week. Although it has no regular publications, a newsletter is planned, and publicity material produced includes a poster and some postcards. Female members display different topics (religion, medicine, spinning and weaving, cooking, herbs and spices, cosmetics, and children's toys. There is an established schools visit programme in keeping with the National Curriculum. Contact address: David Richardson, 288 Copnor Road, Portsmouth, Hants., PO3 5DD; Tel: 0705 790617. For school bookings, contact Mrs Sandra White, Tel: 0329 311528.





**ROMAN ARMY RESEARCH GROUP OF LONDON** was founded in 1969 and activated as a display group in 1993. It has 12 members and a maximum field strength of 14. They depict the 1st–3rd centuries, but plan to recreate later periods and a naval/marine contingent. Legionaries feature white tunics with *clavi*, are equipped with *pila* and *lanceae*, and rectangular and oval/hexagonal shields. There are no regular publications, but they have produced fact sheets on various aspects of the Roman army. Contact address: 7 Coalecroft Road, London, SW15 6LW; Tel: 081-788 0015.

**LEGIO GEMINA MARTIA VICTRIX** was established on 1981 and now has a membership of 35, fielding between 15 and 25 at events. It costs nothing to be a member, but within one year of joining they are expected to have complete, acceptable kit. They produce sporadic bulletins and event notices, but have a formal newsletter planned for autumn of 1994.



**COHORS V GALLORUM** was founded in 1988 and now has 33 members, fielding 5 soldiers and 4 civilians. They depict early 3rd century AD auxiliary infantry and membership costs £9.50 per annum. There is an annual journal (*not* exclusively devoted to re-enactment matters) and two newsletters. There are also postcards, a Roman calendar, and various information sheets. They are currently engaged upon a five-year research programme on throwing weapons. Contact address: Arbeia Roman Fort and Museum, Baring Street, South Shields, NE33 2BB.

**THE NORTH GUARD**, which was founded in 1988, aims to recreate legionary and auxiliary troops from 1000 BC to AD408. It currently comprises 12 male, 5 female, and 4 junior members and can field 10 male and 3 female members at events. Membership costs £7 per annum and there is a newsletter at the end of the year, with other publications in the pipeline. Contact address: North Guard, 8 Leechmere Way, Ryhope, Sunderland, SR2 0DH



*Don't despair if your group has not been included in this first article; others will follow, but Arma will need photographic material and society details to justify inclusion.*



Fig.2

transformed the object into a rectangular plate, but as is shown by the upper border, it actually corresponds to the left part of a breastplate from a mail or scale cuirass. Several gaps in the bronze leaf did not seriously damage the decoration, except for the eagle's head which is missing. As no perforation survives from the fastening system,<sup>4</sup> one may wonder whether the plate went into the ground as a cuirass breastplate, or as an object already transformed and kept for another purpose. There is also the possibility that, at any stage of its most recent history, the plate was re-cut 'to improve its shape', according to some antiquarians' practice in the last century.

The plate is separated into three superposed levels, the main one, at the center, being devoted to a masculine and helmeted bust (Mars) looking towards its supposed front figure, on the other missing plate composing the plastron.

The oblique eagle figure at the top conveniently fills the reduced space around the neck, and the bottom field is occupied by two shields, a round one with radial motives, seen from profile, and an hexagonal one, simple incised in the background.

This succession of eagle, bust and shield belongs to the most common compositions on such objects, the only variant affecting the deity. Though the basis of the identification is not always given by the authors, similar plates can show Mars (Frankfurt am M., Mundelsheim, Pfünz, Moigrad), but also Minerva (Pfünz, Hrusica, Heerlen, Zugmantel, Szöny, Dura-Europos, Weissenburg)<sup>5</sup> or Virtus (Buciumi, Hanau-Steinheim).<sup>6</sup> Due to the lack of any characteristic detail, the precise identification often has to remain open.

An interesting graffito, punched as usual on military equipment, can be seen to the right of the bust: Papirius, once owner of this cuirass, had indeed a very common name for the area, as well as for other regions of the Empire. Within the limits given by the object itself (see above), it is nevertheless worth noting the name of this cavalrman.

