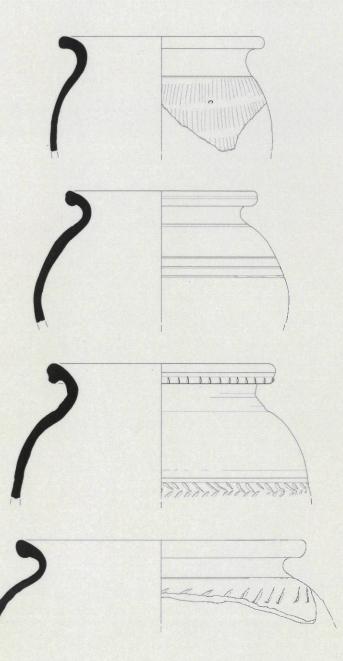


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Volume 18



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Edited by

STEVEN WILLIS

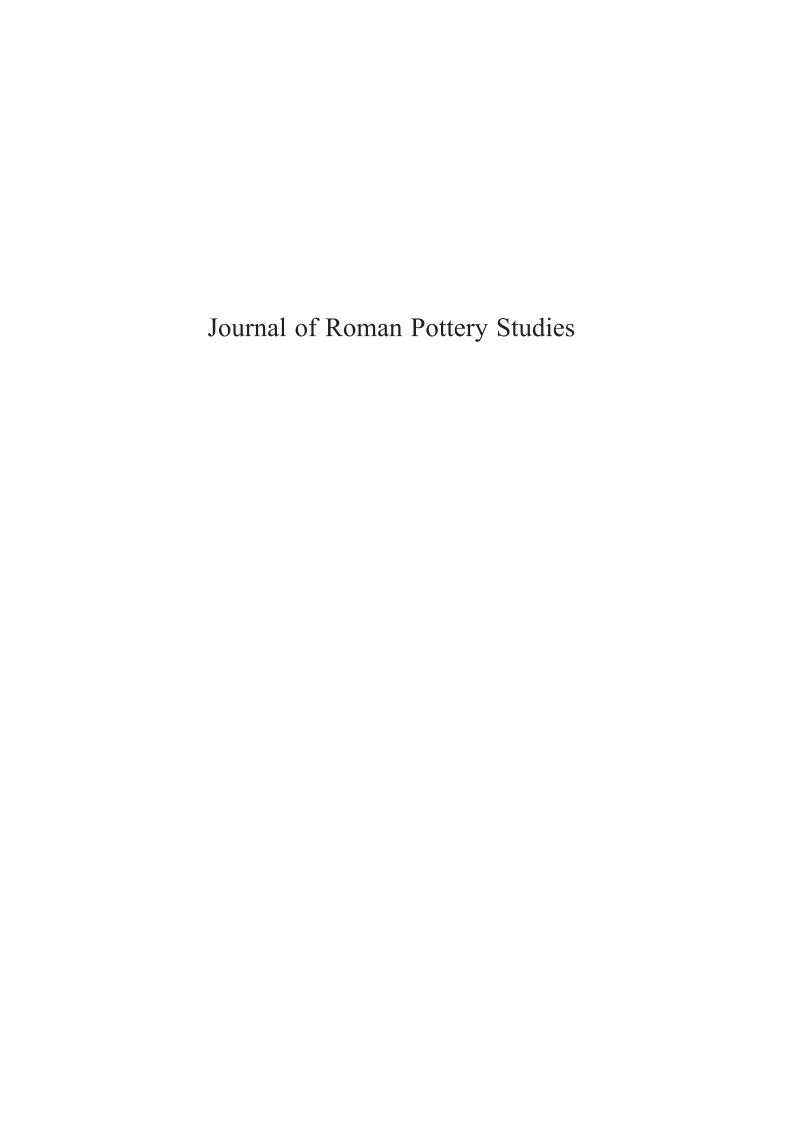
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Front cover: Pottery vessels from the kiln site at Wymondham, Norfolk (see Paper 2)

Back cover: The back cover photographs were taken by Andrew Savage (see Obituaries) and feature pottery from Roman Canterbury.

