Legion: life in the Roman army

1 February – 23 June 2024
Sainsbury Exhibition Gallery, The British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG, UK

List of objects proposed for protection under Part 6 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 (protection of cultural objects on loan).

Statue head of Julia Domna with wig
2010.143.1

Marble bust depicting Julia Domna with wig, Roman AD 203-217

Height: 35cm
Width: 26.67cm
Depth: 24.13 cm

Lent by: Yale Uni Art Gallery, 1111 Chapel St, New Haven, CT 06510, United States

Provenance: In the collection of Dr Anton Pestalozzi, Zurich prior to 1970 when it was acquired by Giorgio Fallani. Acquired from Giorgio Fallani by bequest to his son Carlo Maria Fallani, by Oliver Forge and Brendan Lynch Ltd. Purchased by YUAG from Oliver Forge and Brendan Lynch Ltd. In 2010.

Ownership between 1933 – 1945: In the Pestalozzi Collection – a collection owned by Dr. Anton Pestalozzi, a Zurich based lawyer.

Publication:
Museum online collections:
https://artgallery.yale.edu/collections/objects/157214

Klaus Fittschen, A Companion to Roman Art, ed. Barbara Borg (West Sussex, United Kingdom: John Wiley and Sons, 2015), 55, fig. 3.4
The Dura scutum
1933.715

The Dura scutum – a complete Roman shield, missing the boss and other metal attachments, Roman; AD 200-300 Dura-Europos, Syria.

Height: 105.5cm
Width: 41cm

Lent by: Yale Uni Art Gallery, 1111 Chapel St, New Haven, CT 06510, United States

Provenance: Excavated in Dura-Europos, Syria by the Yale-French excavation teams in 1933 and then directly acquired by Yale.

Ownership between 1933 – 1945: In the Yale Collection throughout

Publication:
Museum online collections:
https://artgallery.yale.edu/collections/objects/5959

Handbook of the Collections, exh. cat. (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Art Gallery, 1992), 273

Horse armour from Dura
1933.680
Horse armour constructed of iron scales and leather, Roman; AD 165-256, Dura-Europos, Syria.
Dimensions when object is flat:
Height: 130.81
Width: 177.8 cm
Lent by: Yale Uni Art Gallery, 1111 Chapel St, New Haven, CT 06510, United States
Provenance: Excavated in Dura-Europos, Syria by the Yale-French excavation teams in 1933 and then directly acquired by Yale.
Ownership between 1933 – 1945: In the Yale Collection throughout
Publication:
Museum online collections:
https://artgallery.yale.edu/collections/objects/34666
Draco

Inv. nr. 1966/480

Draco head which would have been a part of a draco standard. The head is made of copper alloy with traces of gilding. There is a hole at the bottom of the object, where a pole would have been placed. Roman, produced in Germany AD190-260

Height 18cm
Length 30cm
Depth 16cm

Lent by: Koblenz Landesmuseum, Festung Ehrenbreitstein, 56077 Koblenz, Germany

Provenance: Found in the Limes fortress of Niederbieber, and excavated as part of the regular excavations to the area, which became a UNESCO world heritage site in 2005.


Publication: Von Berg, A. Die drachenstandarte aus dem Kastelldorf von Niederbieber
Mule Bell
13.9.90.0.22460
Bronze bell from the battlefield at Kalkriese, found to have been around the neck of a mule. Roman, AD 9

Height 9.32 cm
Diameter 5cm

Lent by: Museum und Park Kalkriese, Venner Str. 69, 49565 Bramsche, Germany

Provenance: Found during the 1992 excavation of the Varus battlefield. Object has been in the museum collection since discovery.


Publication:
Wilbers-Rost, Susanne. “Hinterhalt Zwischen Berg und Moor: ein archäologischer Zwischenbericht zur Varusschlacht in Kalkriese.”