### 3. Discussion

As noted at the beginning, there is a strong contrast between the mass of so-called cavalry fittings, which virtually appear on any settlement in Southern France, and the rarity of sport equipment in the same area. This situation, in fact, does not much differ from many other regions: the only area where sport equipment come to light in decent quantity is the rheno-danubian limes, between Germania inferior and Pannonia, with a number of finds in Britannia, and to the South, down to Thracia. Except in those border areas, sport equipment only occurs in isolated finds, such as in Mauretania (only one find) or Italy itself. The most important concentration takes place in Raetia, where most hoard finds have also been discovered (Fig.3).<sup>7</sup>

The distribution of sports equipment could well illustrate a particular function of the Roman cavalry. The *hippika gymnasia*, where such equipment was used, was connected with the highest performances of riding and horse-fighting.<sup>8</sup> There is little doubt that such an excellence was particular to elite troops, based in frontier sectors where the best elements of cavalry were needed. On the other hand 'normal' *alae* could perfectly fulfil, in other regions, daily tasks that did not need such skill and quickness.

If this can explain differences in the distribution of certain cavalry items, we also have to admit that regional habits, not speaking of chronological evolutions, certainly influenced the use of such or such horse-bit, spur, or harness. At any rate, differences between border areas and long ago pacified provinces can always help us to understand the use of troops in the Roman military policy.

### NOTES

- 1 I wish to thank here Mrs D. Darde (Mus. Nîmes), who kindly allowed me to study the Nîmes breast-