Top left: Small flagon, perhaps manufactured at the Dane John kiln Canterbury, and dated to c. AD 150–250. Found with Cremation burial 57 at the St Dunstan's Terrace Roman cemetery, Canterbury (site code SDTEX01). This vessel is included in a report on the pottery from that site by Malcolm Lyne that remains to be published. Andrew evidently took this photograph using a shutter release delay as it is believed that the hands supporting the vessel are his.

Top right: Miniature jar, probably Thameside greyware and datable to *c*. AD 150–230; from site CW64, Canterbury, Whitefriars. This vessel has not been seen by Malcolm Lyne. In this case too Andrew appears to have used a delayed shutter release as it is believed that he holds the vessel in this photograph.

Lower: Transitional and early Roman pottery from Canterbury that Andrew arranged to create a slide for teaching and illustration.

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Editorial

Welcome to Volume 18 of the Journal of Roman Pottery Studies. Since publication of Volume 17, we received, in June 2020, confirmation from the European Reference Index for the Humanities and Social Sciences that the Journal of Roman Pottery Studies had gained ERIH PLUS status. This is a highly significant development for the standing of the Journal. Previously the Journal was listed but did not meet the relatively new criteria for ERIH PLUS rating. Accordingly, we needed to introduce some changes to ensure the Journal was elevated to the new 'plus' status so as to stand alongside other academic periodicals. Securing this academic standing for the Journal should assure future contributors that their work is appearing in a publication meeting the criteria for top rating as a rigorous academic publication. This may be important for their personal audit and return reports to their organisations (where they are affiliated), as well as for CVs. In order to meet the criteria we made the following changes over the past few years: we introduced an Editorial Board, introduced abstracts in English and French (and in this issue in German as well), added English Abstracts retrospectively for Volume 16 on our webpages, published affiliations and contact details for the Editorial Board and Journal contributors, provided evidence that the papers are double-peer reviewed (and that there is a back-history of peer review) and ensured other information was available via our website. Thankfully the Journal has been recognised as meeting all these requirements, and hence the award. Further details of the ERIH and ERIH PLUS criteria and listings can be found at Search | ERIH PLUS | NSD (uib.no).

The time since the publication of Volume 17 has seen the passing of several friends and colleagues whose lives and work contributed to our subject. This issue includes obituaries for three fellow workers in the field for whom pottery study was a central thread: Val Rigby, Andrew Savage and Alain Vernhet. We also remember Karen Waugh and Irena Lentowicz who in their earlier careers worked with Roman pottery. Karen passed away in July 2019, Irena in June 2020, both from cancer. An appreciation of Irena by Jane Evans, detailing the remarkable

development of her career, was circulated at the time; in this issue of the Journal we include a summary of Karen's life and contribution. Irena was an active member of SGRP as well as a member of the Medieval Pottery Research Group. She was a key personality in the inauguration of the Roman Finds Group and likewise played a role in establishing the CIfA Finds Group. As Jane Evans wrote, Irena will be remembered by many in archaeology with warm regard.

Jane Timby presents a comprehensive summary of Val Rigby's work in her obituary. Here one can add a little bit on the context of Val's achievements and role. Val made a huge contribution to the study of later prehistoric and Roman pottery, particularly Gallo-Belgic imports to Britain and for decades was a major personality within our research community. Val was, in many ways, a pioneer, with a generous willingness to assist and share, and many of us have reason to be grateful for this highly positive aspect of her character. The list of her publications is testimony to the impact and value of her research and includes a unique 'double-first'. Not only was she a contributor to the conference and proceedings volume that lie at the fountain-head of the creation of our Study Group (Current Research in Romano-British Coarse Pottery edited by Alec Detsicas as CBA Research Report 10, in 1973), she was also, in 1986, together with Ian Freestone, author of a key paper on Gallic imports to Late Iron Age Britain appearing in the very first issue of this Journal, indeed the first article in Volume 1. Documenting the numerous publications to her name Jane Timby suspects that the list of publications accompanying Val's obituary, long as it is, may not be complete. Val seemed not to maintain a running list of her publications and the list produced here was necessarily compiled rapidly to meet the Journal deadline; it does not include the reports that are known to be 'forthcoming'.