Harnecker, J. 2008: Kalkriese 4: Die römischen Funde vom Oberesch, Mainz
Shrew's fiddle and cuirass from Varus battlefield

Fiddle- 13.8.53.51003

Near complete cuirass and shrew’s fiddle (shackles), highly corroded when found. Objects have been conserved and reassembled for display. Roman, AD 9

Shrews fiddle – Length 62cm Width 15cm Depth 9cm
Armour, when assembled – Height 79cm Width 57cm Depth 52cm

Lent by: Museum und Park Kalkriese, Venner Str. 69, 49565 Bramsche, Germany

Provenance: Excavations in the summer of 2018 on the site of the Battle of the Teutoburg Forest, revealed the two objects together. The objects have been in the museum collection since discovery.


Unpublished.
Mainz D Helmet
nr 22.IX.1896
Roman copper alloy near complete helmet of the Mainz D type, with two cheek pieces and eye guard in place. Roman, AD 1 - 200, Germany.

Height: 35cm
Width: 35cm
Length: 40cm

Lent by: Landesmuseum Mainz, Große Bleiche 49-51, 55116 Mainz, Germany

Provenance: Purchased in 1896 after discovery in the same year. Found in the river Rhine near Mainz.

Ownership between 1933 – 1945: In the collection of Städtisches Altertumsmuseum Mainz (now Landesmuseum Mainz)

Unpublished

Tombstone of anonymous soldier
Inv. Nr S 905
Effigy tombstone of an anonymous soldier holding tablet or scroll (inscription is lost and base restored), AD 1-100 Germany

Height: 111cm
Width: 53 cm

Lent by: Landesmuseum Mainz, Große Bleiche 49-51, 55116 Mainz, Germany

Provenance: Object was recovered from excavation and was likely to have been moved to the museum immediately in 1906.

Ownership between 1933 – 1945: In the collection of Städtisches Altertumsmuseum Mainz (now Landesmuseum Mainz)

Unpublished
Tombstone of Mounted archer Flavius Proclus

Inv. Nr S 633

Tombstone of horse archer Flavius Proclus of the Singulares Augusti (Emperor's Mounted Guard) showing both bow and quiver. Roman, AD 70-100, Mainz, Germany.

Height: 106cm
Width: 76cm
Depth: 16cm

Lent by: Landesmuseum Mainz, Große Bleiche 49-51, 55116 Mainz, Germany

Provenance: Object was recovered from excavation and was likely to have been moved to the museum immediately in 1959.

Ownership between 1933 – 1945: Found after 1945

Unpublished
Tombstone of the imaginifer Genialis

S 509 / CIL 13, 11868

Tombstone of the imaginifer Genialis; He holds a standard (an imperial portrait) and a scroll, and his pelt hood is draped around his neck. Roman, AD31-100, Mainz, Germany.

Height 114cm

Width: 62 cm

Lent by: Landesmuseum Mainz, Große Bleiche 49-51, 55116 Mainz, Germany

Provenance: Object was recovered from excavation and was likely to have been moved to the museum immediately in 1906.

Ownership between 1933 – 1945 : : In the collection of Städtisches Altertumsmuseum Mainz (now Landesmuseum Mainz)

Publication:
W. Boppert, Militärische Grabdenkmäler aus Mainz und Umgebung, CSIR Deutschland 2, 5 (Mainz 1992) 103-106, Nr. 9; Tafel 10. (B)
W. Selzer, Römische Steindenkmäler. Mainz in römischer Zeit. Katalog zur Sammlung in der Steinhalle (Mainz 1988) 155, Nr. 85; Foto; Abb. 27. (B)
K. Körber, KWDZ 26, 1907, 67-68, Nr. 2. (B) - AE 1907.
**Dagger**

1917.96

Dagger with decoration on the scabbard, Roman AD 1-100, Mainz, Germany.

Height: 38cm

Width: 11.8cm

Lent by: Landesmuseum Mainz, Große Bleiche 49-51, 55116 Mainz, Germany

Provenance: Purchased by the museum in 1917.

