

time, allows a large quantity of detailed evidence to be considered and this is highlighted throughout with clear and useful maps and tables. One example of the detailed analysis is tracing the transition in grave good provision from feasting, leisure and care of the body (Tacitus' *'Humanitas'*) in the early Roman period to those associated with appearance and rank in the fourth century, plausibly argued by the author as indicating a socio-cultural shift from displaying cultural *savoir faire* to an increasing social rigidity.

However, it is in the detailed analysis of the spatial arrangement of burials that the importance of the author's contextual approach is especially informative. Pearce identifies multiple theatres within the geography of burial in the different locales under consideration; for example, identifying zones of display in the placement of monuments and burial assemblages in large urban environments and polyfocal centres of burial in small town contexts. In contrast, rural burials showed a tendency towards association with agricultural cycle (corn-driers, kilns, storage areas) and landscape features (boundaries and trackways), with zones of burial radiating out from infants within, or adjacent to, settlements and older children and adults at, or just beyond, the boundary features.

P. argues that the spatial location of the dead may have had a range of complex meanings which went beyond the mere disposal of the body. Within urban environments, for example, the positioning of burials within the zones of display visible from different vantage points may have been linked to urban euergetism, while rural burials may have been associated with bringing the dead into the rhythms of the agricultural cycle and defining a group's identity in relationship to the land through time.

What this volume shows is that the context of burial has enormous potential to shed light on the wider socio-cultural dynamics and the construction of regional and group identities. To the people of the province the dead remained a continuing and important part of their physical and mental landscape and, for archaeologists, any analysis of burial needs to consider in greater detail how space may have constituted social relations in Roman Britain. This is an important volume for all those interested in burial archaeology and Roman Britain and it brings home the necessity of fully considering the entire context of burial, from death to funeral pyre and/or interment in space and time, in order to fully understand Romano-British burial practices.

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Glass Working on the Margins of Roman London – Excavations at 35 Basinghall Street, City of London, 2005. By A. Wardle with I. Freestone, M. McKenzie and J. Shepherd. MOLA Monograph 70. Museum of London Archaeology, London, 2015. Pp. xvi + 168, illus. Price: £20.00. ISBN 9781907586330.

This keenly anticipated volume sets out the findings from the 2005 excavations in the Upper Walbrook Valley at 35 Basinghall Street in London. The Walbrook Valley has been the subject of intense scholarly and public interest owing to its favourable taphonomy producing remarkable discoveries. This book focuses on the abundant evidence for the glass industry in this area of Roman London — consisting of at least 70 kg of cullet and glass-working debris. It is not, however, a simple excavation report, nor is it entirely about the glass-working in evidence at the site. The book is a truly interdisciplinary effort and all the excavated material is described in detail by a large collection of individual specialists. The authors aimed to place the Basinghall material in the wider context of glass-working in the western Empire (5), with close attention to the organisation of the industry, but also to shed light on glass consumption in Roman London and Britain. All these aims are achieved with aplomb.

After a brief introduction (1–7), the volume chronologically sets out the archaeological sequence at the site (8–35). In a method employed throughout the work, the analysis is interspersed with high-resolution excavation photographs (with *in-situ* finds) and detailed archaeological plans, coupled with artefact photographs and illustrations. The text is scholarly, rigorous and easy to follow; moreover, the images and intuitive and attractive typography act to enhance these qualities. The next section (36–74) focuses on the glass-working waste from the site which includes both furnace remains and residues, glass cullet, and blowing by-products such as moils, glass-trails, droplets and tooled remains. The section was compiled with the consultation of experimental Roman glass-workers Mark Taylor and David Hill (details: www.theglassmakers.co.uk) who have worked on Roman glass for more than 25 years. Taylor and Hill have been instrumental in forming our present understanding of the production of Roman glass and they have

consistently challenged seemingly-unmoveable paradigms and worked alongside prominent glass specialists. Accordingly, alongside the copious material from Basinghall are photographs of experimental processes in which Taylor and Hill depict their constantly evolving and well-researched *chaînes opératoires* to explain the origin of the archaeological remains.

