

ditched enclosure (parkland?) the main business was now seemingly carried out elsewhere. P.'s intimate knowledge of the land he farms makes these observations on how the settlements sat and interacted with their landscape both fascinating and utterly convincing. This volume brings the 49 years of investigation to a highly satisfactory conclusion. P. richly deserves his recent award of a MBE.

*Cotswold Archaeology*, Cirencester  
neil.holbrook@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

NEIL HOLBROOK  
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*Die römischen Fibeln aus Wien*. By S. Schmid. Monografie der Stadtarchäologie Wien 6. Phoibos, Vienna, 2010. Pp. 178, figs 43, pls 9, maps 7. Price: €34.55. ISBN 978 3 85161 025 3.

This useful volume sets the brooches from Vienna (Roman *Vindobona*) in their archaeological and historical contexts — one of a series of monographs that matches the quality of those from Augst and *Vindonissa*. It starts by outlining the history of archaeological research into the Roman occupation of the area, going back to a sixteenth-century interest in epigraphy and describing the sites and individuals involved in the familiar urban pattern of discoveries made during the building boom of the nineteenth century and the more formal excavations of the twentieth century. This leads on to sections on the origins and history of *Vindobona*, concentrating on the fortress and its troops, the other zones of occupation, principally the *canabae* and the civil settlement, the site's strategic importance on the *limes*, and its relationship to other sites in the area

Descriptions and discussions of the various brooch types from the area follow, with the catalogue and figures relegated to the end of the book. Some of the brooches are from museum collections and are not necessarily well provenanced, others are from excavations and have a good archaeological context. The types are not presented in strict chronological order, but are arranged so that groups of brooches and broad chronological trends can be highlighted. Distribution maps are included for a limited number of types and a small number of photographs enliven this section (some in colour). A silver *Flügelfibel* with elaborately pierced and decorated catchplate stands out as a stunning piece of craftsmanship, and a partially gilded silver plate brooch found in the late nineteenth century in a child's sarcophagus is almost certainly unique — it depicts the personification of the Danube reclining between river and forest. Such finds enable not only date and distribution to be taken into account for brooch types, but also gender and social status, forging links between objects and the people who wore them. The catalogue gives brief descriptions to supplement the illustrations, as well as all the archival data necessary for future curators and researchers. The drawings show brooches as worn, i.e. with the 'foot' at the top, although this could perhaps have been relaxed for the zoomorphic pieces.

Having laid out the two themes of the book — the history of *Vindobona* and the brooches found in the area — Schmid goes on to link the two more intimately, first by slotting the archaeological material into defined historical periods, then by examining the evidence for brooch production, and finally by looking at the distribution of the finds in terms of brooch type and site type. The latter include the legionary fortress, the *canabae*, the cemeteries, the civil settlement and the outlying settlements. The data are not, of course, clear-cut, but there are some interesting trends. Knee brooches are equally well-represented within the fortress and *canabae* in terms of numbers, but in the former they represent nearly a quarter of the assemblage compared to about 14 per cent in the latter. Developed crossbow brooches also occur in both zones, but form 14 per cent of the fortress assemblage and only 4 per cent in the *canabae*. In each case the numbers in the civil settlement are slightly below those in the *canabae*. Developed crossbows form over a third of the brooches recovered from graves — over half if the earlier forms of crossbow are included — stressing the perceived importance of carrying status on into the afterlife for the military population.

Plotting the later first-century brooches found in the city points up the site of an auxiliary fort on the line of the *limes*, and a plot of late Roman brooches by type within the fortress shows concentrations in the barrack blocks and tribunes' houses rather than in the baths and *principia*. A greater dataset is needed to be sure that what appears to be a use of crossbow brooches by tribunes is genuine, given that they also appear in the barrack blocks. The final part of this section broadens out to compare the brooch assemblages from several sites of varying types in Pannonia Superior, Noricum and Moesia Superior. In some cases the differences between them relate to date, in others to regional use, in others to site type.

Overall, S.'s attempts to make his data yield up nuggets of information relating to the socio-economic, military and political aspects of life in *Vindobona*, its hinterland and other sites in the wider region, reveal a thoughtful and thought-provoking approach. He demonstrates that a well-researched corpus of material need not be huge — there are only 369 brooches — for it to flesh out the interplay between the history and the archaeology of a site.