Ownership between 1933 – 1945: In the collection of Städtisches Altertumsmuseum Mainz (now Landesmuseum Mainz)

Publication: Saliola, M. and Casprini, F. 2012. PUGIO - GLADIUS BREVIS EST History and technology of the Roman battle dagger number 194, pg 123

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**The Niedermörmtor helmet**

1970.20.0-1

The Niedermörmtor helmet; Helmet of L. Sollonius Super from the 30th Legion Ulpia victrix stationed in Xanten. Roman; AD 100-300, Niedermörmtor, Germany.

Height: 30cm

Width 37cm

Depth 34cm

Lent by: LVR-LandesMuseum Bonn, Colmantstraße 14-16, 53115 Bonn, Germany

Provenance: Bought by the museum from the finder, discovered in 1970.


Unpublished
**Helmet**

1986.69.1-1

Helmet, Roman AD 1-100, Germany

Height: 20.5cm

Width: 21.6cm

Depth: 24.5cm

Lent by: LVR-LandesMuseum Bonn, Colmantstraße 14-16, 53115 Bonn, Germany

Provenance: Found in 1986 during excavation work in Xanten-Wardt and has been in the museum collection since


Unpublished

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**Partial mask from helmet**

N 26071

Partial face mask that would have been attached to a cavalry helmet. Roman AD 1-100, Germany.

Height: 13.5

Width: 16 cm

Lent by: LVR-LandesMuseum Bonn, Colmantstraße 14-16, 53115 Bonn, Germany

Provenance: Found during excavations in the area of the Roman military camp of Neuss-Gnadental in 1965 and has been in the museum collection since its discovery.


Unpublished
Replica of Primusplius M. Caelius’s cenotaph
Kopie von U.82,0-1

Replica of Primusplius M. Caelius’s cenotaph, commissioned by LVR-LandesMuseum Bonn. 20th Century.

Height: 108cm
Width: 137cm
Depth: 18cm

Lent by: LVR-LandesMuseum Bonn, Colmantstraße 14-16, 53115 Bonn, Germany
Provenance: Replica commissioned by LVR-LandesMuseum Bonn.
Ownership between 1933 – 1945: Created after 1945
**Effigy tombstone of auxiliary Firmus Ecconis**

2801/2082; CIL 13, 07684

Lower part of Effigy tombstone of auxiliary Firmus Ecconis; limestone tombstone with depiction of auxiliary and inscription beneath, including name. Roman, Germany AD 1-100

Height: 226 cm  
Width: 90cm  
Depth: 39 cm

Lent by: LVR-LandesMuseum Bonn, Colmantstraße 14-16, 53115 Bonn, Germany

Provenance: The tombstone was discovered around 1880 and bought by an unnamed finder/owner. It was then donated to the museum.

Ownership between 1933 – 1945: In lenders collection throughout

Publication:

CIL 13, 07684 (https://edh.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/edh/inschrift/HD061374)

H. Lehner, Die antiken Steindenkmäler des Provinzialmuseums in Bonn (Bonn 1918) 269-270, Nr. 665.

É. Espérandieu, Recueil général des bas-reliefs, statues et bustes de la Gaule romaine (Paris 1922) 212-213, Nr. 6207.

P. Filtzinger, Limesmuseum Aalen (Stuttgart 1975) 106-108, Nr. 8.3.

H. v. Petrikovits, Die römischen Streitkräfte am Niederrhein (Düsseldorf 1967) 12, Nr. 6. (B)

Gold optio ring
00.5824.0-1
Gold finger ring of an optio of legio I Minervia (with badge of Minerva). Roman, Germany AD 150-250.

Width 3.4cm
Depth 3.4cm

Lent by: LVR-LandesMuseum Bonn, Colmantstraße 14-16, 53115 Bonn, Germany

Provenance: Found in 1888 in Cologne Worringen, purchased by the museum from the finder.

