

n

UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS
SCHOOL OF GREEK, LATIN AND ANCIENT HISTORY

AN 3031
The Roman Economy

(30 CREDITS)

Department of Ancient History

Second Semester 2000

ANCIENT HISTORY 3031: THE ROMAN ECONOMY

Class Co-ordinator: Professor Greg Woolf
Teaching: Professor Greg Woolf

Scope:

The aim of this course is offer students a chance to examine the economies of imperial Italy and the Roman provinces through a combination of archaeological and historical material and approaches.

The module will be taught through a series of case studies selected to represent the wide range of societies within the empire and also the various forms of evidence on which discussion of the economy is based; rural survey, shipwrecks, transport amphorae, excavations, agronomical writings and ethical and satirical writings. These case studies will also cover systematically some key themes in the ancient economy, among them the nature of agricultural production; of peasant societies and of medium and large scale agricultural enterprises; the involvement of the wealthy in agriculture; non-agricultural production; the internal economies of cities; the impact of urbanisation, imperialism and the activities of the elite on economic activity; landscapes of production; transport and exchange; monetarisation; the impact of the army on local economies. Discussion of theoretical issues (substantivism, minimalism, the consumer city and so on) will as far as possible be reserved until the end of the course, at which point it can be based on a knowledge of the realien.

Teaching Methods:

The course will be taught in a mixture of lectures and seminars. The class hours are 9-11 a.m. Mondays and are 9-11 a.m. Fridays. All will take place in **the Archaeology Room** on the ground floor of Swallowgate. Attendance at all seminars is compulsory, and students are expected to look at the Basic Reading and some of the sources for all seminars, not just those for which they are writing essays. Please bring your module booklets to every class.

Course requirements and Assessment

The assessed work of the course consists of three essays of 2000 words each, which will count for 50% of the assessment, and an examination at the end of the semester which will count for the other 50%. **Students are required to pass both parts of the assessment.**

Each student must do at least one essay from seminars 1-4 and at least one from seminars 5-8. Each essay is to be handed in at the seminar when it will be discussed. I have suggested a question for each topic but if you prefer to write about a different aspect of the seminar topic, feel free. Late submission of essays may incur penalties as outlined in the General School Booklet. Please submit **TWO COPIES** of each assessed essay; one will be returned to you with comments, the other will be kept for the external examiner to read if he wishes to do so. The examination will last for three hours. Each candidate will be required to write two commentaries from a choice of picture-questions and documents, and to write two essays chosen from six.

Reference

K.Greene The Archaeology of the Roman Economy (London 1986) provides a rich collection of material. F. Meijer and O. van Nijf Trade, transport and society in the ancient world. A sourcebook (London 1992) collects translations of key documents. P. Garnsey and R. Saller, The Roman Empire. Economy, Society and Culture (London 1987) includes the best short account of the Roman economy. Otherwise there are few good general accounts, but the provincial surveys in volumes X (and XI forthcoming) of the Cambridge Ancient History are useful, and volume XII has two good chapters on the economy in the late empire.

Web-site

I have set up a module web-site at

<http://www.st-and.ac.uk/~gdw2/RomanEconomy.html>

This contains some documentation and links to external sites. I will add to it during the course and you are advised to check it every so often.

Programme of Lectures and Classes

Week 1	Monday Friday Lecture	ENROLLMENT The Cultural Biography of the Roman Olive
Week 2	Monday Lecture Friday Class	Peasant Economics Wealth and Virtue
Week 3	Monday Lecture Friday Seminar 1	The Family as a managerial unit Viticulture in Italy
Week 4	Monday Lecture Friday Seminar 2	Banking Landholding in Egypt
Week 5	Monday Lecture Friday Seminar 3	Law and the economy Shipping and trade
Week 6	Monday Lecture Friday Seminar 4	Fishing for profit Ceramic Production
EASTER		
Week 8	Monday Lecture Friday Seminar 5	Financing urbanism The economics of food-supply
Week 9	Monday Lecture Friday Seminar 6	Financing imperialism Coinage and money in the Roman economy
Week 10	Monday Lecture Friday Seminar 7	Moses Finley and his critics Imperial taxation and the economy
Week 11	Monday Lecture Friday Seminar 8	Modelling imperial systems Models of the ancient city*

*OR An essay on some other approved topic within the scope of the course.

