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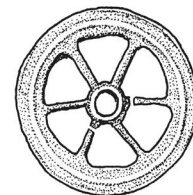


INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

thermae in Context – The Roman Bath in Town and in Life

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21st - 24th February 2013

Abbaye de Neumünster, Salle José Ensich, 28, rue Münster, Luxembourg



Abstracts

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Centre national de recherche archéologique



The Roman *vicus* at Dalheim

Jean Krier, Centre National de Recherche Archéologique Luxembourg

The first part of the paper is a historical review of the research on the Roman settlement at Dalheim with its beginnings in the 17th c. until the seventies of the 20th c. Based on the systematic research executed in Dalheim since 1976 by the Luxembourg National Museum of History and Art, in particular by means of excavations, aerial archaeology and geophysical surveys, an interim overall plan of the *vicus* can be presented. The 35 hectares expanse of the settlement and its obvious division in public and private areas illustrate the special status of the *vicus* at Dalheim which was situated on a major Roman long-distance road, the *via Agrippa* between the Mediterranean and the Rhine, and thus determined during the four centuries of its history. The last two decades of archaeological study have definitely proven that the Roman settlement at Dalheim can be identified with the station *Ricciaco* of the *Tabula Peutingeriana*. In conclusion, Dalheim's historical development will be presented chronologically: from its origin in the mid-Augustan period to its collapse in the early 5th c. AD.

The theatre and the baths at Dalheim – a religious architectural complex?

Peter Henrich, Deutsche Limeskommission

In 1985, 1999-2003 and 2007-2008 the Roman theatre of Dalheim was excavated. Together with the Roman bath, found in 2003, and some roman or post-roman buildings discovered during geophysical prospection between the theater and the baths there are, as shown by J. Krier and H. Pösche, new hints for another part of the vicus Ricciacus laying in the valley next to and north of the plateau where Roman remains were discovered already in the 18. century. On the plateau are located a sanctuary, the main roads and more than 14ha of private building area. In contrast, there were except from the theatre and the thermae with the references given by the fortuna altar, the statue and the small finds no further information about the character of the settlement in the valley.

As shown in the presentation of H. Pösche the finds documented immediately west of the therma indicate an area that wasn't used only for a palestra. In my presentation I try to find out the nature and function of the settlement in the valley by examining the theatre and the baths and comparing it with other examples in Gaule and Upper Germany where a temple, thermae and theatre were related in any kind of ways.

***Balnea Ricciensium* – The Roman Bath at Dalheim**

Heike Pösche, University of Cologne

The Roman Bath at Dalheim has been excavated recently, in 2003/2004 under the direction of Dr Jean Krier and in 2008/2009 under the direction of Dr Peter Henrich and Heike Pösche.

The bath itself is a rather small and modest example of a so called *Reihentyp*. The initial bath building has been enlarged and renovated in the third century. This entailed a new drain system with a sedimentation basin in which lost objects were found such as jewellery, coins and vessels.

Most of the small finds from the excavation were discovered on a large place south of the building. This place could be the *palaestra* of the bath but it would present an extremely large example for such a small building. The southern corner revealed several fragments of sculptural décor.

The place was filled with sandy layers from the operating period of the bath which were covered with a thick destruction layer from the fire that destroyed the building. They delivered not only parts of furniture, architecture and equipment but most important a large number of personal belongings such as jewellery (esp. brooches, fingerings and hairpins) and tools for different purposes. Some are in direct relation to the bath as they were used for body care; some reveal other activities taking place in the bath such as writing, commerce and gaming. Also, the high number of 1800 coins was found during the excavation. The pottery shards assemblage shows a clear domination of table vessels compared to cooking and storage vessels.

A room next to the frigidarium probably got a special use at least from the middle of the third century on. An altar to Fortuna was erected along with further statues and dedications. Pits and incense burners show that it was probably used for cultic purposes. However, there are very few objects that could be interpreted as votive offerings and these do not show a concentration in this room.

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Small Finds in Roman *thermae*: The state of research

Stefanie Hoss, Small Finds Archaeology / University of Cologne

This conference aims to illuminate two aspects of the social functions of baths, location and activity. The first of these, location, looks at the positioning of *thermae* in the framework of a city or town. The second aspect, activity, is concerned with the different activities that took place in the various rooms of a bath building – besides bathing and its attendant grooming activities (shaving, exfoliation, oiling, etc.). The activities taking place in specific rooms can be deduced from the find assemblage excavated there. In addition to that, the finds give an indication of the wealth and standing of the bath's clientele and of their sex and origin.