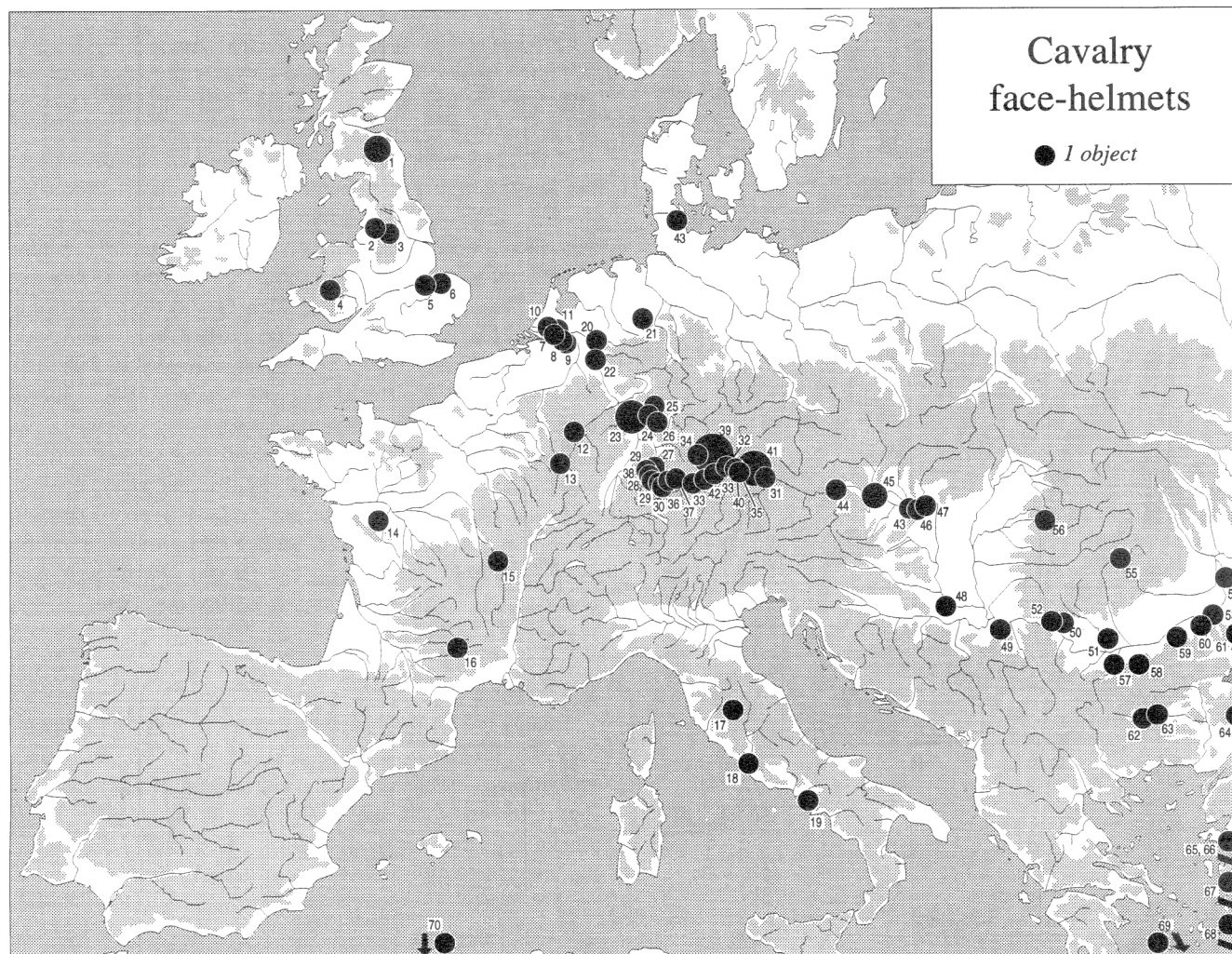


Fig.3 Distribution of cavalry face-helmets: 1, Newstead; 2, Worthing; 3, Ilkley; 4, Brecon Gaer; 5, Ribchester; 6, Longthorpe; 7, Vechten; 8, Nimègue; 9, Ubbergen; 10, Zwammerdam; 11, De Meem; 12, Hellingen; 13, Conflans; 14, Neuvy-Pailloux; 15, Chassenard; 16, Rodez; 17, Rapolano; 18, Rome; 19, Nola; 20, Haltern; 21, Kalkriese (Germania 70, 1992, 375); 22, Köln; 23, Mainz; 24, Frankfurt-Heddernheim; 25, Echzell; 26, Stockstadt; 27, Gräfenhausen; 28, Pfrondorf; 29, Stuttgart-Bad Cannstatt; 30, Künzing; 31, Pfünz; 32, Aschberg; 33, Gnotzheim; 34, Sittling; 35, Aalen; 36, Dalkingen; 37, Welzheim; 38, Weißenburg; 39, Eining; 40, Straubing; 41, Straß-Moos; 42, Thorsberg; 43, Herzogenburg; 44, Szöny-Brigetio; 45, Foktorok; 46, Visegrad; 47, Sotin; 48, Smederevo; 49, Kostol; 50, Resca; 51, Portes de Fer; 52, Ostrov; 53, Hirchova; 54, Kalenik; 55, Nikyup; 56, Razgrad; 57, Silistra; 58, Varna; 59, Plovdiv; 60, Chatalka; 61, Bizye; 62, Tell Oum Hauran; 63, Gaziantep; 64, Homs; 65, Hebron; 66, Sheik-'Ibada; 67, El Grimidi (list after Garbsch 1978, with complements).

plate, as well as Ph. Gruat (Montrozier), who helped to clear up the finding circumstances of the Rodez helmet.

- 2 The wrong interpretation of Abbé Cérès (1873), 'masque de gladiateur', was unfortunately reproduced by REINACH (1894), ALBENQUE (1947, 113) as well as BRAEMER (1963, 66).
- 3 This object is actually not, as written in all those works, of unknown provenience; see also a small photograph of a detail, right to left, in FEUGÈRE 1993, 195.
- 4 See Garbsch 1978, 8, fig. 1–3.
- 5 All examples described, and sometimes illustrated, by GARBSCH 1978.
- 6 This last illustrated by D. Baatz and F.R. Herrmann

(eds.), *Die Römer in Hessen*, Stuttgart 1982, 342, fig. 284.

