# The JOURNAL of ROMAN STUDIES

## Volume XCIII 2003

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PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF ROMAN STUDIES

#### THE JOURNAL OF ROMAN STUDIES

#### POLICY STATEMENT

Scope: The Journal aims to publish papers in the full range of the field which the Roman Society was established to promote, that is 'the study of the history, archaeology, literature and art of Italy and the Roman Empire, from the earliest times down to about A.D. 700'. Although the emphasis of the Journal has been on historical themes, we welcome submissions on literary, archaeological and art historical topics, including those on issues of cultural and intellectual history that cut across these categories. Papers primarily concerned with the archaeology of Roman Britain should be sent in the first place to Britannia; those concerned with the archaeology of the Roman Empire at large are equally welcomed by this Journal.

Style: The Journal seeks to publish papers that make a fresh and significant contribution to the understanding of the Roman world and have the potential to stimulate further discussion. Though papers have in recent years tended to be lengthy, the Journal would like to publish more short articles which address issues of general importance. All papers should be carefully thought through and clearly argued; this does not necessarily involve a heavy use of footnotes, but does involve clear statement of the argument and of its broader significance, and adequate signposting to the reader of the steps in the argument. They should so far as possible be accessible to the non-specialist reader, and citations in ancient languages should always be translated.

Editorial Procedure: The Journal is run by an Editorial Committee: Professor A. R. Sharrock (Editor), Professor C. J. Smith (Review Editor), Dr M. Beard, Professor E. G. Clark, Professor M. D. Goodman, Professor P. R. Hardie, Dr S. R. F. Price, Professor L. M. Whitby, Professor R. J. A. Wilson and Professor G. D. Woolf. Submissions are circulated at the Editor's discretion to members of the Committee and, where appropriate, to other specialist readers. In order to ensure maximum impartiality, all submissions are circulated without indication of authorship; it is helpful if submissions do not carry the author's name, institutional affiliation or other indications of identity. The process of refereeing necessarily takes time, but authors may expect to receive a verdict within two or three months of submission. Detailed comments are normally sent only to authors of submissions which have been accepted, or which are thought suitable for resubmission. Authors are frequently invited to revise submissions in the light of such comments.

Deadlines: The Journal is scheduled to appear in November each year. The optimum time for submission is between April and December of any given year for appearance in the following year's issue. Those intending to make submissions later than that are advised to contact the Editor in advance.

Style guidelines: Detailed guidelines on matters of presentation are available from the Editor, but recent issues of the *Journal* may be treated as a general guide.

Discs: Submission of the final version on disc is welcomed, but a clean print-out must also be supplied. Discs in Wordperfect or Word for Windows are preferred, but Word for Macintosh and other standard languages are also acceptable.

Electronic Matters: The Society has decided to make more use of electronic communication. The Society's website (http://www.sas.ac.uk/icls/roman/) now gives the table of contents and abstracts of all articles in the Journal. Whenever possible, articles now include the email address of the author. The Society has decided to permit JSTOR (a system of electronic archiving) to put on its website back issues of the Journal; for information on access to JSTOR see back cover. The Society also makes available to members (for an extra charge) current issues of the Journal and Britannia in computer readable form.

Article submissions and all general enquiries should be addressed to the Editor, Professor A. R. Sharrock, Dept. of Classics and Ancient History, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 QPL, UK.

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# The JOURNAL of ROMAN STUDIES

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Plate I

1. Drinking-cup from Athens. Fighting warriors in single duels. Würzburg, Martin von Wagner Museum. c. 560 B.C.; 2. Wine jug from Corinth, 'Chigi olpe'. Battle of two armies in 'phalanx' formation. Rome, Museo Nazionale di Villa Giulia. c. 630 B.C.; 3. Ointment flask from Corinth, 'Macmillan aryballos'. Battle in 'phalanx' formation and in single combat. London, British Museum. c. 630 B.C.

Plate II 1-2. Trajan's Column, Battle between Romans and Dacians. Rome, A.D.

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Plate VI 1. Marble statue. Dead Gaulish warrior. Venice, Museo Archeologico. Roman copy after Greek original, part of the 'Small Attalid monument'. c. 160 B.C.; 2. Imperial relief cameo, 'Gemma Augustea'. Allegory of Augustus and his world dominion. Vienna, Kunsthistorischen Museum. A.D. 10-14; 3. Relief frieze from Temple of Apollo in Circo, Rome. Part of triumphal procession of Augustus, with trophy and captives on a bier. Rome, Museo Montemartini. c. 20 B.C.

