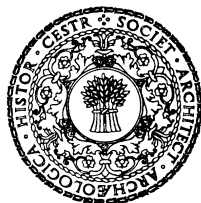


Deva Victrix

Roman Chester

Re-assessed

Papers from a weekend conference held at
Chester College 3–5 September 1999



Supported by



Edited by
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Abbreviations

The abbreviations used in this volume follow the system laid down in BS 4148: 1985, as recommended by the Council for British Archaeology in Signposts for Archaeological Publication ed 3, 1991, Appendix A

Notes for contributors

The Society welcomes articles about the architecture, archaeology and history of Cheshire in its Journal. If you are interested in contributing, please contact the Editor at the following address for further guidance on the scope of the Journal and for notes on style and layout:

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Foreword

The Chester Archaeological Society has a long tradition of producing publications of this sort. In the nineteenth century it initiated the debate on the date of Chester's walls. More recently it organised the conference which gave rise to the Rows Research Project. It was therefore appropriate that it should use the occasion of its 150th anniversary celebrations to refocus attention on Roman Chester, to see what all the work of the past generation or so amounted to and, just as important, where future priorities should lie.

It has to be admitted that the active role of the Society declined during the 1970s and 1980s — perhaps inevitably as the scale of 'rescue' fieldwork grew — and there are now other major players in the local archaeological arena, including a variety of commercial organisations as well as universities and local authorities. However, the Society has continued to fulfill an important function in keeping an independent and knowledgeable eye on the city's heritage and encouraging public appreciation of it. It is also now once again, especially through its fieldwork section, increasing the opportunities for local people to get involved in archaeology. Finally, as the conference that gave rise to this volume proves, it still has a role in initiating archaeological debates.

In recent years, proportionally the greatest advances have been made in our understanding of the archaeology of Saxon and medieval Chester, albeit bringing our knowledge of these periods from a very low base. However, it is concerning Roman Chester that most new data has been gained, and it is now time to summarise what has been learnt and begin to analyse and present it in the light of advances elsewhere. As we move out of the long shadows cast by the nineteenth-century European empires we are able to take a more detached view of the Roman world and apply more sophisticated approaches to its study. This volume represents a start in that direction, but there is a long way to go: it is to be hoped that future steps will be marked by contributions to the Society's journal.

The City Council's Archaeological Service is happy to have been associated with the conference and to support this publication. It recognises the value of the Society's civic role of constructive criticism and active participation and hopes that this volume will be the starting point for the open construction of a rolling research programme on Roman Chester.

It remains to thank the Society's Honorary Secretary, Dr David Mason, for his hard work in organizing the 1999 conference; Professor Bill Manning for his able chairmanship; the staff of Chester College for their hospitality; and the speakers for their lively contributions. Unfortunately this volume does not reflect the valuable contributions made by Dr Vivien Swan and Mr Tim Strickland, but relevant publications by them are noted below.¹

G Storey, *Chairman, Chester Archaeological Society, 1998–2001*
M N Morris, *City Archaeologist*

¹ V G Swan, The Twentieth Legion and the history of the Antonine Wall reconsidered. *Proc Soc Antiq Scotland* **129**, 1999, 399–480;

T J Strickland, What sort of community existed at Chester during the hiatus of the second century? *In: Goldsworth, A & Haynes, I eds. The Roman army as a community. (J Roman Archaeol suppl ser 34, 1999)*, 105–10

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