7 FEUGÈRE 1994, 137.

8 On these training games, see DIXON & SOUTHERN 1992, 126–134, and especially Hyland 1993.

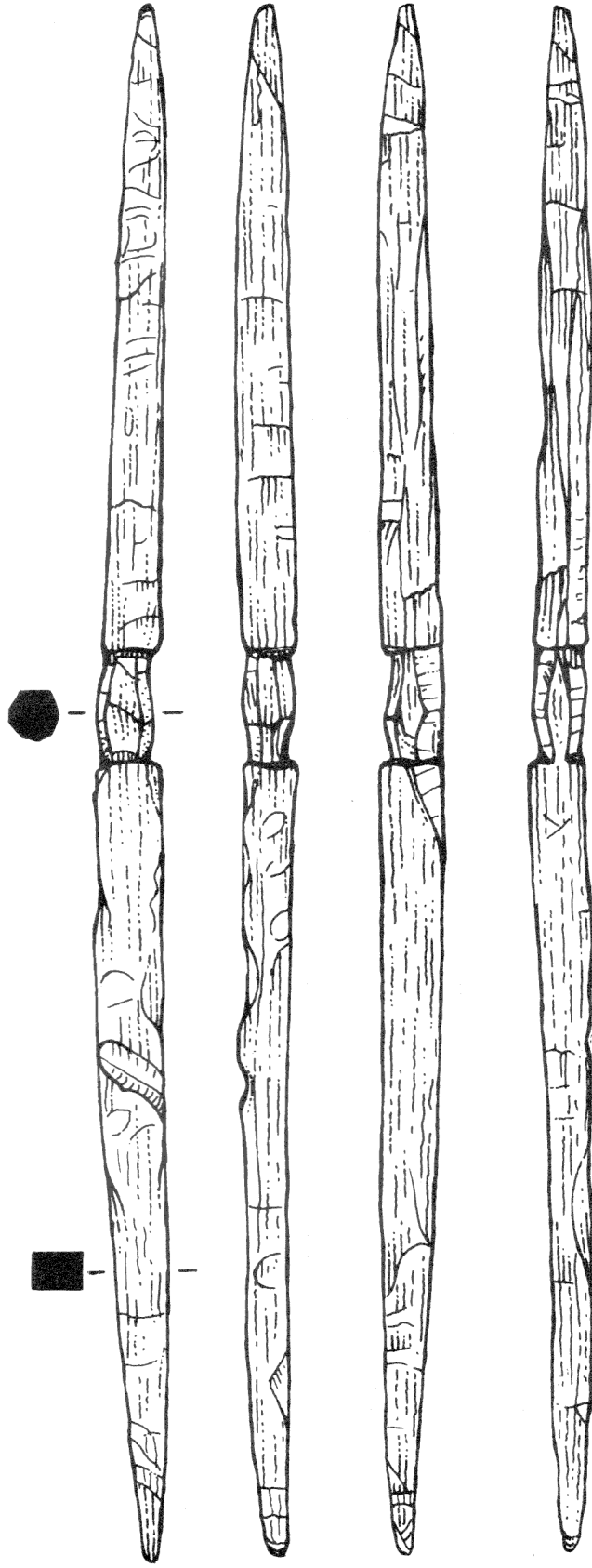
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CÉRÈS 1874: Abbé Cérès, *Rapport sur les fouilles archéologiques faites à Cadayrac, à Souyri et au Couvent*





PETER LEE 1994.

de la Providence, 1865, dans Mém. Soc. Lettres, Sc. et Arts de l'Aveyron 1868-1873.

DREXEL 1924: F. Drexel, *Römische Paraderüstung*, in *Bulicev zbornik – Strena Buliciana*, 55 sqq.

FEUGÈRE 1993: M. Feugère, *Les armes des Romains, de la République à l'Antiquité tardive*, Ed. Errance, Paris 1993.

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KLUMBACH 1932: H. Klumbach, *Römischer Gesichtshelm vom Aschberg im Museum Dillingen a.d. Donau*, dans *Germania* 16, 1932, 52 sqq.