As my paper is the opening paper of the session, I will be summarizing the state – or rather the history - of research on small finds in *thermae*. I aim to explain what small finds can tell us about the operation of a bathhouse and will try to give an overview of the work done so far. In this, I shall by no means be exhaustive. My aim is rather to attempt presenting the main trends in the history of research on small finds from *thermae*.

I also would like to point out some of the stratigraphical pitfalls that await one when dealing with small finds as evidence of activity.

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Artifact Assemblages from Roman Baths: Expected, Common, and Rare Finds

Alissa M. Whitmore, University of Iowa

Small finds are often discovered within construction and demolition layers in Roman Baths, but it is difficult to determine whether these finds originated from the baths – and thus reflect bathers and their activities – or if they were introduced from domestic or industrial contexts as materials in leveling layers. Complicating this problem, archaeologists do not have a clear understanding of what a bath assemblage actually looks like, since small finds from baths are rarely fully, or even partially, published.

This paper attempts to provide a picture of a typical bath assemblage. I begin with the activities and objects which ancient texts locate in the baths. Next I turn to the archaeological record, focusing on 13 Roman baths from Italy, the UK, Portugal, Switzerland, and Germany, whose artifacts were found in contexts, such as drains, which suggest that these objects were actually used in the baths. I highlight the common artifacts which are found in nearly every bath, as well as rare small finds, which are isolated to only a few baths. Some small finds expected from ancient sources rarely appear in the archaeological record, and I provide some potential reasons for the absence of these objects.

While interpreting construction and demolition layers will always be a challenge, knowledge of typical Roman bath assemblages and the types of objects commonly used in the baths will help archaeologists to determine which artifacts plausibly belong to and reflect use of the baths and which objects are likely extraneous.

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Public thermal baths, private baths, military baths of the Lingones Civitas. Do there exist specific artifacts derived from excavations of Roman baths?

Christian VERNOU, Musée archéologique de Dijon, UMR 6298, ARTÉHIS, Dijon.

In Antiquity the present department of Côte-d'Or (region of Burgundy) essentially covered the territory of the *Civitas* of the *Lingones*. Numerous excavations conducted by the Côte-d'Or Antiquities Commission revealed several examples of Roman baths. The artifacts resulting from these archaeological digs research are, for the most part, housed in the Archaeological Museum of Dijon.

By request of the organizers of this symposium, I decided to investigate the following: is it possible to distinguish a specific type of artifacts extracted from thermal baths as opposed to those extracted from other edifices?

To go further, the example of the thermal baths excavated in Côte-d'Or offer the possibility of categorizing different types of thermal baths: public baths (Vertault), sanctuary baths (Alesia - Sanctuary of Apollo *Moritasgus*), private baths (Braux, Mâlain-Ancey, villa of Selongey), as well as the baths of the military camp (Mirebeau-sur-Bèze).

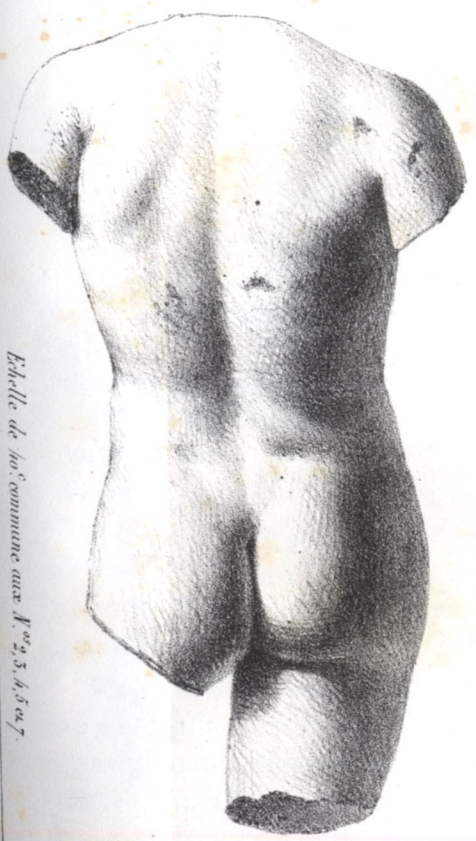
The overall result of my investigation is not entirely conclusive due to the lack of meticulousness of the old excavations and loss of a great deal of information on stratigraphic positions. Bear in mind that baths, like most living spaces for a certain class of people, were regularly cleaned so that it is rare to find : typical artifacts related to toiletry in private baths, more sophisticated objects including statuary in public baths, offerings or *ex-voto* in sanctuary baths, specific artifacts in military camp baths (fibula, armor buckle, dagger sheath, box containing a seal...). This study will be pursued with a more thorough analysis of the documentation.