Composition analysis is the subject of ch. 4 (75–90). Glass composition expert Ian Freestone headed a team to analyse the origin of the glass worked at 35 Basinghall Street, concluding that at some point three types of glass were brought to the site via the Mediterranean to be worked in their pristine state: ‘natural’ blue-green, colourless (antimony decolourised) and nearly-colourless (manganese decolourised). Basinghall adds to a growing body of evidence that suggests that these three glass compositions were commonly used alongside one another, backing up evidence found at both Leicester (Jackson *et al.*, in Pernicka and Wagner (eds), *Archaeometry* 90, 295–305) and Mancetter (Jackson, *Archaeometry* 47, 763–80). This information leads to an intriguing supposition that the workers that set up the workshops at Basinghall (as well as Leicester and Mancetter) arrived from the Mediterranean with fresh ‘raw’ glass, as if they had relocated from elsewhere in London or the north-western provinces, they would have done so with cullet. The peripatetic nature of glass-blowers in the Roman East and in Italy is well known from epigraphy, but this sort of evidence allows us to fit Britannia into this wider socio-technical world.

Ch. 5 (91–110) places Basinghall in its wider context, both within London — where glass-working began c. A.D. 50–60 with the making of beads at Gresham Street, and glass-blowing began in the late A.D. 60s producing stirring rods alongside small flasks/unguentaria and cups — but also in Britannia and the wider Roman world. The volume concludes with the specialist appendices (111–55) detailing the building materials, pottery, industrial residues, vessel glass, accessioned finds, archaeobotanical material and faunal assemblages, which, in keeping with the rest of the volume, are thorough and well illustrated.

In assessing the usefulness of the reviewed volume for Roman glass specialists, Romano-British archaeologists and historians, and other interested parties, it seems apposite to quote the concluding remark of ch. 4 (89): ‘This investigation represents what is arguably the most detailed analytical investigation of a Roman glass workshop to date.’

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The Roman Roadside Settlement and Multi-Period Ritual Complex at Nettleton and Rothwell, Lincolnshire. The Central Lincolnshire Wolds Research Project Volume 1. By S. Willis. Steven Willis and Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd with the University of Kent, Kent, 2013. Pp. xx + 421, illus. 237. Price: £39.95. ISBN 9780956305497.

This substantial volume reports on work centred on a minor nucleated settlement lying close to the highest point of the Lincolnshire Wolds, forming part of a project with the avowed intention (*inter alia*) of redressing a significant imbalance in archaeological knowledge of this area, not least in the Roman period, when compared to adjacent regions. The site straddles the north–south Caistor High Street, probably the line of a Roman road. Prompted by significant metal-detected finds and the results of fieldwalking and geophysical survey carried out in the early 1990s on the west side of the Roman road, the report reconsiders these and presents the results of further work undertaken from 1998 to 2013. This includes the excavation of ten small trenches with locations determined by the various survey data and pragmatic considerations of availability. Detailed analysis of some parts of the programme (e.g. of fieldwalking finds from east of the road) and similar analysis of results of work on other sites in the area, to improve understanding of the context of the present site as well as of broader questions, are promised for a future volume but presented in outline here.

Introductory chapters deal with the regional physical and archaeological background (ch. 1) and the specific project background, including the early 1990s work and more recent geophysical survey in the eastern part of the site (ch. 2). The excavations are described (ch. 3), followed by analyses of prehistoric and Roman finds and environmental material (chs 4–7), a summary of the surveys of other sites in the area (ch. 8) and a closing discussion of ‘site character and context’ (ch. 9). Earlier prehistoric features may have established a locus for long-term ritual activity, but the scale of excavation is insufficient for this to be clearly demonstrable, though it is indicated by large-scale deposition of Iron Age coinage and other