Val became the second President of the Group (following Vivien Swan) and her term of office, through the early 1990s, coincided with a period of scrutiny of pottery research as English Heritage and other bodies endeavoured to unblock the post-excavation log-jam that

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characterised the times. Roman pottery work was 'identified' as an area needing specific attention (some would say was scapegoated) and English Heritage commissioned a formal examination with recommendations, published as the Fulford and Huddleston report (The Current State of Romano-British Pottery Studies, 1991). The major challenges were of course the scale of the assemblages needing to be dealt with (often from extensive and deeply stratified urban excavations from the 1960s onwards), the number of assemblages to be processed, and the limited resources, financial and otherwise. (These problems of infrastructure would be resolved to considerable degree in time.) As Group President Val naturally took a lead in the response to this scrutiny, and she could do so from a position of strength (given her personal publication record). A strategy meeting was held at the Study Group's 1991 conference at Swansea in response to the Fulford and Huddleston review. Val chaired that meeting and in summing up memorably incanted the resolve that 'We must all gird our loins' in the face of the requests and demands being made on pottery specialists. (Some members may feel that not so much has changed in the past thirty years in that respect!)

Val's secure base in the British Museum provided the resources for her to generate reports. A remarkable stream of major publications flowed from Val's partnership with Ian Stead. This was clearly down to their commitment, drive, organisation and skills. The productivity is plain to see and includes work of enduring and essential value, frequently referenced. Her achievement should also be measured in other ways. Val was clearly a prolific communicator; many will have been thankful for her assisting responses, through correspondence on matters ceramic and otherwise, and through personal examination of pottery finds. And, she could 'talk pottery' at length. Our subject was greatly enhanced by her willingness to share her time and knowledge so freely, an attitude that was of course her choice and gift to the benefit of others.

Pottery studies eventually finding their way to publication are a reason for celebration. Sometimes these appear almost as a sudden surprise to most, perhaps as one has become accustomed to years of forthcoming. Two recent cases are well worthy of note. Firstly, the appearance of the long anticipated monograph on the Highgate Wood production site was widely welcomed. The report – under the direction of Tony Brown and Harvey Sheldon – provides essential information on the typology and chronology of one of the main sources of supply to the great provincial city that was Roman London. A significant proportion of the content represents the work of Paul Tyers undertaken during his early career; in the public domain at last. This volume was awarded the Study Group's John Gillam Prize in 2019 as a meritorious contribution to the subject of Roman ceramic research. With the road to publication at its journey's end, the volume is reviewed by Robin Symonds under this cover (the volume was received for

review from the publishers (Archaeopress) and Robin Symonds kindly agreed to undertake the task for JRPS).

Another welcome publication of work conducted many years previously - this time in digital format - is the Mancetter-Hartshill Roman Pottery Kilns Archive *Project* (published in the summer of 2020). This brings to convenient access the record of the kiln sites excavated and documented mainly by Kay Hartley between 1960 and 1984. The online archive is hosted by the Archaeological Data Service in York. The project saw Kay working with the Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, principally Jane Evans, with the project managed by Derek Hurst. The SGRP contributed towards the costs of bringing the nationally significant evidence for this major industry to project completion. The open access facility for records of this major production hub for mortaria will doubtless prove to be a firm asset. Visit the webpages at Mancetter-Hartshill Roman Pottery Kilns Archive Project: Introduction (archaeologydataservice.ac.uk).

In undertaking the editorship of Volume 18 I am grateful to the members of the SGRP Committee and the Editorial Board for their support. I extend my warm thanks to the contributors for selecting the Journal, as well as to the anonymous referees who read the papers submitted to the Journal and for their expert advice. I am grateful to Peter Webster in particular for aspects of advice, to Lloyd Bosworth (University of Kent) for working on some of the illustrative material within four of the articles and for work on the photos accompanying the obituaries, to Marion Green (Canterbury Archaeological Trust) for sending the photos taken by Andrew Savage, included on the back cover, and to Malcolm Lyne for information on the pottery types and site details relating to those photos. Sophie Chavarria and Franziska Dövener kindly translated the Abstracts at relatively short notice and with great commitment.

