ROMAN BRITAIN IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE

British School at Rome
March 27 2019

A SEMINAR ARRANGED BY AXEL AND MARGARET AX:SON JOHNSON FOUNDATION
From 43 CE, when the emperor Claudius launched his invasion of the island, until the early fifth century, Britain formed part of the Roman Empire, a state which embraced all of western Europe (and much else besides). As the present-day United Kingdom prepares to leave the European Union, this afternoon seminar explores how close those earlier bonds were, between Roman Britain and Rome’s continental empire. Was the island a peripheral region, only very lightly romanised, with cultural and economic ties that were easily shaken off, or was Roman Britain closely intertwined with the economy, the people and the culture of the continent?

Exploiting recent archaeological research and analysis of the textual evidence for the period, speakers will explore a number of themes: the role of Roman London as a commercial centre within the Empire; Rome’s ‘single currency’ and its impact on Britain; the extent of migration and population diversity; Britain’s place within the empire-wide Christian church; its role in the politics of the empire; and the extent to which the inhabitants of Britain identified themselves as ‘Roman’. A final talk will reflect on the afternoon’s papers for an up-coming major project of survey and excavation at a recently discovered Roman villa site at Withington in Gloucestershire.
PROGRAMME

14:00 Welcome, Kurt Almqvist, President, Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation
14:05 Opening remarks: Bryan Ward-Perkins
14:10 Moderator: Ulf Wickbom
14:15 Richard Hingley: Banking, Brexit, Bloomberg and Roman London – Economic Co-incidence?
14:30 Andrew Brown: Britannia in Rome’s Single Currency
14:45 Hella Eckardt: Migration and Diversity in Roman Britain
15:00 Discussion
15:20 Coffee Break
15:45 Gillian Clark: Pelagius the Briton – Christianity, Britain, and Rome
16:00 George Woudhuysen: “A Faraway Land of Which we Know Little”? Britain in the Politics of the Fourth-century Empire?
16:15 Bryan Ward-Perkins: How Roman did the Romano-Britons Feel?
16:30 Richard Miles: Conclusion and Comments
16:40 Discussion
17:00 Drinks
SPEAKERS

Andrew Brown
Assistant National Finds Advisor, British Museum

Gillian Clark
Professor Emerita of Ancient History, University of Bristol

Hella Eckardt
Professor, University of Reading

Richard Hingley
Professor, Durham University

Richard Miles
Professor of Roman History and Archaeology, University of Sydney

Bryan Ward-Perkins
Professor of Late Antique History, University of Oxford

George Woudhuysen
Assistant Professor in Roman History, University of Nottingham

ORGANISATION

President: Kurt Almqvist
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