REINACH 1894: S. Reinach, *Antiquités Nationales. Description raisonnée du Musée de Saint-Germain-en-Laye. Bronzes figurés de la Gaule romaine*, Paris 1924.

## **A 'PILUM MURALE' FROM KIRKHAM, LANCASHIRE**

*Kath Buxton and Chris Howard-Davis*

Until recent excavations on the site, undertaken by the Lancaster University Archaeology Unit on behalf of Wimpey Homes Holdings Ltd., little had been known of the Roman fort at Kirkham, beyond its location. It was noted by Baines in 1870 (*History of Lancashire*) but after that little exploration of the site was undertaken until 1994, when a number of large trenches were excavated in advance of development.

The fort lies at the top of Windmill Hill, a strategically important, low but prominent rise in the otherwise flat landscape of the Lancashire Fylde. It is an important element in the chain of forts running inland, along the line of the R. Ribble, from *Portus Setantiorum* (thought to lie seawards of modern Fleetwood) and to Ribchester.

Although it rapidly became clear that much of the site had been badly damaged by landscaping, a number of phases of construction have been defined in the course of primary analysis. The earliest Roman activity is represented by a series of three parallel ditches running east-west and presumably the defensive circuit of either a marching camp or the earliest timber fort. These ditches were obviously short-lived and were rapidly backfilled with redeposited natural subsoils. A circular ditch, possibly surrounding a signal tower was recognised to the north of these ditches and it appears to have been incorporated into the circuit of the later stone-built fort. The stone fort appears to have been re-modelled over a period of time. Similarities between the fort at Kirkham and that at Ribchester, both in the layout of enclosures immediately outside the defensive ditches and, in the presence of large amounts of hay and straw in the environmental evidence, lead to the suggestion of a strong cavalry presence on the site.

In general the numbers of finds from the site were

disappointingly few and restricted almost exclusively to pottery. The inner ditch of the stone phase of the fort was, however, extensively waterlogged and a number of wooden artefacts survived in excellent condition. Most appear to be tent pegs of the type familiar from numerous sites, but amongst them was a large oak object, superficially resembling a bow, and identified as either a cheveu de frise or one of the fixedstakes described by Vegetius 'above (the revetments) are fixed stakes of very strong wood, which the soldiers are accustomed to carry with them'.

The object is approximately 1.25m in length. It has a square to rectangular section and tapers to a sharp point at both ends. A bulbous and slightly irregular handgrip, with roughly circular section, lies a little more than half way along its length. It closely resembles the examples from Great Chesters, Castleshaw, Saalburg and Welzheim, all of which have bulbous handgrips, rather than the example from Oberaden. The stake is carefully made, probably ax-dressed oak. Although in excellent condition there is no sign of an inscription.

The exact function of these double-pointed stakes is still a matter for speculation although it is worth noting that this example, like that from Great Chesters, derives from the fill of a defensive ditch, perhaps linking it with the fortifications.

### **NOTES**

1. VEGETIUS, *Epitome of Military Science*, Book I, 24.
2. Illustrated by BENNETT, 1982, 201, A-E.
3. Illustrated in BISHOP & COULSTON, 1993, fig.63,1.

### **REFERENCES**

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- BISHOP & COULSTON 1993: Bishop, M.C., Coulston, J.C.N., *Roman Military Equipment*, Batsford, London

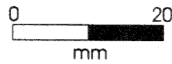
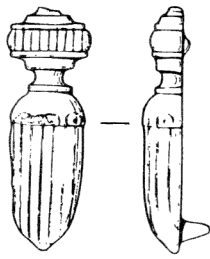
## **AN UNUSUAL RECENT FIND IN TRINOVANTE COUNTRY, ON THE ESSEX/SUFFOLK BORDER**

*M.J. Matthews*

'I've never seen one quite like that before' was the refrain.

Found while carrying out a field survey this unique(?) bronze acorn mount tantalised me, I had visions of a Roman military connection.

Mark Davies confirmed that it was Roman. I asked Christine Jones also of Colchester Museum Service, to help identify this piece.