In closing, I would like to reiterate the Editorial Committee's encouragement to members (and other readers) to submit papers for future volumes. As readers will appreciate the Journal of Roman Pottery Studies is dependent on a flow of papers submitted for inclusion. By the time this issue of the Journal appears three years will have passed since Volume 17. This gap is due to the slow submission rate through 2018 and most of 2019 (I thank the contributors of the two papers received early in this round for their patience in awaiting publication of their work). Only latterly was a comparative flurry of prospective contributions received. Given the enhanced standing of the Journal, it is vital that it survives, and that relies on the membership using it as a vehicle for their research. A feature of the previous issue of this Journal were the Pottery Retrospectives which appear to have been well-received. The editor hopes that the Journal will include further Retrospectives in the future and contributions of this type are welcome.

Obituaries

Andrew James Savage (1956–2018)

Andrew Savage, who passed away after a short illness in late April 2018, had expert knowledge of Roman pottery in Kent, having worked for Canterbury Archaeological Trust from the early 1980s. Originally a site digger Andrew accumulated knowledge of Roman and later ceramics through research 'on the job' and through 'after hours' study. By the late 1980s Andrew had acquired sufficient specialist skill to be routinely cataloguing and reporting on Roman pottery from the Trust's excavations. He thereby became a key expert in the subject, generously assisting numerous researchers, while contributing enormously to the development of the Trust over nearly four decades.

Andrew graduated with a degree in Geography from the University of Hull. By 1983 he was back living in Canterbury (the city of his birth) and had begun volunteering for the Trust, going on to become a trainee excavator. One of his first sites was the Marlowe carpark (a major project of the Trust); from that point on there was no turning back. Soon he was inspired by Marion Green to begin learning about aspects of Roman pottery. This, of course, is a route (trowel to pot-shed to microscope and computer) that many other Group members have themselves taken. In time, following some persuasion, and despite his self-effacing inclination, Andrew ran courses for the public on pottery and finds through the Study Group and the Trust. These occasional study and instruction days were an undertaking he sustained over many years.

Andrew was an active member of the Study Group following his election in 1989 (when Group membership was by application, and a matter for approval and election at the Group's AGM). Thereafter he was a fairly frequent participant in Group events and as a contributor. He attended the annual conferences, for instance in 1989 (Southampton), 1991 (Swansea), 1995 (Chichester), and was a member of both the East Midlands and East Anglia Regional Group (during its renowned late 1980s and 1990s heyday), and the Southern Regional Group. Andrew hosted meetings of the latter in Canterbury on several occasions, for instance, on 10th July 1993, at the headquarters of the Trust, with the focus on 'Early imports and local kiln products, plus Richborough material' and

on 4th May 1996 when he spoke on the pottery from Monkton, Isle of Thanet.

An increasing interest in photography led Andrew to hone his skills in site and artefact photography and as the '90s progressed this became his main role with the Trust, a passion that saw him master the arts of the Dark Room, with the end product enhancing the publications of the Trust through various media. Some examples of his work are included on the back cover of this issue of the Journal. Many photos were syndicated and are well known. Nevertheless, Andrew sustained his interest in ceramics and continued to undertake all the spot-dating arising from the Trust's many excavations for all periods. He was effectively the curator of CAT's pottery fabric reference collection, the key series for cataloguing Roman pottery in Kent (at least until recently), and in that role was the 'go-to' person for details and information. The shift to photography meant that Andrew worked less and less on pottery report writing though he had produced a number of important reports, written in the immediate years either side of 1990.

An intensely private person Andrew rarely put himself forward, preferring diligent service; the results of his expertise were eloquent enough. A life-long interest in nature and wildlife saw Andrew frequently walking the footpaths and lanes of Kent, and then, in later years, cross-country skiing in Scandinavia which suited his natural agility. Usually these were solitary escapes but occasionally the sojourns were richly shared with close friends. Fresh air and its freedoms were a family calling.

Andrew's parents were migrants from Lithuania. Following the dislocation at the end of the Second World War they had settled in Kent through work opportunities at the East Kent coalfield (his father worked at Snowdown Colliery as a miner). Andrew applied his knowledge of nature through working a shared allotment, while his other great love was reading and books: he built a large reference library but also owned much fiction. According to Marion Green of the Trust (pers. comm.) his books, CDs and DVDs probably totalled around 5000 items. Andrew's commitment and enthusiasm for these interests and in his professional life remained strong, always.

