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THE SOCIETY FOR
THE PROMOTION OF
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THE JOURNAL OF ROMAN STUDIES

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SCOPE: The *Journal* aims to publish papers in the full range of the field which the Roman Society was established to promote, that is 'the study of the history, archaeology, literature, and art of Italy and the Roman Empire, from the earliest times down to about A.D. 700'. Although the emphasis of the *Journal* has been on historical themes, we welcome submissions on literary, archaeological and art historical topics, including those on issues of cultural and intellectual history that cut across these categories. Papers primarily concerned with the archaeology of Roman Britain should be sent in the first place to *Britannia*; those concerned with the archaeology of the Roman Empire at large are equally welcomed by this *Journal*.

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Roman Society Journals: The Future

Members of the Society will be gradually becoming aware of a number of changes in the way its journals, *Journal of Roman Studies* and *Britannia*, are produced and disseminated. One tell-tale sign is the appearance on the 2010 volume of each journal of the logo of Cambridge University Press accompanying the more familiar Roma of the Society. This is a sign that in its centenary year, after one hundred years of publishing its journal(s) in house, the Society has decided to confide the publishing side of its activities to a leading academic and commercial publishing house. In this note I would like to offer members an account of the rationale behind this decision and to outline what the move will mean both now and for the future.

The principal reason for the move is that CUP, in particular its Journals division, offers far greater resources of technical and marketing expertise than the Society could ever hope to command on the basis of its own resources. In particular, CUP has the resources and experience to transfer the principal medium of publication for the journals from traditional print volumes to digital dissemination. However comforting the sight of a run of the printed journals on the shelves, it is a fact that both libraries and other institutional subscribers, as well as individual users, have increasingly moved to making journals available and to accessing them online. For libraries the savings in shelving are considerable and for the individual the journals become accessible from wherever they can get online, and of course the relevant volume is never 'out'. Indeed, the Society had already moved a long way down this route with electronic access to current and recent volumes through Ingenta and access to back numbers through JSTOR. So in a way this is simply the working-through of the final stages of this journey. But there is more to it than that, since the resources of CUP allow much greater and more sophisticated use of electronic formats, as outlined below. As a major academic publisher with offices world-wide, CUP affords the Society the prospect of raising the visibility of the journals and increasing their penetration into academic markets where at present they have little saliency. In part this is simply by information on the journals being placed on the CUP websites, but more importantly it is through their marketing division actively promoting the journals in new markets or existing markets where there seems still to be room for further take-up of the journals. Allied to this there is what might be termed a defensive reason for the move. CUP offers institutions such as universities both in Europe and in North America 'bundles' of journals in related fields (and several other British academic classical and archaeological journals have also recently signed up with the Press). This means that subscribing institutions cannot pick off individual journals in the bundle; in a time of severe constraints on academic and library spending this would have been a serious risk for the Society's journals had they not had the protection of the herd. It should also be added that the agreement that the Society has entered into with CUP is one that should have a very favourable financial out-turn for the Society, attracting substantially more revenue than the Society would have been able to raise through its own unaided efforts.

So how will this impact on the production and dissemination of the journals, and how will this affect the experience of institutional and individual subscribers? The first thing to emphasise is that academic control of the journals and their content remains with the Society. It will be the editors of the two journals, their editorial sub-committees and the Editorial Committee of the Society that will remain responsible for the receipt, refereeing, acceptance or rejection of papers and such matters as commissioning reviews or other contributions and for other elements such as 'Roman Britain in 20xx', as well as any wider decisions about the form and content of the journals. Thus the journals will remain as much the public intellectual property and vehicle of the Society as ever they have been over the last century. Once an article or other material has been accepted and finalised, the first difference subscribers will notice will be that it will become available through the

'Firstview' facility of the CUP website, which is when it will receive a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) and thus be 'published'. This will minimise publication delays (which can be crucial in the world of deadlines such as that for the Research Excellence Framework in the UK) and will also enable more rapid access to significant new discoveries, particularly perhaps the archaeological. The complete, paginated journals will continue to be published (in print and online) in the autumn, at which time the Firstview version will be taken down. Subscribing institutions and members (with the exception of student members who already receive online only) will in future receive the journal in both print and electronic form. The digital format will also of its nature allow immediate and future technical improvements in the journals such as images in colour as well as black-and-white, and in due course advances such as embedded Java applets with manipulable 3-D images of papyri, inscriptions, structures, objects allowing far more detailed autopsy by the reader. There can also be links through to data-bases of a size that would simply not be publishable in the journals by conventional means, or to related sites or other resources. More immediate changes are in the appearance of the volumes, in particular the alterations to the covers of both journals and the introduction of a photograph for the front cover of *Britannia*. This is also the last year in which *Britannia* will have an index, since in future the digital format will make it easier to locate the desired information through a search.

