

Editorial

This number of *Britannia* is dedicated to John Gillam, Reader in Romano-British History and Archaeology at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne until his retirement in 1982. No British scholar has done more to develop and give direction to the study of Roman pottery, especially (but by no means exclusively) in northern Britain. The bibliography of his work included in this volume provides the factual outline of his scholarly achievement. It does not adequately convey the immense encouragement and stimulus he has given to younger workers in this major field. John Gillam's contribution to Roman archaeology has, of course, not been confined to work on pottery. Several major studies on aspects of the northern frontiers of Britain stand to his credit. One of these, on the Antonine Wall, has led to a radical reappraisal of the structural ordering of that frontier. Like so much of Gillam's work, this short paper is a modest but trenchant summary of a problem which has opened the way to significant further advance. He has already received a *Festschrift* from fellow-students of pottery. This volume, which contains a number of papers reflecting his deepest interests, is offered to him in recognition of his achievement in a wider field.

Professor Wilkes completed his *quinquennium* as editor of *Britannia* with volume xv, but happily continues as a member of the editorial committee. The incoming editor is faced by a healthy accumulation of material for the next two numbers, due in part to an increased emphasis upon publication by field units. Welcome as this undoubtedly is, it is bound to lead to some papers being held over for longer than any editor would wish. The timetable to which the editorial committee works is perhaps not as widely known as it should be. Papers should be submitted *at the latest* by October to be considered for inclusion in the volume for the following year. The November editorial meeting decides on the final composition of the volume and papers go to press in January. Reviews and notes may be submitted as late as January since they do not go to press until March. As *Britannia* is now set by computer, the first stage of proofs is issued in April. Alteration of the composition of the volume is thus impossible later than January for papers and March for notes and reviews. A revised Notes for Contributors is included in this volume and contributors are asked to follow its guidelines closely. Standards of presentation are very variable and this can cause delay to the contributor as well as wasted time to the editor. Line-drawings which may be otherwise carefully prepared often include scales which are too short or too thin to withstand reduction. Finally, the journal has never confined itself to Roman Britain, as its sub-title has proclaimed from its first issue. Of late, however, too few papers devoted to wider issues of Roman provincial archaeology have been received. More would be welcomed, as would a wider range of short notes on controversial subjects.

It is encouraging to learn that a revision of military sites is being undertaken in connection with a reissue of the Ordnance Survey *Map of Roman Britain*. The third edition, of 1956, was an excellent work; the fourth, of 1978, fell well below that standard both as a record of Roman Britain and as a cartographic production. It is much to be hoped that the maps of Hadrian's Wall and the Antonine Wall will be revised in the near future, and the original scales adhered to. The quartercentenary of the publication of the first edition of William Camden's *Britannia* falls in 1986. It would be appropriate to celebrate that event by the best topographical records that modern expertise is capable of.