

SEPTEMBER SELF-STUDY PROGRAMME

ROMAN TIMES AND ARCHAEOLOGY

We hope that Guy de la Bedoyère will be able to give his lecture, '*Villas in Roman Britain - The Architecture and Art of a remote Roman province*', originally scheduled for September 2020, in September 2021.

In the meantime, you are invited to view the second of his talks on YouTube '**Real Lives of Roman Britain**': https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TrDRpi_q-Y&t=37s

'The transmissible sense of self' - Guy researches the various lives of ordinary citizens. Tibernius Celerianus, a shipper - the first evidence we have of some-one describing himself as a Londoner.

Gaius Severius Emeritus, a centurion - but with the thankless task of repairing vandalism at Aquae Sulis (the Roman baths at what is now Bath).

Claudia Severa, writing (chiefly through a scribe) to Sulpicia Lepidina, wife of the commanding officer at Vindolanda, on Hadrian's Wall - inviting her to her birthday party. The Pulborough Potter, in Aldgate, trying (unsuccessfully) to compete with the lucrative trade in Samian Ware (high quality tableware) from Southern France - and many more.

Should you be interested to seek out the Roman artefacts in the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, it will now be open three days a week - Thursday to Saturday. Admission is free, but you will need a pre-booked, timed ticket to enter. Go to the Museum's Home Page (<https://maa.cam.ac.uk>) and click Book Here.

Samian Ware pottery came mainly from the southern, central and eastern areas of Gaul (France), though Romano-British production centred on places such as Colchester. Samian is fine, hard, red-gloss ware. Some pieces are plain, some decorated. Plain is wheel-thrown, then dipped by hand into slip before being fired. Decorated is made from a mould. We can tell who made the pottery by looking for the maker's stamps - usually pressed into the article before it was fired. Decorated vessels may have two makers' marks - the potter's or his employer, and the mould maker. They may also have a hand-written signature.

The Museum at Vindolanda has an almost complete dinner service of Samian Ware - but it was broken in transit, and thrown, unused, into the fort ditch. - For further information, see <https://www.vindolanda.com/Blog/a-closer-look-at-samian-pottery>

Cambridge's Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology holds a large collection of Samian Ware, including pieces from excavations at Great Chesterford and Litlington. The Samian Ware display case is situated in the Local Archaeology gallery, on the ground floor.