Copford, Colchester  
ninaacrummy@yahoo.com

NINA CRUMMY  
doi: 10.1017/S0068113X12000141

*The Roman Inscriptions of Britain. Volume III. Inscriptions on Stone, found or notified between 1 January 1955 and 31 December 2006.* By R.S.O. Tomlin, R.P. Wright and M.W.C. Hassall. Oxbow Books, Oxford and Oakville, 2009. Pp. i + 505, illus. Price: £70.00. ISBN 978 1 84217 368 8.

Those who work on Romano-British epigraphy may count themselves fortunate. *RIB* I–III constitutes a published corpus of material that finds few comparisons in the other provinces of the Roman Empire, where the increasingly outdated volumes of *CIL* and *IG* still hold sway, supplemented to very varying degrees. *RIB* I published all material on stone up to 1955; *RIB* II performed the same task for *instrumentum domesticum* up to 1986; and now, in *RIB* III, the work is further updated with 550 inscriptions on stone ‘found or notified’ between 1 January 1955 and 31 December 2006. We await *RIB* IV, in which will appear curse tablets (on lead) and wooden writing-tablets. Although the editing of *RIB* III has been undertaken by Roger Tomlin, the work on these texts has been a continuous process of collection and publication since the 1950s, by Richard Wright, co-editor with Collingwood of *RIB* I, Mark Hassall and Roger Tomlin, who first joined and then succeeded Wright in his task; as Tomlin observes in his preface, ‘Their respective contributions cannot really be quantified’, and the triple credit on the cover seems wholly appropriate.

*RIB* III is an unshamed continuation of Volume I (although the numbering starts afresh from 3001 to signify Volume III; 2506–3000 remain unused). There are some innovations: diplomatic transcriptions now accompany the edited texts and translations; almost every entry includes a photograph as well as a drawing; and every stone includes a six-figure Ordnance Survey grid reference for its find-spot. This last is particularly welcome, although WGS (World Geodetic System) co-ordinates might have been more valuable to an international readership — and usable in e.g. Google Earth. Likewise, a concordance with *AE*, not just *JRS* and *Britannia*, might have been of immediate use to the wider epigraphic community. For those who do not have easy access to the complete set of OS maps for the UK, note the OS’s free online ‘getamap’ service at: <http://www.getamap.ordnancesurveyleisure.co.uk/>; as well as the co-ordinate converter and Google Earth OS grid overlay available at <http://www.nearby.org.uk/>.

The question of mapping, however, also illustrates the more reactionary side to *RIB* III. In his review of *RIB* I (*JRS* 1966), Eric Birley bemoaned the lack of either a *conspectus operis* or a distribution map. The only gesture towards such a map anywhere in *RIB* remains the reproduction in *RIB* I *add.*, 756 of Birley’s own attempt to plot the geographical order of the inscriptions in *RIB* I (cross-referenced here on p. 1; cf. B. Jones and D. Mattingly, *Atlas of Roman Britain* (1990), fig. 5.10 for a distribution map for *RIB* I). In *RIB* I, the original editors delighted in noting Emil Huebner’s misplacing (in *CIL* VII of 1873) of the Mendips in Derbyshire, and of Denbighshire in Scotland, but a chance to be more constructive has been missed.

The lack of any sort of *conspectus* remains a handicap: material from the line of Hadrian’s Wall begins on p. 270, with a brief introduction noting a change in the organisation compared to *RIB* I; but one will find this only by turning the pages. Moreover, this and the very sparse introduction (covering working methods) is also a missed opportunity: the uniting of all the material published piecemeal in *JRS* and *Britannia* over the last 50 years (plus six previously unpublished: *RIB* 3019, 3030, 3109, 3178, 3370 and 3550\*) offers a chance to take stock. The number of lapidary inscriptions from Britain appears to have increased by c. 25 per cent in 50 years (cf. J. Edmondson in A.E. Cooley (ed.), *Becoming Roman, Writing Latin?* (2002), 44–5 on both rates of discovery and the misleading impressions created by provincial-wide totals). I have not done so, but one would at least like to check the statement accompanying Mattingly and Jones’ distribution map for *RIB* I (above) that post-1954 discoveries ‘would not affect the overall pattern greatly’. The rate of discovery, or at least of reporting, to judge by the concordance with *JRS/Britannia*, looks remarkably steady other than