

BEYOND THE ROMAN FRONTIER  
Roman Influences on the Northern  
Barbaricum

EDITED BY  
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## Foreword

This volume contains ten articles written by classical and prehistorical archaeologists from Århus and Copenhagen Universities and the National Museum. The articles deal with different aspects of the impact of the Roman Empire on the southern Scandinavian Iron Age society. The first article looks out from the Empire to investigate how much the geographical and ethnographical sources in fact reveal about the knowledge of the northern regions. The next three articles explore aspects of what might be termed 'intellectual' influences, namely, the coming of literacy and monetarisation and the transference of grave and sacrifice customs. The last six articles concentrate on a military aspect. While the first of these attempt to illustrate a relation to the Romans of a military-diplomatic nature, the remaining five deal with various facets of the organization of the Germanic army and its development in relation to the Roman army as an influential factor.

Relations between the Roman Empire and the *Barbaricum* east of the Rhine and north of the Danube have been studied for more than a century. Central issues have been, for instance, the Roman expansion northwards from the time of Caesar and Augustus or the nature of the so-called '*Klientstaaten*', i.e. Barbaric 'kingdoms' just outside the borders that were believed to have been under Roman hegemony. The history and archaeology of the frontiers of the Empire, an important part of Roman provincial studies, found a suitable forum in the organisation of the 1<sup>st</sup> International Congress of Roman Frontier Studies in Newcastle in 1949. With an assembly every three years since then and completing a circle, as the 21<sup>st</sup> Congress and 60<sup>th</sup> an-

niversary will be held in Newcastle in 2009, the progresses in the different parts of the frontiers of the Empire could be charted and shared with colleagues from all over the world.

In the 1990s, a new step was taken into *Barbaricum* with the initiation of the *Corpus der römischen Funde im europäischen Barbaricum*, a project mapping most Roman remains outside the Empire in Europe.

Also within prehistorical archaeology, the study of the Roman Iron Age in Europe and particularly southern Scandinavia has revealed interesting projects in the last decade, dealing with Roman-Germanic relations. Several of these emanated from the National Museum of Denmark, for instance, the exhibition '*The Spoils of Victory – The North in the Shadow of the Roman Empire*' in 2003. In that year, the two fields of study, classical, or Roman provincial archaeology and prehistorical archaeology met at the 19<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Roman Frontier Studies in Pécs in Hungary. This forum had seen a need to expand the horizon of the Roman Frontier Studies, and in a session titled '*Roman Frontiers – Barbarians*' a part of the contributors to this volume, Ulla Lund Hansen, Xenia Pauli Jensen, Klaus Hvid, Svend Erik Albrethsen and the editor, presented papers, for the first time in this forum firmly taking relations between the Romans and 'Barbarians' all the way to the southern parts of Scandinavia. At that time it was decided that the editor should bring together these papers in the present publication. During this process, papers relevant to the topic by Mads Drevs Dyhrfjeld-Johnsen, Lisbeth Imer and Line Bjerg were added.

2005 revealed another sign of the rising interest in *Barbaricum* within studies of the Roman

world. At the 15<sup>th</sup> International Roman Military Equipment Conference in Budapest the main theme were to be *'The Enemies of Rome'*. Presentations given here by Xenia Pauli Jensen and the editor were added, leading to the ten articles presented in this volume.

By publishing the articles in a supplementary volume to *Analecta Romana Instituti Danici* it is the authors' hope to further expand the awareness among scholars of the classical world that the societies of Europe in the first centuries AD may have been more closely interrelated than

hitherto believed. For the opportunity to do so, I would like to thank the Danish Academy in Rome and particularly Assistant Director, Birgit Tang, for her valuable help in the process.

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Thomas Grane, editor