If you choose to take this option for your last essay you ought to see me two or three weeks in advance to get some bibliography. The topic must be one that I approve, but apart from that you can choose anything not covered by the lectures and classes, whether it is the economics of quarrying or of tenancy, the impact on local economies of garrisons or of temples, the Elder Pliny on consumption or Vergil on bee-keeping, the strengths and weaknesses of ancient pastoralism, the management of imperial estates in Africa, or anything else that takes your fancy. The deadline will be Friday of week 11. just as for the essay on 'Models of the Ancient City'.

SEMINARS / ESSAYS

Journals are abbreviated in the standard forms - you can look them up in the front of the OCD³ (= Oxford Classical Dictionary, 3rd Edition).

Seminar 1 Viticulture in Italy

What were the conditions that made it possible for wine-growers in central Italy to increase their productivity so markedly in the last century of the Republic?

Greene, K. Archaeology of the Roman Economy, London 1986 ch.

Carandini, A. Columella's vineyards and the rationality of the Roman economy, Opus 3 (1983) 177-204 - if you feel like it follow up C.'s references to Columella

Carandini, A., Italian wine and African oil: commerce in a world empire, in The Birth of Europe. Archaeology and Social Development in the First Millenium AD edited by K.Randsborg. Rome 1989, pp.16-24.

Rathbone, D. W. The development of agriculture in the "Ager Cosanus" during the Roman period: problems of evidence and interpretation, JRS 71 (1981) 10-23.

Purcell, N. Wine and wealth in ancient Italy,' JRS 75 (1985) 1-19.

Tchernia, A. Le vin d'Italie romaine. Essai d'histoire économique d'après les amphores. Rome, 1986 - an excellent account. If you don't read French look up as many reviews as possible to get some sense of the argument.

Tchernia, A., Italian wine in Gaul at the end of the Republic, in P.Garnsey et al. eds. Trade in the Ancient Economy, London 1983, 87-104.

General Background

Peacock, D.P.S. and Williams, D.F. Amphorae and the Roman Economy. An introductory guide. London, 1986.

Potter, T.W. Roman Italy, London 1987, chapter 5

d'Arms, J. Commerce and social standing in ancient Rome, Cambridge MA, 1981.

Rathbone, D.W. The slave mode of production in Italy. JRS 73 (1983) 160-8.

Seminar 2 Landholding in Egypt

What impact did the management practices developed by the owners of large estates in Roman Egypt have on peasant agriculture and rural society?

Two major books are fundamental to this essay:

Rathbone D. W. Economic Rationalism and Rural Society in third-century A.D. Egypt. The Heroninos Archive and the Appianus Estate, Cambridge, 1991.

Rowlandson, Jane Landowners and tenants in Roman Egypt : the social relations of agriculture in the Oxyrhynchite Nome, Oxford, 1996.

note there is a review of Rathbone in JRA (6) 1993 by Kehoe, and one by Rathbone of Kehoe's thesis on management of Egyptian estates in JRA (7) 1994. It might be interesting to compare them.

On the size and distribution of landholdings:

Bowman, A.K. Landholding in the Hermopolite nome in the fourth century A.D. JRS 75 (1985), 137-63

Duncan-Jones, R.P. Structure and Scale in the Roman Economy. Cambridge, 1990, ch. 8

Bagnall, R. Landholding in late Roman Egypt: the distribution of wealth. JRS 82 (1992), 128-149.

Excellent background is provided by:

Bowman, A.K., Egypt after the Pharaohs : 332 BC-AD 642 : from Alexander to the Arab conquest, London 1986, chapter 4

Seminar 3 Shipping and trade

What does the archaeological evidence for maritime trade indicate about the organization and significance of ancient trade?

Shipping:

Greene, K. Archaeology of the Roman Economy, London 1986 ch. II - for wrecks

Parker, A.J. 1990. Classical Antiquity: the maritime dimension. Antiquity 64: 335-46.

du Plat Taylor, J. and Cleere H. eds. Roman shipping and trade: Britain and the Rhine provinces, London 1978.