1. Amphora from Athens. Departure of a warrior. Berlin, Staatliche Museen. c. 530 B.C.; 2. Relief from an honorific arch of Marcus Aurelius. Return (adventus) of the emperor from war. Rome, Arch of Constantine (secondary use). A.D. 176.

Jaś Elsner, Archaeologies and Agendas: Reflections on Late Ancient Jewish Art and Early Christian Art

> Fragment of a Seasons Sarcophagus from Rome (exact provenance unknown though often misreported as from the Vigna Randanini catacomb, which has Jewish iconography), now in the Museo Nazionale Romano. Probably last quarter of the third century A.D. The clipeus held by the two central winged Victories (which would have originally been flanked by the four Seasons in the guise of winged erotes, of whom only Autumn carrying a basket of fruits is intact) would normally have held a portrait tondo of the deceased, but has here been cut (or recut?) to depict a menorah. Beneath the menorah are three putti treading grapes in a basin, a common motif with possible but not exclusively Dionysiac intimations, as well as other putti riding animals by the feet of the Victories and Seasons.

1. Painted terracotta ceiling tile from the Dura Europos Synagogue, mid-third century A.D. Now in the Yale University Art Gallery; 2. Painted terracotta ceiling tile from the House of the Large Atrium at Dura Europos (also known as the House of the Court), mid-third century A.D. Now in the Yale University Art Gallery.

Plate VII

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Plate X

1. Painted terracotta ceiling tile from the Dura Europos Synagogue, mid-third century A.D. Now in the Yale University Art Gallery; 2. Painted terracotta ceiling tile from the House of the Large Atrium at Dura Europos (also known as the House of the Court), mid-third century A.D. Now in the Yale University Art Gallery.

Plate XI

Panel depicting the sacrifice of Isaac from the mosaic pavement of the Beth Alpha synagogue, Palestine, discovered in 1929. Probably sixth century A.D. To the left are two youths with a saddled donkey that has a bell around its neck. In the centre is a ram bound to a tree with the hand of God above. The Hebrew inscriptions read 'and behold a ram' above the ram, and 'lay not [thine hand upon the lad]' above the tree. Both Abraham and the child Isaac, to the right beside a flaming altar, are named in Hebrew.

Plate XII

Painted panel above the Torah shrine from the Dura Europos synagogue, discovered in 1932, now in the Damascus Museum. These images are from the first stage of the decoration of the building (first or second quarter of the third century A.D.) and were preserved and incorporated in the paintings of the second stage (c. A.D. 240). The images show, from left to right, a menorah, the Temple, and the sacrifice of Isaac. In the sacrifice scene, Abraham, sword in hand, stands with his back to the viewer, above the ram tied to the tree. To the left is the altar with Isaac lying on top (also with his back to the viewer, and his head to the right) and the hand of God above. To the upper right is a disputed image of what may be a figure (also seen from behind) in a tent.

Plate XIII

Fresco of the sacrifice of Isaac from Cubiculum C of the Via Latina catacomb, Rome, discovered 1955. First quarter of the fourth century A.D. Abraham stands by the flaming altar with Isaac kneeling before him. To the left is the ram, while below is a servant with a donkey.

Plate XIV

White marble relief of the tauroctony found in 1931 in the Mithraeum under the Palazzo dei Musei di Roma, Rome. Late third century A.D. Mithras in Persian dress slays the bull, whose tail ends in an ear of corn, stabbing him in the neck (quite unlike the norms of Roman bull sacrifice) while a dog and a serpent lick the blood. A scorpion grabs the bull's testicles. To the left and right respectively stand the Mithraic torchbearers Cautes and Cautopates. To the far left, in what is possibly an earlier scene within the sacred narrative, a figure (Mithras?) carries the bull. At the top left and right are busts of Sol and Luna, while a raven on the rocks to the left pecks at Mithras' cloak with its beak. The inscription reads: 'Deo Soli invicto Mithrae Ti(tus) Cl(audius) Hermes ob votum dei typum d(onum) d(edit)'.

Plate XV

Fresco of the Prophets of Baal making sacrifice on Mount Carmel, from the lower tier of the south wall of the Dura Europos synagogue. Now in the Damascus Museum. c. A.D. 240. The priests of Baal, standing in groups of four to either side of the altar in the centre, fail to summon fire from heaven to consume the garlanded bullock on the altar. In the niche below the altar is Hiel, who — according to Jewish legend — tried to ignite the wood manually when Baal failed to intervene supernaturally, but was killed by a serpent sent by God.

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