Steven Willis

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Alain Vernhet (1941–2018)



Alain Vernhet (second from the left) with some of his local team and the British Équipe in the garden at La Graufesenque. Geoff Dannell and Brian Hartley are to Alain's left with Brenda Dickinson making a fuss of 'Sandy', Alain's dog (a stray that he adopted). The month is August and the year c. 1990. Photo: Peter Webster.

Many members of the SGRP will have been saddened to hear of the death in August 2018, as a result of Alzheimer's disease, of Alain Vernhet, for long the presiding *genius* of the samian manufacturing centre at La Graufesenque, near Millau, Aveyron.

Alain was born in Millau and attended the local Lycée before further study at the Université Paul Valéry at Montpellier. He held various teaching posts, first at Marvejols (Lozère), then in Millau, before becoming attached to CNRS in 1971 and curator of the Millau Museum. He excavated at La Graufesenque with Louis Balsan from 1965–1975 and then subsequently on his own. For many years he was the only professional archaeologist attached to the Département of Aveyron and was thus called upon to advise on a wide range of sites and finds, as well as excavating on sites of all periods in the area. Along with major excavations and museum work, he involved himself in local politics (he was adjoint mayor for culture in Millau from 1995 until 2001) and in numerous local associations, and made some forays to more distant areas, such as Tunisia. In 2011 he was made a member of the Légion des Arts et des Lettres by the French Minister of the Interior. His value to, and his effect on, the local community can perhaps be gauged by the considerable number and size of obituaries and tributes appearing in the local press.

Alain's field of operation covered both the museum in Millau and the archaeological site (across the river) at La Graufesenque. He was thus well-placed both to conduct excavations at pottery production sites and elsewhere, and to display the results. For the former he built up a team, mainly of local volunteers, part of a considerable local network extending well beyond archaeology; for instance, on one occasion, providing for the writer, the doctor to the local rugby team to treat a case of tendonitis, the only 'fee' for which consisted of a discussion of Welsh Rugby. The volunteers regarded La Graufesenque as a convenient base, both for archaeology and for social gatherings. This linked to a series of important excavations on such sites as the 'Grand Four', a large samian kiln and its drying kiln and attendant workshops, as well as some spectacular waste pits, such as the 'Fosse Malaval', a 1.5 m wide by 3.5 m deep pit filled largely by the rejects of the, otherwise not very notable, potter Gallicanus. A lasting result was that part of the archaeological site now on view to the public, providing a unique insight into the world of a major pottery production site.

Such activity tended to exacerbate the problem faced by all excavators of large ceramic manufacturing centres – how to deal with the mass of material excavated. It is probably here that Alain's major contribution to the *Obituaries* xiii

study of Roman ceramics lies as he was able to facilitate the work of individuals and teams from outside the area. First century La Graufesengue had been the centre of a massive trade network and Alain knew that the answers to many of his questions about chronology lay out on the frontiers of the Roman Empire. He therefore opened La Graufesenque to samian specialists throughout the western Empire. Thus Brian Hartley and Brenda Dickinson were able to study the massive collection of samian stamps from the site, while a large British team under Geoff Dannell examined the Malaval collection and a Dutch group under Jan-Kees Haalebos that from the 'Fosse Cirratus'. The British team were also able to record much of the samian from early excavations by the Abbé Hermet and others when the relevant contents of the Musée Fenaille at Rodez was moved over to La Graufesenque during a temporary museum closure (work which lies at the core of the 13 volume catalogue of La Graufesenque form 29s published by RGZ Mainz in 2003-4; see Bibliographic note). Individual research by those such as Allard Mees, Rien Polak, Bettina Hoffman, Jean-Louis Tillard, Maurice Picon and doubtless many others was also facilitated by ready access to the La Graufesenque collections.

The job of any museum curator is to make the public aware of their collections and to make them available and intelligible. For many years those approaching Millau from the north were made aware of the ancient importance of the area by a 3 m high (and presumably plastic) Dragendorf form 11 in the centre of the floral display on one of the main roundabouts on the N9. Meanwhile, the vaulted basement of the museum was equipped with a reconstruction of a samian kiln, based on the Grand Four and something of the scale of the industry brought out by other displays while Alain produced a series of museum guides on the samian industry and was a major contributor to exhibitions about La Graufesenque in Toulouse and at the Musée Nationale at St Germain. Millau also hosted the 1994 meeting of SFECAG, the French Roman pottery study group. There were also ventures in experimental archaeology. An attempt to rebuild a samian kiln was less than wholly successful (it required the attentions of the local fire brigade) but a journey by ox-cart across the southern Massif Central and down onto the coastal plain demonstrated the feasibility of transporting pottery down to the Mediterranean for distribution by water.