Hopkins K. 'Models, ships and staples,' in P. Garnsey and C. R. Whittaker (eds.) Trade and Famine in Classical Antiquity, PCPhS supplement, Cambridge 1983, 84-109

Distributions of ceramic containers and tableware:

Paterson, J. 'Salvation from the sea': Amphorae and trade in the Roman West. JRS 72 (1982) 146-157 - a key article

Fulford, M. Economic interdependence among urban communities of the Roman Mediterranean. World Archaeology 19 (1987) 58-75.

Woolf, G.D. Imperialism, empire and the integration of the Roman economy, World Archaeology 23.3 (1992), 283-93.

Peacock, D.P.S. Pottery and early commerce: characterization and trade in Roman and later ceramics London, 1977. - useful essays, especially on archaeological science

Documentary Evidence:

Meijer F. and van Nijf, O. Trade, transport and society in the ancient world. A sourcebook. London, 1992

On the traders:

d'Arms, J. Commerce and social standing in ancient Rome, Cambridge MA, 1981.

Pleket H. (1983) Urban élites and business in the Greek part of the Roman empire, in P. Garnsey, K. Hopkins and C. R. Whittaker (eds.) Trade in the Ancient Economy (London) 131-44

Whittaker, C. R. Land, city and trade in the Roman Empire, Aldershot, 1993 ch. XII originally published in Opus 4 (1988) 49-75

Seminar 4 Ceramic Production

How were some producers able to manufacture cheap tableware and other ceramic artefacts in such enormous quantities and market it over such vast areas?

Two important general accounts:

Greene, K. Archaeology of the Roman Economy, London 1986 pp.156-168

Peacock, D. P. S., Pottery in the Roman world : an ethnoarchaeological approach, London 1982.

The organization of the industry:

Fülle, G., The internal organization of the Arretine terra sigillata industry: problems of evidence and interpretation, JRS 87 (1997) 111-155

Harris, W.V. ed .The inscribed economy : production and distribution in the Roman Empire in the light of instrumentum domesticum, JRA supplement 6, Ann Arbor, MI 1993. - lots here that is relevant if you have a little Italian. If not, read the paper by Aubert and Harris' closing remarks.

Cockle, H. Pottery manufacture in Roman Egypt, JRS 71 (1981) 87-97.

Aubert, J.-J. Business Managers in Ancient Rome. A social and economic study of institores 200 BC - AD 250, New York, 1994

Harris, W.V. 1980. Roman terracotta lamps: the organization of an industry, JRS 70 (1980) 126-45

Peacock, D. P. S., Bejaoui, F. and Ben Lazreg, N. Roman pottery production in central Tunisia, JRA 3 (1990) 59-84

Seminar 5 The economics of food-supply

How did Roman societies sustain comparatively high levels of urbanization given the the aridity of much of the Mediterranean world, and the unpredictability of agricultural yields from one year to the next in many part of the region?

Ecological constraints and possible strategies:

Halstead, Paul and O'Shea, John ed. Bad year economics : cultural responses to risk and uncertainty, Cambridge, 1989 - introduction and the paper by Dekker and Jongman

Foxhall, L. and Forbes, H. A. Sitometreia. The role of grain as a staple food in classical antiquity, Chiron 12 (1982) 41-90.

Garnsey, P. Famine and Food Supply in the Graeco-Roman World. Responses to Risk and Crisis. Cambridge: 1988 chapters 1-5

Garnsey, P. Cities, peasants and food in classical antiquity. Essays in social and economic history, Cambridge: 1998 chs. 14 and 16

Holden, P. and Purcell, N. The Corrupting Sea. A study of Mediterranean history, Oxford, 2000 - browse

Markets and authorities:

Rickman, G. The corn supply of ancient Rome, Oxford, 1980

Morley, N. Metropolis and hinterland. The city of Rome and the Italian economy, Cambridge 1996

Rathbone, D.W. The grain trade and grain shortages in the Hellenistic East. in Trade and Famine in Classical Antiquity P.Garnsey and C.R.Whittaker eds. Cambridge, 1983 pp.45-55.

D'Arms, J. and Kopff, E. C. eds. The Seaborne Commerce of Ancient Rome: studies in archaeology and history, Rome, 1980

Seminar 6 Coinage, money and prices in the Roman economy

What kinds of exchange and other economic activity best account for the archaeology of Roman and provincial coinages?