Ownership between 1933 – 1945: In lenders collection throughout

Unpublished
Effigy tombstone of the legionary Quintus Petilius Secundus of Legio XV

U 86; CIL 13, 08079

Effigy tombstone of the legionary Quintus Petilius Secundus of Legio XV. Roman AD 50-60, Germany

Height: 136cm
Width: 61
Depth: 15cm

Lent by: LVR-LandesMuseum Bonn, Colmantstraße 14-16, 53115 Bonn, Germany

Provenance: Found 1755 in the Electoral Castle (today a university building) in Bonn; first went to the collection of Rheinische Friedrich Wilhelms, University Bonn, from there in 1820/21 it moved to the museum

Ownership between 1933 – 1945: In lenders collection throughout

Publication:

H. Lehner, Die antiken Steindenkmäler des Provinzialmuseums in Bonn (Bonn 1918) 236-237; Zeichnung.


G. Bauchhenß, in: M. van Rey (Hrsg.), Geschichte der Stadt Bonn 1. Bonn von der Vorgeschichte bis zum Ende der Römerzeit (Bonn 2001) 313; Foto.

**Dice tower and four dice**

1985.269,0-1

A Roman dice tower with an inscription on the front and another around the sides. It also includes three bells at the bottom, where the dice come out onto some steps. Roman, AD 300-400 Germany.

Tower – Height 25cm, Width 10cm, Depth 12.5cm

Dice – Height 1.4cm, Depth 1.6cm (each)

Lent by: LVR-LandesMuseum Bonn, Colmantstraße 14-16, 53115 Bonn, Germany


Unpublished
Tombstone of Pintaius

U.98.0-1

Limestone tombstone of standard bearer Pintaius Pedilici, with inscription at the base. Roman, Bonn Germany AD 31-70.

Height: 194cm
Width 62cm
Depth 22cm
Weight 680kg

Lent by: LVR-LandesMuseum Bonn, Colmantstraße 14-16, 53115 Bonn, Germany

Provenance: Found in the garden of the Kurfürstl Palace (today the site of a University of Bonn building) in 1748. Initially in the collection of the Rheinische Friedrich Wilhems University Bonn. Passed to the museum in 1820/21.

Ownership between 1933 – 1945: Has remained in the museum collection throughout.

Publication:

CIL 13, 08098
EDCS-11100322 ; TM 415150
F. and O. Harl, Ubi Erat Lupa, http://lupa.at/15517
Roundel from standard found at Niederbieber

1977.1310-1

Gilded silver roundel from standard found at Niederbieber; it shows Tiberius in military dress, holding a parazonium (officer’s dress sword) and spear, triumphant amongst captives and weapons. Roman, AD 19-50, Germany.

Height 194cm
Width: 62cm
Depth: 22cm
Weight: 680kg

Lent by: LVR-LandesMuseum Bonn, Colmantstraße 14-16, 53115 Bonn, Germany

Provenance: Found in 1814 during excavations in the Roman Castle of Niederbieber; from 1814 in the royal Wiedische collection in Neuwied; in 1977 moved to the museum.

Ownership between 1933 – 1945: Has remained in the museum collection throughout.

Publication:
https://lvrlandesmuseumbonn.wordpress.com/2014/10/16/ein-milchbartiger-romer-wird-200
Earliest known military diploma, AD 52 (of Sparticus Dipscurtus)

MANN inv. 3706 / EDR126382

Earliest known military diploma, AD 52 (of Sparticus Dipscurtus); Two bronze tablets, inscribed on the exterior and interior.

Height: 14.8cm
Width: 17.5cm
Depth: 0.4cm

Lent by: Naples National Archaeological Museum, Piazza Museo, 19, 80135 Napoli NA, Italy

Provenance: Discovered during the excavations on the hill at Varano in 1750. All the finds excavated in the Vesuvian sites were part of the royal collection. Moved to the Real Museo Borbonico, later to become Museo Nazionale di Napoli.

Ownership between 1933 – 1945: In museum collection throughout.

Publication:

Magalhaes, Maricí M., Stabiae romana: la prosopografia e la documentazione epigrafica; iscrizioni lapidarie e bronzee, bolli laterizi e sigilli (Castellammare di Stabia: N. Longobardi, 2006), p. 100 sgg., nr. 16
Bronze military diploma of Marcus Syrus
MANN inv. no. 110043 / EDR126381
Bronze military diploma of Marcus Syrus, Roman AD 71. Pompeii, Italy.