On a related topic, the Society's monograph series. Since these are not journals as such they did not form part of the agreement with CUP. The *JRS* and *Britannia* sub-committees took the opportunity of the negotiations with CUP to review their activity in this area, and the *JRS* sub-committee recommended to the Editorial Committee and thus to Council that the *JRS* monograph series be terminated with the publication of the forthcoming volume of *Monumenta Asiae Minoris Antiqua*, and this was agreed. The *Britannia* sub-committee took the view that there was still a place for its monograph series, which has always operated under rather different financial circumstances, accordingly the *Britannia* monograph series will continue in being.

I would also like to note that the move to publication with CUP is already being greatly helped by the agreement of Dr Lynn Pitts to remain as Publications Secretary: the negotiation of the agreement with CUP on what was agreed by Council to be terms very favourable to the Society was greatly helped by both Dr Pitts and the Secretary, Dr Fiona Haarer, to both of whom we are greatly indebted.

In sum, subscribers to the journals, be they institutions or individuals, should notice relatively little change to the established pattern of publication of the journals. Over the next few years it is hoped they will see an improvement as more digital resources come online in the journals. It was the purpose of the Council of the Roman Society by this link-up with CUP not only to safeguard the continued existence of the journals that over the last hundred years have been such a major contribution by the Society to the world of scholarship but also that as the second century of their publication dawns they should continue to improve in the content, format and services offered to subscribers and other readers across a global and digital academic world scarcely to be imagined by the Society's founders.

Simon Esmonde Cleary
Chairman, Editorial Committee

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Celebratory Verses Presented to the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies on the Occasion of their Centenary by the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies

COMPOSED BY ARMAND D'ANGOUR, ENGLISH BY COLIN SYDENHAM

Arma si magni celebras Maronis,
nec minus nugas lepidas Catulli,
seu tibi carmen placet expolitum
vatis Horati,

si parum cauti recitas Petroni
fabulas, cenamque Trimalchionis,
sive quos acres Juvenalis atrox
iactat iambos,

Livius si quos Tacitusve mordax
fingit annales Italos recordans,
Tullii seu tu petis eloquentis
discere dicta,

sculpta seu priscae monumenta Romae
pertinax quaeris tabulasque pictas,
sive rimaris foliis refertam
bibliothecam,

huc veni, lector, studiis Latinis
maxime aut forsan modice peritus:
ecce, Romanos licet hic abunde
visere libros;

pande thesaurum, veterisque turbae
conscius gaude socius vocari,
quae per aetatem deciens bilustrem
munera tendit.

Sapphicus olim numeris renatum
saeculum Romae cecinit poeta,
Helladis sic vos Socii renatos
concelebramus.

If Virgil's epic, or Catullus's
seductive pleasantries are what you praise,
or Horace's exquisite skill to craft
the jewelled phrase;

if brash Petronius and Trimalchio's
epicurean orgy suit your taste,
or the indignant barbs of Juvenal
with poison laced;

or if to Livy or sharp Tacitus
in search of Roman history you go,
or for the arts of eloquence you turn
to Cicero;

if sculpted monuments from Roman times
and frescoed villa-walls attract your gaze;
if bookishly you scour the library's
well-furnished bays;

come hither, reader, of whatever grade,
expertly or more moderately skilled,
by Roman texts in plenty here your needs
shall be fulfilled;

unveil the treasure, and rejoice to be
a member of a long-respected band,
whose life of service now a hundred years
has proudly spanned.

To greet renewed Roman society
a Sapphic song was once the poet's choice:
To your renewal we Hellenic friends
now raise our voice.