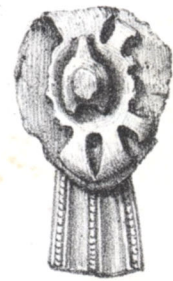
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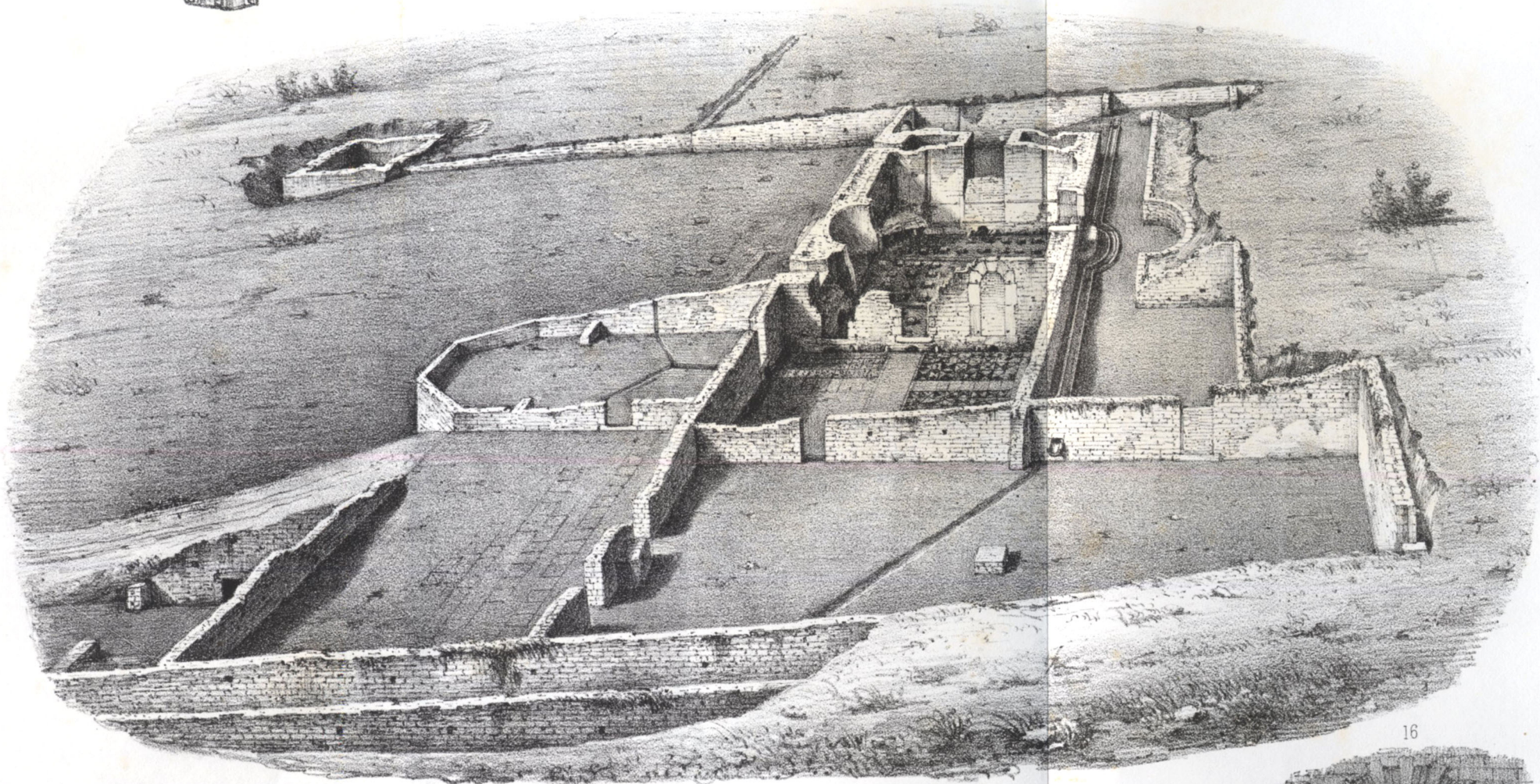
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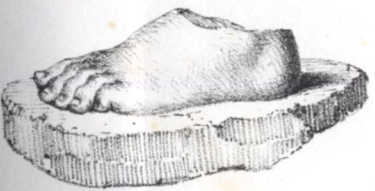
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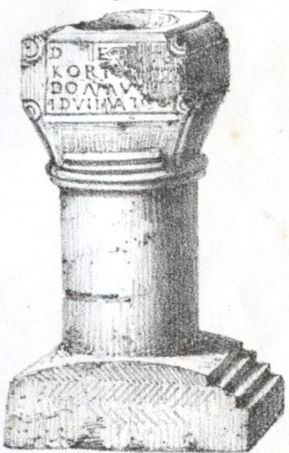
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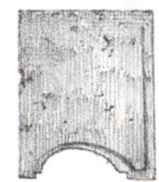
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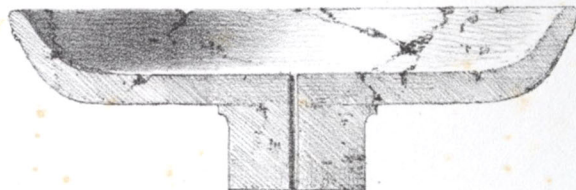
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Large City Baths of the Colonia Carnuntum (Pannonia Superior/Austria). History deduced from waste

