SUMMER EXAMINATIONS 2005

Subject ARCHAEOLOGY

Title of Paper AR3037 BRITAIN IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE - SEEN PAPER

Time Allowed TWO HOURS

Instructions to candidates

Candidates should answer BOTH sections of the paper. In SECTION A answer BOTH questions 1 AND 2 (25% and 25%). In SECTION B answer ONE of the essay questions (50%). You should include detailed examples and show evidence of critical reading.

SECTION A

1. Examine the three illustrations (appended) and comment on what they reveal about modern assumptions about literacy AND/OR religious practice in Roman Britain (you should spend c. 30 minutes on this question).

2. Critically discuss TWO of the following quotes (you should spend c. 30 minutes on this question):

   a) “By the middle of the Romanizing period many things have appeared in the archaeological record but they cannot be traced back to Rome.”
   (Reece, 1988, 10)

   b) “Other areas such as military discipline and competent administration, arouse sympathetic recognition. The expansion of the Roman empire and its subsequent decline have been compared to the expansion and contraction of the British empire.”
   (Alcock, 1997, 116)

   c) “...the essence of the civitas was that town and country were encompassed within the same administrative unit derived from the LPRIA tribal group. As there was a predominantly dispersed settlement pattern, the countryside must be considered as fundamental to both the settlement system and the organisation of social and political power. Soon after the conquest a series of Romanised buildings, the so called villas, were added to this pattern.”
   (Millett, 1990, 91)

   ....continued
d) “The Silures had once been so savage that, as will be remembered, Ostorius Scapula had intended to exterminate them. They had fortunately survived, to become one of those essential bastions of Roman stability, a Romanized community organized and running itself on Roman lines derived eventually from the formal structure of Rome itself.” (Salway, 1981, 534)

e) “The accommodating nature of Roman religion, exemplified in Britain as elsewhere by the interpretatio Romana (whereby the gods of conquered peoples were identified with those of Rome and accepted into the pantheon) was in some ways useful, for it made easier the social assimilation of the conquered.” (Rivet, 1958, 100)

f) “We can be certain that it [Hambledon villa] was run by slave labour from the grim evidence of no less than 97 infant burials in the farmyard area in front of the villa and its outbuildings. These babies were the unfortunate products of illicit unions between members of the labour force of an agricultural unit which must have been run like a prison camp.” (Hill and Ireland, 1996, 86-87)

SECTION B

3. What problems do we encounter when representing Roman Britain on maps?

4. In what ways did the Roman Army interact with the native population?

5. Did a market economy develop in Britain under Roman rule?

6. Were towns in Roman Britain a failure? Discuss with relevant examples relating to both their rise and decline from Britain AND/OR comparable cities in the Gallic provinces.

7. Critique the debate in Roman archaeology surrounding the term Romanization.

8. Assess the presentation of Roman Britain in EITHER recent TV programmes OR museum exhibits.

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Picture Question

1a. 1883. Altar, 10 x 15 in. (25.4 x 38.1 cm). Found in 1883 in the Millstreet, south of Horseman's Fort. Now in Clasters Museum. Drawn by R. G. C., 1892:

(1890) 226, with fig. Illustrated. Dacian Eff. Jour. 1912
(1913) 14. Cat. no. 186 (1975).

[Latin] (Deo) Minervi [Minerva] et (a dea) Cisilia [Cisilia]
apote (a dea) [Cisilia] (Minervae) merito

"To Jupiter, Best and Greatest, and to the god Cisilia and to the Genius of this place the soldiers of the Second Legion Augusta on garrison duty willingly and deservedly fulfilled their vow."