Greene, K. Archaeology of the Roman Economy, London 1986 ch. III

Wigg, D. The development of the monetary economy in N. Gaul in the late La Tène and early Roman periods, in J. D. Creighton and R.J.A. Wilson eds. Roman Germany. Studies in Cultural Interaction, JRA supplement 32, Portsmouth RI, 99-124

The integration of the economy:

Duncan-Jones, R.P. Money and government in the Roman Empire, Cambridge 1994.

Duncan-Jones, R.P. Structure and Scale in the Roman Economy. Cambridge, 1990, ch.2

The debate over the extent of monetised exchange:

Crawford, M.H. Money and exchange in the Roman World. JRS 60 (1970) 40-48

Howgego, C. J. The supply and use of money in the Roman world, 200 B.C. - A.D. 300, JRS 82 (1992), 1-31

Howgego, C. J. Coin circulation and the integration of the Roman economy, JRA 7 (1994), 5-21

Prices, and awareness of monetary value

Duncan-Jones, R.P. The Economy of the Roman Empire: quantitative studies. 2nd edtn., Cambridge, 1982 chapters 3-5

Seminar 7 Imperial taxation and the economy

Why did Romans tax wealth and economic activity the way they did? What impact did imperial taxation have on the economies of the Roman world?

The Roman way of taxing:

Brunt, P. A. Roman Imperial Themes, Oxford, 1990 ch. 15 - this is absolutely fundamental. It is a lightly revised version of a fundamental paper that first appeared in JRS 1981. Some other chapters in this volume of collected articles are also relevant.

Rathbone, D. W. The imperial finances, CAH X, Cambridge 1996, ch.8

The Impact of taxation:

Hopkins, K. 1980 Taxes and trade in the Roman Empire, 200 BC- AD 200. JRS 70 (1980) 101-25

Duncan-Jones, R.P. Structure and Scale in the Roman Economy. Cambridge: 1990, chs. 2 & 12

Mitchell, S. Anatolia. Land, men and gods in Asia Minor. Volume I. The Celts and the Impact of Roman Rule, Oxford, 1993, ch. 14

Corbier, M. City, territory and taxation, in J. Rich and A. Wallace-Hadrill ed. City and Country in the Ancient World London, 1991, 211-39

For comparison - a local tax law:

Matthews, J. F. The tax law of Palmyra: evidence for economic history in a city of the Roman East, JRS 74 (1984) 157-180

Seminar 8 Models of the ancient city

Why has ‘the role of the city’ been so central, and so controversial, in scholarly debates over the nature of the ancient economy?

On the “Ancient Economy”:

Finley, M.I.. The Ancient Economy 2nd Edtn. London, 1985

Harris, W.V. Between archaic and modern: some current problems in the history of the Roman economy, in W.V. Harris ed .The inscribed economy : production and distribution in the Roman Empire in the light of instrumentum domesticum, JRA supplement 6, Ann Arbor, MI 1993, 11-30

General discussion of the ancient city:

Finley M.I. The Ancient City from Fustel de Coulanges to Max Weber. Comparative Studies in Society and History 19 (1977) pp.305-327 reprinted in M.I.Finley Economy and Society in Ancient Greece, London, 1981

Wallace-Hadrill, A. Elites and trade in the Roman town, in J. Rich and A.Wallace-Hadrill ed. City and County in the Ancient World London, 1991, 241-72

Whittaker, C. R. Land, city and trade in the Roman Empire, Aldershot, 1993 chapters VIII and IX (ch. VIII, ‘The Consumer City revisited: the vicus and the city’ was originally published in JRA 3 (1990) 110-117)

Attempts to apply models of the ancient city to actual cases:

Jongman W. The Economy and Society of Pompeii., Amsterdam 1988

It is worth looking up a few reviews of this controversial book e.g Banajii JRS 79 (1989); Mouritsen Classica et Mediaevalia 41 (1990); Purcell CR n.s.40 (1990); Frier JRA 4 (1991)

Engels, D. 1990. Roman Corinth. An alternative model for the classical city, Chicago.

again note the reviews in CR 1993, JRS 1993

Parkins, Helen M. ed. Roman urbanism: beyond the consumer city, London, 1997.