Alain made a number of significant individual contributions to the literature of samian studies, for instance his reconstruction of the 'Grand Four' in *Gallia* for 1981, his identification of sets (*services*) of cups and dishes (*e.g.* in his review of South Gaulish production in Bémont and Jacob, *La Terre sigillée gallo-romaine*, Paris, 1986) but his strengths lay more in collaboration with others (see, for instance, his contributions to Schaad and Genin, *La Graufesenque*, Aquitania, 2007) and in facilitating research by others into La Graufesenque and its products. To cite just two major works, the index of samian stamps (Hartley and Dickinson, *Names on Terra Sigillata*, London

2008–12) and Allard Mees' *Modelsignierte Dekorationen* auf südgallischer Terra Sigillata (Stuttgart 1995) would, without him, have been considerably thinner and correspondingly less important. It is a matter of regret that after his retirement links between the museum and the wider archaeological world seem to have dwindled. Both the local and the international samian community will regret the loss of this quiet, pleasant and knowledgeable man.

Peter Webster

Acknowledgements

Peter Webster, in preparing this notice, is grateful to Geoffrey Dannell for copies of tributes in *Midi Libre* and *Centre Presse*, as well as the oration given at Alain's funeral by his eldest son, Alessandre.

Bibliographic note

G.B. Dannell, B.M. Dickinson, B.R. Hartley, A.W. Mees, M. Polak, A. Vernhet and P.V. Webster, Gestempelte südgallische Reliefsigillata (Drag.29) aus den Werkstätten von La Graufesenque, RGZ Forschungsinstitut für Vor- und Frühgeschichte, Kataloge vor- und frühgeschichtlicher Altertümer, Band 34, Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum, 13 vols and 3 supplements, Mainz 2003–4. A compendium of stamped vessels of form 29 arranged alphabetically. Of greatest use if you already have ascertained likely makers using Knorr and Mees.

Karen Waugh (1963–2019)



Karen Waugh recording pottery c. 1991. Karen holds a fragment from a face pot of Verulamium Region White ware type in her left hand. Photo courtesy of Wilfried Hessing.

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After studying for an undergraduate degree in Archaeology at Durham University during the early 1980s Karen Waugh embarked on a career which in its initial phase was strongly focused on Roman pottery. Soon she began researching for a PhD, part-time, under the supervision of Martin Millett; this evolved to successful completion in 1998: Germans Beyond the Limes: A reassessment of the archaeological evidence in the Limesvorland of Southern Germania Inferior/Secunda. During the late 1980s and turn of the '90s Karen worked variously on Roman ceramic assemblages. These studies included the material from the 1977-8 excavations (by Peter Armstrong) at Cave Road, Brough-on-Humber, two years working as a Roman pottery specialist at the Museum of London, and work on pottery from Hertfordshire, including the rural site at Boxfield Farm, Chells (resulting in the report: Roman coarse pottery, in C.J. Going and J.R. Hunn, 1999, Excavations at Boxfield Farm, Chells, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, 88-135). Through this period of her career she was closely involved with the important lobby group Rescue, undertaking the role of Editor of Rescue News between 1986 and 1988 and editing the volume (with Harold Mytum) Rescue Archaeology: What's next? Proceedings of the Rescue conference held at the University of York, December 1986, published 1987). In the early 1990s Karen moved to the Netherlands and began a new phase of her life working at the Dutch National Heritage Agency (ROB). Her growing skills in organising, editing and presentation were soon much in demand, seen for instance, in her co-editing with Robert van Dierendonck and Daan Hallewas of the 1993 ROB publication The Valkenburg Excavations 1985–1988: Introduction and detail studies. Between 1995 and 2001 she mainly worked as archaeological project manager on several national infrastructural works, one of these being the Amsterdam-Brussels High Speed Rail-link. In 2001 Karen co-founded the Dutch archaeology and cultural heritage consultancy Vestigia BV Archeologie & Cultuurhistorie alongside Wilfried Hessing (her partner and co-director), an organisation that has progressed from strength to strength over its twenty year history. Wilfried confirms that Roman pottery maintained her keen interest throughout.