Height: 16.7cm
Length: 13.5cm
Width./Diam: 1.5cm

Lent by: Naples National Archaeological Museum, Piazza Museo, 19, 80135 Napoli NA, Italy

Provenance: Found in 1874. All the finds excavated in the Vesuvian sites were part of the royal collection and were moved to the Real Museo Borbonico, later to become Museo Nazionale di Napoli.

Ownership between 1933 – 1945: In museum collection throughout

Publication:
Roman sword from Pompeii

5757

Roman sword from Pompeii, AD79.

Length: 58.5cm

Width: 4.9cm

Lent by: Naples National Archaeological Museum, Piazza Museo, 19, 80135 Napoli NA, Italy

Provenance: Found in 19th Century, all the finds excavated in the Vesuvian sites were part of the royal collection, and were moved to the Real Museo Borbonico, later to become Museo Nazionale di Napoli

Ownership between 1933 – 1945: In museum collection throughout

Publication:
C. Miks, Studien zur römischen Schwertbewaffnung in der Kaiserzeit, Kölner Studien zur Archäologie der römischen Provinzen 8, Rahden/Westfalen 2007

Cornu from Pompeii
286788

Cornu from Pompeii (one of the five) – near complete example attached to square board. Roman AD 79

Height: c.120
Width: c.120cm

Lent by: Naples National Archaeological Museum, Piazza Museo, 19, 80135 Napoli NA, Italy

Provenance: All the finds excavated in the Vesuvian sites were part of the royal collection. Found during excavation in 1884, and were moved to the Real Museo Borbonico the same year, later to become Museo Nazionale di Napoli.

Ownership between 1933 – 1945: In museum collection throughout

Publication:
Silver bust of Galba, from Herculaneum (House of Galba).

inv. 110127

Silver bust of Galba, from Herculaneum (House of Galba). Roman AD 79

Height 42cm

Lent by: Naples National Archaeological Museum, Piazza Museo, 19, 80135 Napoli NA, Italy

Provenance: Found in 1873, all the finds excavated in the Vesuvian sites were part of the royal collection, and were moved to the Real Museo Borbonico, later to become Museo Nazionale di Napoli.

Ownership between 1933 – 1945: In museum collection throughout

Publication:
Equipment and bones of the Herculaneum soldier

Skeleton E26, n. inv. 79094_3797b, n. inv. 78393, n.inv. 79092_3795, n.inv. 79093_3796, n. inv. 79094_3797a

Equipment and bones of the Herculaneum soldier. Includes gladius, dagger, 13 belt fragments, carpenters tools and purse with coins. Roman AD79, Herculaneum.

Dimensions:

Belt fragments – overall
Purse with coins: 6cm x 2cm
Carpenters tools: 18 x 31cm
Gladius with scabbard: 45 x 6 cm
Dagger: 73 x 10cm

Lent by: Parco Acheologico di Ercolano, Corso Resina, 187, 80056 Ercolano NA, Italy

Provenance: Excavated in 1982, the remains and objects went to the care of the Parco Archeologico di Ercolano and have been there since.

Ownership between 1933 – 1945: Found after 1945

Publication:
P. Roberts, 2013, Life and death in Pompeii and Herculaneum (London)
**Rue des Fantasques (Lyon) grave assemblage of hurriedly buried soldier on a battlefield**

2018.0.08.01, br.007, br.256, br.270, br. 272, br.273,br.274,br.275, br.276, br.514, 2020.0.057 -68

Grave assemblage of hurriedly buried soldier on a battlefield, Roman AD 197, Lyon, France

**Dimensions:**
- Iron Sword: 75.9cm x 5.1 cm
- Bronze Letters, Belt decoration: 31cm x 5cm
- Bronze and Silver Phalera: diameter 4.7cm
- Strap Holder: 12.7cm x 1.4 cm
- Bronze Harness fitting: 4.4cm x 4.3 cm
- Bronze Harness fitting: 3.5cm x 2.5 cm
- Bronze button: diameter 1.5cm
- Two bronze strap ends: diameter 5.2cm each
- Bronze clothing fastener 4.5cm x 2.5cm
- Set of 12 silver Denari – each coin between 16 and 20mm diameter

