

ROMAN EMPIRE

‘POWER & PEOPLE’



A British Museum Tour

Bristol Museum & Art Gallery, 21 September – 12 January 2014

Bristol Museum & Art Gallery are preparing for a Roman takeover next week as it hosts the largest ever UK exhibition of Roman artefacts on loan from the British Museum this autumn, sponsored by Brewin Dolphin and Bond Dickinson.

Roman Empire: Power & People brings together over 160 stunning pieces from the British Museum to explore the story of one of the most powerful empires the world has ever seen.

Highlights include sculpture from the villas of the Emperors Tiberius and Hadrian, coins from the famous Hoxne treasure, beautiful jewellery and even near-perfectly preserved children's clothing from Roman Egypt.

The exhibition explores the wealth, power and organisation of the Empire, but also how the Romans viewed their provinces and other peoples. Religious, military and personal objects give an insight into the lives of people across the Empire, from northern Britain to Egypt and the Middle East. These fascinating objects show how the influences of the many people and places that the Romans came into contact with were absorbed and adapted into the Empire.

Julie Finch, Director of Bristol Museums, Galleries and Archives says "To be able to co-curate the exhibition with the British Museum has been very exciting.

We have been given a wonderful opportunity to bring together some of the British Museum's finest pieces from across the Roman world that have never been displayed together in this way before. For our visitors, it provides the opportunity to see these amazing objects in Bristol for the first time

The exhibition has also given us the chance to include Romano-British material from our own rich collections, setting a local context for our visitors. I am delighted that Brewin Dolphin and Bond Dickinson are sponsoring this important exhibition and am extremely grateful to them for their support”

Neil MacGregor, Director of the British Museum said “Following the huge success of the British Museum’s major exhibition ‘Life and death in Pompeii and Herculaneum’ it is clear that the Roman world continues to fascinate and surprise us. I am delighted to collaborate with Bristol Museums, Galleries and Archives on this exhibition that explores the wider Roman Empire in relation to the British Isles and that it will be seen in so many regions of the UK.”

“As a partner in this prestigious exhibition,” says Alex Barrell, Regional Director of Brewin Dolphin, “we are privileged to help bring to Bristol some of the greatest treasures from the British Museum’s Roman, Romano-British and Romano-Egypt collections.”

“We are delighted to partner Bristol Museum in this magnificent exhibition,” says Andrew Allan-Jones, Partner at Bond Dickinson LLP, “especially as this is the first city to host this touring show that’s been developed here in Bristol.”

Alongside the exhibition visitors will have the opportunity to see examples of Bristol’s own Roman collections including the Orpheus Mosaic. The 16ft square mosaic ‘pavement’ was found in Newton St Loe, nr Bath in 1837 by Brunel’s railway navvies, and this is only the second time it has been on public show in more than 150 years.

Roman Empire: Power & People will be accompanied by a programme of events and activities. Highlights include a **‘Remarkable Romans’** event for all the family (30 October). Meet Roman re-enactors, take a behind the scenes store tour, handle real Roman objects, get a Roman make over and make a Roman helmet to take home.

Roman Empire: Power & People debuts at Bristol Museum & Art Gallery and is the only stop in the south-west before touring the UK. With thanks to Brewin Dolphin, exhibition sponsor, Bond Dickinson, exhibition sponsor and Bristol Water, education sponsor.

Open daily, except Christmas day and Boxing Day.

Tickets £5 / £4 concessions / £3 children / Free Under 5s/ Family Ticket £10 (2 adults and 2 children or 1 adult and 3 children. Family ticket includes a ‘Being Roman’ kit bag for younger visitors to use while in the exhibition.

-ENDS-

Editors Notes:

For further information and images, contact Claire Royall, Marketing Officer on 0117 352 12 95
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- *Roman Empire: Power & People* is supported through the generosity of the Dorset Foundation. The exhibition has been supported in Bristol by Brewin Dolphin (exhibition sponsor), Bond Dickinson (exhibition sponsor) and Bristol Water (education sponsor)
- The exhibition has been co-curated by Bristol Museums, Galleries & Archives and the British Museum
- The tour is organised through the British Museum's Partnership UK scheme. Partnership UK is the strategic framework for the British Museum's programme of engagement with museum audiences throughout the country.
- The tour is accompanied by the beautifully illustrated publication, *Roman Empire: Power and People*, by Dirk Booms, Belinda Crerar and Susan Raikes, published by the British Museum Press in paperback at £10.99.
- Following its debut at Bristol Museum & Art Gallery, the exhibition will tour:

Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery: 1 February – 27 April 2014

The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry: 17 May – 31 August 2014

Leeds Museum & Art Gallery tbc 20 September 2014 – 4 January 2015

The McManus Galleries, Dundee: 24 January – 10 May 2015

Segedunum Roman Fort, Tyne & Wear Museums: 30 May – 13 September 2015

- **For further information**, please contact the Press Office on 020 7323 8583 / 8394 or communications@britishmuseum.org

Bristol Museums, Galleries & Archives Romano-British Collection: This is a regionally representative collection which relates to the whole of the Roman period, from post-conquest to end of Roman rule. It includes many early and important acquisitions such as a fragment of the Orpheus mosaic from Withington Villa (Glos.) in 1825. As a whole, it comprises items from religious, urban, civilian, and military sites. Material acquired through controlled excavation in the City dates back to 1899 with the excavation of Brislington Roman Villa. Material from other major excavated sites includes that from Gatcombe and Kings Weston Roman villas, Nettleton Shrub, Camerton, Chew Valley Lake and Bristol's own Roman settlement at Sea Mills (PortusAbonae). New elements have been more recently acquired from South Gloucestershire, notably the Mangotsfield stone coffin and excavated material from Bradley Stoke and the Emerson's Green area.

Exhibition listing

Roman Empire: Power & People

A British Museum Tour

21 September – 12 January 2014

£5 / £4 concessions / £3 children / Free under 5's

Free Fridays: 8 November and 3 January

Roman Empire: Power & People explores the story of one of the most formidable empires the world has ever seen.

See over 160 stunning pieces from the British Museum, including sculpture from the villas of the Emperors Tiberius and Hadrian, coins from the famous Hoxne treasure, beautiful jewellery and even near-perfectly preserved children's clothing.

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FREE Supporting displays

Return from the Underworld Sat 3 Aug – 12 Jan 2014

Visit the Balcony Gallery and discover the Orpheus Mosaic from Newton St Loe, one of our largest Roman objects!

The Romans and Bristol Sat 19 Oct – 12 Jan 2014

An exhibition of Bristol's own Roman collections and the people who discovered them!

About the Sponsors:

Brewin Dolphin – Exhibition Sponsor

The Brewin Dolphin Group manages £28 billion of funds for over 130,000 private clients and of this over £20 billion is on a discretionary basis. BD has 39 offices throughout the UK and the Channel Islands.

Brewin Dolphin Limited ("BD") is the principal operating company of Brewin Dolphin Holdings PLC. BD is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and is a member of the London Stock Exchange.

Established in 1762, Brewin Dolphin is one of the UK's largest independently-owned private client wealth managers. The Group provides a wide-ranging investment management and financial planning service for private investors, charities and pension funds. Stocktrade is the Group's Execution-Only telephone and online dealing division.

Bond Dickinson – Exhibition Sponsor

Bond Dickinson LLP is a leading national law firm providing expertise to many of the UK's pre-eminent organisations and high net worth individuals. It is recognised nationally for our work in the chemicals and manufacturing, energy and natural resources, financial institutions, real estate, retail and consumer goods, transport and infrastructure and private wealth sectors, and for our approach to client service. It operates from eight offices in the UK including, Aberdeen, Bristol, Leeds, London, Newcastle, Plymouth, Southampton and Tees Valley.

Bond Dickinson LLP was formed in May 2013 through the merger of Bond Pearce LLP and Dickinson Dees LLP and is authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

Bristol Water – Education sponsor

Bristol Water supplies drinking water to approximately 12 million people in an area of 2,400 square kilometres centred on Bristol Chew Valley Lake, the company's largest reservoir, can hold 20,460 million litres of water and is situated to the south of Bristol. The area the lake covers was once rich farmland and before the reservoir was constructed, excavations at the site found evidence of people

belonging to the periods known as Upper Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age. Roman material was also discovered, indicating agricultural and industrial activity from the first to third centuries AD. Bristol Water is delighted to support the education programme which accompanies the Roman Empire, Power & People Exhibition, following on to its education programme sponsorship of the popular Chocolate! exhibition earlier this year at M Shed.