

the section on militaria opens up new perspectives, attributing specific types/sub-types of Aucissa, Bagendon and Hod Hill brooches to particular legions, and exploring the distribution of Knee and Crossbow brooches in some detail. This patchiness is understandable — there is so much data that M. has necessarily pursued his own interests rather than attempted to keep up with every strand of every topic — but it is a shame that researchers coming fresh to some of these subjects will not be led into the wider literature.

Despite these problems, the book is a great achievement. Rarely does an individual temperament shine through a work such as this, but M.'s quirky approach to problems and *lacunae* in the data reflect his tenacity, clarity, flexibility, occasional exasperation, and rising above all his sense of humour. Has he achieved his aims? Of course; what a student essay — Graham Webster would be immensely proud of him.

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*Die römischen Kasernen im Legionslager Vindobona: die Ausgrabungen am Judenplatz in Wien in den Jahren 1995–1998.* By M. Mosser *et al.* Monografien der Stadtarchäologie Wien, Bd. 5. Museen der Stadt Wien, Wien, 2010. 2 vols: pp. 1016 and 528, illus (some colour)+8 colour folding plans. Price: €138.00. ISBN 978 3 85161 023 9.

Defining the interior structure and chronology of a legionary fortress is a daunting task and gets more complicated the denser the successor settlements on top of the Roman layers. It has taken in the case of Caerleon, Inchtuthil and Nijmegen nearly 80 years to get as far as we have, but the large fortresses underlying the modern towns of Mainz, Strasbourg, Vienna and Brigetio have seen for the most part only small-scale interventions, disclosing disjointed walls and floor-levels that are hard to interpret and difficult to use as a basis of a larger chronological system.

Within this context the 1,544-page publication on the excavations of the Judenplatz in Vienna represents a milestone. Located within the fortress close to the *via principalis sinistra*, it provides insights into three barrack blocks of a normal cohort, as well as a tiny section of the *praetorium*. For an inner city excavation the area is substantial and, possibly due to its location under a square, remarkably well preserved.

The excavation is meticulously presented, with every feature documented as far as possible in plan and section and often colour photograph, while the finds reports are accompanied by lengthy discussions of all aspects of the material and with full catalogues and numerous illustrations. Special features, such as hearths and ovens, are separately listed, as are the construction details of all walls. The context descriptions are extremely detailed. In sum, every care has been taken not just to present as much information as possible, but also to allow future excavators the chance of cross-referencing any possible detail or paralleling their material with the relevant period here, or even in future years of revising the results in light of further research. In a time of dwindling publication budgets and an increased tendency to relegate more and more information onto disks, supporting websites or even just the site archive, this approach is to be warmly welcomed, and despite its hefty weight in excess of 5 kg and the intimidating price tag of €134, it will be a very welcome addition for anybody interested in legionary fortresses and Late Antiquity, particularly on the middle Danube.

The results of all this labour of love are considerable: the Judenplatz excavations offer a continuous sequence of features from the first timber buildings to the early medieval/sub-Roman period of Vienna, associated with numerous finds in closed contexts providing a good chronological framework. The area is large enough to prove that the patterns encountered within one building are repeated in others, thus allowing for the first time the creation of a reliable overall periodisation of the fortress from the late first century to the fifth/sixth century.

Of particular interest is the successful identification of one, probably two timber periods in Vindobona fortress during the second century. The construction of the barracks in stone or at least on stone dwarf-walls at least 0.7 m high appears to start at the very end of the second century and dates probably to Septimius Severus, with a further stone period datable to *c.* A.D. 280/300–350/360, during which time considerable wealth was spent on channel hypocausts and wall-painting.

The most impressive evidence comes, however, from the last stone phase (Period 5: A.D. 360/375–390/410). The structures, which still follow the outlines of the earlier barracks are no longer used as formal military barracks but appear to have been converted into a series of workshops among which a series of

glassworking ovens with all stages of the production process stands out. Mosser and his colleagues link this development with the contemporary abandonment of the *canabae* and the gradual conversion of the legionary fortress into a fortified garrisoned town from the reign of Valentinian onwards.