**Lent by:** Lugdunum. Musée et Théâtres Romains, 17 Rue Cleberg, 69005 Lyon, France

**Provenance:** Discovered during a rescue excavation in 1950, they were immediately entrusted to A. Audin, then curator of the Gallo-Roman collections of the city of Lyon. Officially acquired by the city of Lyon in 1975.

**Ownership between 1933 – 1945:** Found after 1945

**Publication:**
- Museum Online collections: https://collections-lugdunum.grandlyon.com/flora/ark:/53354/00219168
Part of the torsion mechanism from catapult/ballista

N° d'inventaire 2019.0.13

Part of the iron torsion mechanism from a catapult / ballista. Roman, Lyon France AD 1-400.

Height 34.5cm

Width: 22cm

Lent by: Lugdunum. Musée et Théâtres Romains, 17 Rue Cleberg, 69005 Lyon, France

Provenance: Officially acquired by the city of Lyon in 1975; previously in the care of the city of Lyon after excavation in 1804.

Ownership between 1933 – 1945: In care of the city of Lyon

Legionaries in battle formation, stele from Glanum

Inv. 2001.0.308

Legionaries in battle formation, stele from Glanum. Roman, Provence, France.

Height: 86cm

Length: 58cm

Lent by: Lugdunum. Musée et Théâtres Romains, 17 Rue Cleberg, 69005 Lyon, France

Provenance: First kept at the home of Abbé Chabran, a resident of Saint-Rémy-de-Provence; then sold to the Duke of Crillon (Avignon); sold to Joseph Antoine François Deleutre (Avignon), silk merchant and friend of François Artaud, first curator of the Lyon Museum of Fine Arts. Entered the Museum of Fine Arts by donation from the Deleutre family between 1808 and 1811; officially acquired by the city of Lyon as part of the collection of Lugdunum. Musée et Théâtres Romains in 1975.

Ownership between 1933 – 1945: Part of the collection at Museum of Fine Arts, Lyon

Publication:
FA/CAY/1767 ; Inv 744
HL6/5 ; Inv 1161
1895 - STEYERT André, Nouvelle Histoire de Lyon et des Provinces de Lyonnais - Forez – Beaujolais, Tome I : Antiquité depuis les temps préhistoriques jusqu'à la chute du royaume Burgonde (534), Lyon : Bernoux et Cumin Éditeurs, p. 100, ill : p. 151
FL/STE/1895 ; Inv 479
SC/ESP/3 ; Inv 5459
1990 - BISHOP M.C., Legio V Alaudae and the Crested lark, in : JRMES 1, Newcastle upon Tyne, p. 161-164
1995 - LAVAGNE Henri, Un mausolée inconnu à Glanum, dans : CEASARODUNUM T. XXIX, Mélanges Raymond Chevallier, vol. 2,
Histoire & Archéologie, T. 2, Centre de Recherches A. Piganiol, p. 189-204 : ill.
rangé dans les dossiers d’œuvres
AM21/17 ; Inv 07-9206
Monographie - Caesarodunum - 0245-5196 (Caesarodunum, XXIX, 1995, Lavagne H., Un mausolée inconnu à Glanum, dans Mélanges offerts à R. Chevallier, p. 189-203)
Monographie - Recueil d'antiquités égyptiennes, étrusques, grecques et romaines - Caylus, Anne Claude Philippe de Pestels de Lévis de Tubièr, 1692-1765, comte de - 1752
(T 7, page 256, n° 1, pl. LXXIV)
Ouvrage de référence - Recueil général des bas-reliefs de la Gaule romaine - Espérandieu, Émile, 1857-1939 - Lantier, Raymond, 1886-1980 - 1907
(1, 1907, page 107, n° 130)