Christine, thinking it was military, sent details to the *Arma* editor, Mike Bishop, who has identified it as Roman military equipment, 1st century A.D. It seems the acorn is quite common on pre-Flavian cavalry harness fittings<sup>1</sup> but not so the decorative, moulded, horizontal bar which is found on a few cavalry pendants.<sup>2</sup>

Nick Griffiths came up with a plainer example but a good match.<sup>3</sup> If the enamel in the lower bands had been niello then it was probably Claudio-Neronian. There has been other evidence of that date on the site.

The mount was sent to Judith Plouviez at the Suffolk Archaeology Unit where it was recorded and drawn.<sup>4</sup>

The copper alloy mount is solid cast with a flat back with one projecting spike and the remains of another. An elongated acorn shape joins a squarish moulding, which if the mount was symmetrical, had a further acorn attached to the other end. There are small fragments of white metal (silver or tinned?) on the moulding and the acorn still remaining. The acorn is decorated with lightly incised lines and indistinct dot and circle motifs. There are similar incised lines on the broadest part of the moulding. The surviving mount is 32mm in length and 11.1mm max width. Originally the mount would have been 55mm long if symmetrical.

I would be interested to find out more about the origins of the mount, perhaps it originated in Thrace, as the *ala I Thracum* was thought to have been at Colchester during the reign of Claudius, or the *cohors VI Thracum eq.*

If anybody has more information on this type of mount I would be interested to hear from them.

## NOTES

1. E.g. BISHOP, 1988, Fig.50, 4c-d; Fig.52, 4b & f; Fig.55, 4b-c; Fig.56, 4d, l-m, & o.
2. E.g. BISHOP, 1988, 146, Fig.44,2a.
3. BRAILSFORD, 1962, 3, Fig.3,A47.
4. Photographs by James Fawn of the Colchester Archaeological Group; drawing by Suffolk Archaeology Unit.

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## WORDS OF WARNING

Nick Griffiths

Two of the three copper alloy objects illustrated in this note have recently passed through the writer's hands; one is offered in the hope of eliciting further information, the other as 'a word to the wise'!

1a. A pendant found in east Kent during 1992. Approximately heart-shaped, the damaged lower part appears to have consisted of flanking apertures above a 'spike'. Down the centre a raised rib is marked by diagonal incised lines, and bordered by two grooves. The upper part of the pendant is decorated with punched triangles and crescents separated by an engraved line ending in three dots, presumably a simplified vine tendril and bunch of grapes motif. There are traces of ?niello in some of the punch marks.

Whilst general shape, decoration and the presence of niello all suggest a Roman date for this pendant, it is proving hard to find an exact parallel, although that from Lancing Down, Sussex (No.1b), now in the Ashmolean Museum (acc. no. 1927.6436) bears some resemblance, not least in the decoration. The Lancing Down pendant itself is slightly 'out-of-the-ordinary'.

Any information or comments from readers would be much appreciated.

2. As an illustrator it is becoming increasingly common to receive objects for drawing where 'conservation' consists of carefully packing (in neatly cut acid-free foam and plastic box) an uncleaned, mud-encrusted object! The object illustrated here appeared to be a damaged *lorica segmentata* hinge and, coming from a site with both Iron Age and Roman material present (though nothing overtly military), caused some excitement (found in the Avon valley, north of Amesbury, Wiltshire).

However, gentle removal of the dried mud revealed a gilded buckle-plate probably of medieval date; the decoration, double rows of small punched triangles is quite common on metalwork from the late 12th to the late 14th centuries. This problem of mis-identification is probably not common but perhaps needs to be borne in mind when dealing with uncleaned metalwork!

Thanks are due to Martin Brickell (No.1a) and Stuart Burgess (No.2) for the agreement to the publication of their objects, and to the Ashmolean Museum for permission to illustrate the Lancing Down pendant.