Karen become a key figure in the development of The European Association of Archaeologists (EEA) for whom she served as Editor (of *The European Archaeologist*), executive board member and was Secretary (2017–9). Karen passed away in July 2019 following a short illness. She will be remembered for her exceptionally warm personality, genuine empathy and engaging conversation, so very often analytical and seeking answers, and always positive and forward looking; her career is testimony to her drive to see good values realised. Although she has been lost to the archaeology and heritage community, and indeed her family, at a cruelly premature age she fulfilled many goals to the collective benefit. Her values and ethos will be continued through the recently instituted charity

The Karen E. Waugh Foundation. Inaugurated in December 2020 by her family and *Vestigia* the charity aims to facilitate and expand communication and research into archaeology and cultural heritage across the North Sea littoral, supporting in particular early career researchers; details of the Karen E. Waugh Foundation can be accessed via the Vestigia website.

Steven Willis

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Steven Willis thanks Wilfried Hessing for information supplied.

Valery Rigby (1938–2020)

Valery (Val) was born on 13th August 1938 in Birtley, near Gateshead, County Durham.1 She was the only child of Vera (nee Burn), a well-known dancing teacher, and Charles Rigby who after leaving the services ran a butchers shop. She attended school at Dame Allan's Academy, Newcastle, from where she went to Manchester University to study Geography. It was here that she was first introduced into Roman archaeology when a course on the history of Roman civilisation was offered in the first year. After graduating with a BA she signed up to do a teaching diploma at Reading University with the intention of teaching geography, although she had little enthusiasm for it. In 1963 she realised she needed a summer job and there were just two choices: canning fruit or working as a volunteer at the Roman villa site at Winterton, North Lincolnshire, under the direction of Ian Stead. She chose the latter. Ian recalls her turning up with a bright new trowel full of enthusiasm: she had signed up for the full duration of the dig. He decided they needed someone to be in charge of the pottery shed so he appointed one of his supervisors, Robert Hedges (subsequently head of the radiocarbon laboratory, Oxford) to pick a volunteer and train them. Val was selected to be his assistant as she was signed up for the summer. In the first afternoon the Director of the dig found Robert back on site, and he was reprimanded for not supervising Val. He looked embarrassed and said: 'She has thrown me out and says I am incompetent'. From that day on Val was in charge of the pottery and had found a new career. She was known as a formidable presence in the finds shed and put the fear of God into the site supervisors!

In 1965, Ian Stead, then an Inspector of Ancient Monuments based in London, persuaded the Ministry of Works that he needed a finds assistant and Val was employed on a fee paid basis in this capacity. By this time Ian was also excavating at the Roman small town at Baldock, Hertfordshire, and the Inspectorate acquired a house next to the excavations where Val spent a lot of time.

Whilst working in London Val challenged the dress code – women were still expected to wear tweed skirts and suits – but she turned up in a leather skirt and

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knee-length boots and on site in trousers, which she regarded as far more practical, and female dress history in the Inspectorate was changed. It was also whilst she was in London that she attended evening classes at the Institute of Archaeology, with lectures from many of the leading luminaries of British Archaeology at the time, including Sheppard Frere, Brian Hartley, Graham Webster, Kay Hartley, John Gillam, Ray Farrar and John Peter Wild, with various guest speakers including Kathleen Kenyon, George Boon, Christopher Hawkes, M.R. (Rex) Hull and Harvey Sheldon.

Her interest in Gallo-Belgic pottery, for which she became the foremost British expert, was first developed whilst working on pottery from Old Winteringham and Baldock. In 1971 the extra-mural department of the University of Birmingham organised a meeting at Pendrell Hall, near Wolverhampton, of all the post-graduates, researchers and others then working on Roman pottery. This led to a conference held in Oxford in 1972 where Val gave her first lecture, on 'Potters' stamps on Terra Nigra and Terra Rubra found in Britain'. The papers from this meeting, including Val's contribution, were subsequently published (Detsicas 1973), the volume including articles by many well-known pottery specialists.² It was that meeting that created the genesis of the Study Group for Roman Pottery.