The end of this period, at the beginning of the fifth century, is associated with large amounts of rubble and abandonment layers over much of the site and in Period 6 only a few rooms remain in use, with internal walls being removed and a new floor being inserted on two separate occasions. In the third phase of this period the area is levelled with clay and broken tiles and there is a horizon of post-holes and pits which cut the levelling. This latest phase of occupation, which dates probably to the mid-fifth century, is eventually sealed by black earth deposits and the absence of any later pottery finds from the site.

This new sequence of dates, together with the recent publication from the civilian settlement and the cemeteries of Vienna, is likely to define our view of the fortress for the future and M.'s gazetteer and cautious interpretation of the other smaller excavations within the fortress and their possible relationship to the Judenplatz already point the direction for promising future research.

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*Wearing the Cloak. Dressing the Soldier in Roman Times.* Edited by M.-L. Nosch. Ancient Textiles Series 10. Oxbow Books, Oxford, 2012. Pp. vii + 144, illus. Price: £25.00. ISBN 978 1 84217 437 1.

This volume brings together nine contributions on the subject of the clothing of Roman soldiers, some of which were presented at a conference on military textiles at the Danish Research Foundation's Centre for Textile Research in Copenhagen in 2008. It is a subject that, as the introduction points out, is rarely addressed. The reasons are manifold; the most important, perhaps, is the fragmentary and very climate-dependent incidence of textile survival, which has led to a strong reliance on mainly metal — and, as such, far more ubiquitous — militaria, such as belt-buckles, pieces of armour and brooches, to understand the outfit of the Roman soldier. However, much pictorial evidence survives and there are parts of the Roman Empire where sizeable quantities of military textiles have been found. The fact that these have been so under-exploited reflects a certain dismissal hitherto of the significance of textiles in the story of the Roman army. Roman dress as a whole was, until just over a decade ago, woefully neglected by scholars, though many of the contributors to *Wearing the Cloak* were involved in the *DressID* EU project initiated by the Curt-Engelhorn-Stiftung at the Reiss-Engelhorn Museums in Mannheim, Germany, that formed part of what is now a growing field of Roman dress studies.

The various chapters aim to redress the balance in the field of Roman military studies, and although they are a somewhat eclectic mix of subjects and approaches, each fills a gap in our knowledge of military textiles, demonstrating that a lot can be gained from a closer analysis of Roman soldiers' clothing. There have been other recent attempts to shed light on the subject: one of the contributors to this volume, the illustrator G. Sumner, has published a series of monographs since 2002, the most recent of which was *Roman Military Dress* (2009), and more links could perhaps have been made to his work; but unlike Sumner's more survey-style studies, *Wearing the Cloak* collates a handful of discussions on very specific themes.

Apart from a curious lack of affiliations for the individual authors, the only shortcoming is the quality of the formatting and editing: there are large numbers of spelling mistakes, formatting inconsistencies, works misspelt or entirely missing in the bibliography, titles of sections given on one page when the sections themselves begin overleaf (97f.), while in ch. 7, the last part of the text would seem to have disappeared completely (108). The impression this leaves is, however, in no way consistent with the very high scholarly quality of the contributions.

M. Speidel sets the scene in ch. 1 by looking mainly at the literary evidence for different garments and types of dress worn by soldiers, and comes to the very valid conclusion that 'the Roman soldier's everyday appearance was more varied, more context-related and more capable of expressing symbolic meaning than has so far generally been recognized' (12). The next two chapters by K. Dross-Krüpe and Jinyu Liu look at the supply of textiles to the Roman army and go some way to addressing the question of the extent to which clothing was centrally — as opposed to privately — acquired and distributed. The evidence they present is convincingly in favour of a much more sophisticated, more long-distance military clothing supply system on the part of the Roman state than it has hitherto been given credit for.