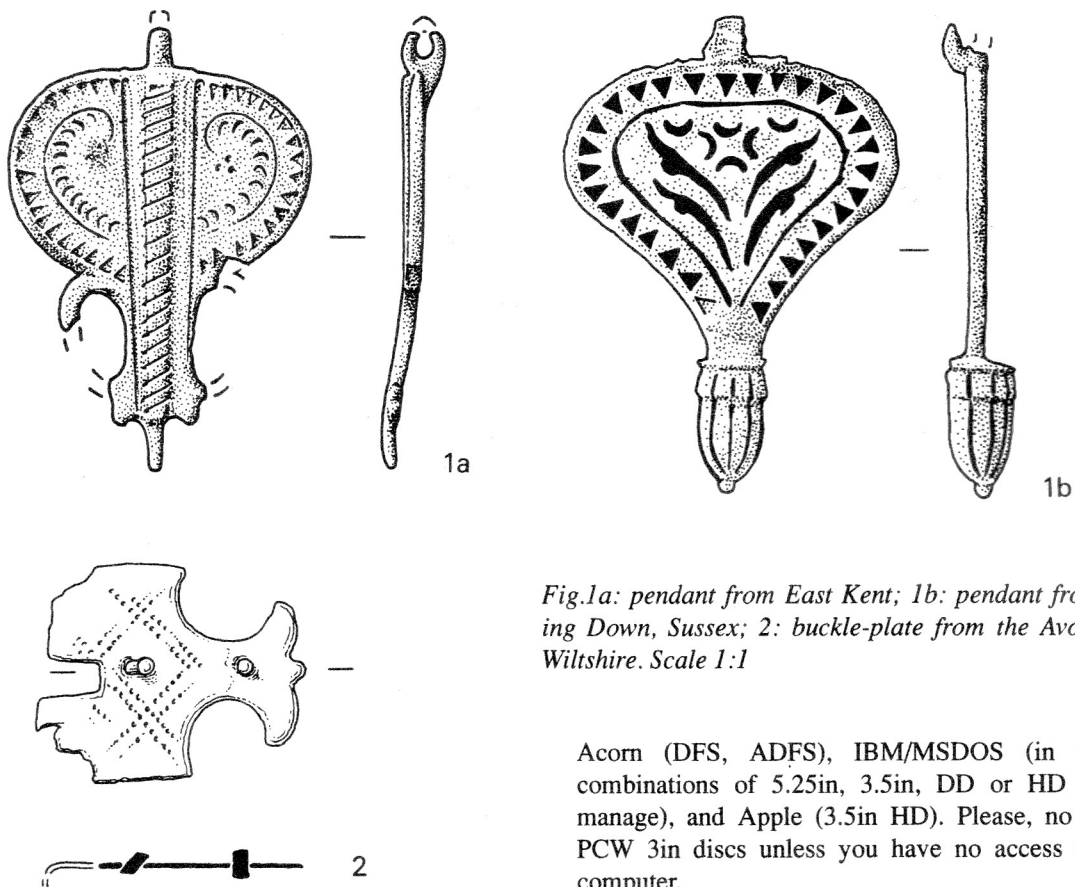


Fig. 1a: pendant from East Kent; 1b: pendant from Lancing Down, Sussex; 2: buckle-plate from the Avon valley, Wiltshire. Scale 1:1

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1. Copy dates for *Arma* are 31st May (for the Summer edition) and 30th November (for the Winter one).
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3. Contributions should preferably be in typescript in English, French, or German, but a computer disc with the text will be very helpful; formats handled include

Acorn (DFS, ADFS), IBM/MSDOS (in whatever combinations of 5.25in, 3.5in, DD or HD you can manage), and Apple (3.5in HD). Please, no Amstrad PCW 3in discs unless you have no access to a real computer.

4. This one is usually ignored, but illustrations should be designed to fit the text area — either landscape, portrait, a portion of the latter, or a column's width. They should also be camera-ready: i.e. should already have been reduced to the size required in reproduction.
5. Photographs (up to 296 × 210mm) can now be readily included in *Arma*, and these can be colour or black and white, prints or transparencies (up to 100 × 100mm); even negatives, if you are desperate.
6. Contributions can be sent to any of the editorial board — M.C. Bishop, C. van Driel-Murray, or H.-J. Ubl (see below for addresses).

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