In 1974, when Ian moved on to become Keeper of the Department of Prehistoric and Romano-British Antiquities at the British Museum, Val took up a post as pottery researcher for the Cirencester Excavation Committee based at Cirencester. As such she was one of the first pottery specialists to be employed full-time by an archaeological unit. When, in 1975, an Iron Age research assistant post was created at the British Museum, Ian rang Val to ask if she was interested. 'No!' she said, and put the phone down. Mansell Spratling got the job but then left in 1978. Ian took courage and rang Val again, and this time she said 'Yes'. She was interviewed by the Director of the British Museum, Sir David Wilson, performed brilliantly and got the job. So in 1978 she left Cirencester to start work at the British Museum, where she remained until her retirement in 1999.

Her work with Ian and subsequently the British Museum covered many well-known key archaeological sites, including Rudston Roman villa in the East Riding of Yorkshire, the Roman small town at Baldock, and the Iron Age and Roman cemetery at King Harry Lane, St Albans. Other excavation projects she was heavily involved with included the Yorkshire settlement project, and cemeteries in Champagne, northern France. Many of the burials in the King Harry Lane cemetery were furnished with gravegoods, including stamped Gallo-Belgic pottery, and Val was able to develop her expertise further working on this, as well as writing many specialist contributions for other excavation reports, on both Gallo-Belgic and coarse ware stamps. She was a meticulous worker and one that

was entirely self-taught. Her time at the British Museum enabled her to collaborate with many other individuals, particularly Ian Freestone and Andrew Middleton within the scientific department, who amongst other things, undertook various thin section and chemical analyses. Her work also involved loan visits, including one to Japan, refurbishing galleries, registration including KHL and undertaking research. The latter included the Aust figurines discovered near the Severn Bridge and the Morel Collection. The latter collection, bought by the British Museum in 1900, included the famous painted Prunay vase which Val described as one of the best objects she had ever dealt with.³

She was elected President of the Study Group in 1990 and accordingly served a three-year term of office in the role. Amongst other things she was involved with the development of the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection and secured its deposition at the British Museum, ensuring that it would be properly curated. She was also a staunch trade unionist and represented curators at the British Museum for some years. She had an eye for design, was a competent illustrator and oversaw the re-display of the Iron Age pottery.

After her retirement Val had time to embark on a range of other activities including bowls, Tai Chi, gardening, fostering cats and regularly going up to London or Stratford to meet friends and see plays or visit gardens. Although retired she continued with her archaeological pottery work and undertook further reports for publications. In 2003 she was persuaded to start a project with the author, on the Gallo-Belgic pottery imported from France, and a funding application was successful, securing a three-year Leverhulme grant attached to Oxford University. The work culminated in a website that effectively encapsulated all of Val's accumulated knowledge on the subject. In 2020 she was told she needed major heart surgery, which she faced with characteristic disdain, but unfortunately she died in hospital following complications on 31st October.

Val was an engaging and enthusiastic individual with wide interests and trenchant views on politics (a staunch Labour supporter), archaeology and life. She was an avid sports follower, in particular of tennis, cricket and football. She was also a tremendous person, albeit slightly idiosyncratic to work with, and very generous, giving help to anyone who needed it. Various people's memories of her are that she was a great scholar, had a formidable memory and a thorough knowledge of artefacts, metal as well as pottery. The pottery world has been enriched by her scholarship.

Jane Timby

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Val (with 'Yorick'?) at the Winterton villa excavations, during what is thought to be the 1966 season; Ian Stead (far right) looks on while behind Val stands Chris Gordon, a site supervisor. The photo comes from a newspaper article which appeared in the Scunthorpe Times. Photo: The Scunthorpe Times (supplied by Ian Stead).



Val (middle, in front of the Land Rover driver door) and the excavation team she led in East Yorkshire during the British Museum's 'Settlements' Project, 1992. Despite rain and subsequent floods and mud, Val is remembered as having 'loved it'. Photo courtesy of Dave Webb.

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Notes

- 1 There is some uncertainty as to whether her official name was Valery or Valerie.
- 2 Available at: https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archiveDS/archiveDownload?t=arch-281-1/dissemination/pdf/cba rr 010.pdf.
- 3 Image and details available at: https://www.britishmuseum. org/collection/object/H ML-2734.

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