Helga Sedlmayer, Österreichisches Archäologisches Institut

The building complex, consisting of macellum, schola, palaestra and city baths in a large area of 14836 m² in the Colonia Carnuntum was completed as an urban redesign of the town centre. As the planning for such a transformation of the settlement area – situated immediately north of the forum – was initiated not earlier than in the Severan period, fundamental changes in the existing building structures were induced. The dating of the construction work in the reign of Septimius Severus is based on the analysis of numerous archaeological findings that had been introduced at the beginning of large-scale infrastructure project in the course of levelling works. - Historically, the construction of the 'Macellum-Baths-Complex' took place at the height of the development of the Roman civil town Carnuntum. At this time, 194 AD, the town was appointed Colonia, only one year after the acclamation of Septimius Severus as emperor in Carnuntum. The precise delineation of the pomerium of the new Colonia was defined by the establishment of a city wall, now the main roads were for the first time surfaced with large stone *slabs* and the organization of a fresh water supply network was initiated. The size of the insula of the 'Macellum-Baths-Complex' with nearly 1.5 ha accounted for at least 3% of the entire walled city area.

The building complex reflects special political implications in the centre of the civil town Carnuntum. The origin of the nearly 1.5 ha wide complex of the great baths, palaestra, schola and macellum, situated immediately north of the forum, is not conceivable without the very decisive moment in the Danubian provinces prevailing concentration of power in the hands of the Severan dynasty. AD 193 L. Septimius Severus was proclaimed Roman emperor by the Pannonian troops in Carnuntum. The building program referred directly to African models. The realization of this program in stone was based on the implementation of infrastructural types, known from the hometown of Septimius Severus - Leptis Magna.

The decline soon followed: The great baths and the macellum kept their original purpose no longer than until the third quarter of the 3rd century. Taphonomic phenomena suggest a fallow lying of building parts, fire debris layers that were deposited during the subsequent use and contexts attest to the disassembled components of the baths establishment.

Specifically these layers of destruction include rich archaeological material, which is to bring in context with the architectural features and the use of the baths. Among the ceramic finds is worth noting that in particular bowls represent a very high percent. Among these, there exists one leading form, which was probably not in use as part of tableware, but much more as an utensil of bathing or sudatorium. Another very common form is the askos, probably used as container for massage oils. Usual finds for the use of the baths by women are hairpins. Cloth accessories, which may suggest to men, are much rarer. Toy is rarely proved. - No information is available to a cultic use of subareas of the baths.

Hygiene and medicine in *Lugdunum*'s baths : the *instrumentum*

Elise Vigier, University of Lyon

This presentation is based on an academic work in progress, dealing with artefacts of hygiene and medicine – of all materials – from old or recent excavations in *Lugdunum*. After a reminder of the state of research on thermal and bath buildings in Lyon, it will be necessary to produce (present) the rare discoveries made in this particular thermal context. Then, the question of the representativeness of this limited sample among the *Lugdunum* corpus will be considered. The spatial analysis of the latter allows us to think of a distribution into large areas. This study leads to larger questions such as places of hygiene and medical practices and on the meaning of the presence of characteristic artefacts of bath practice – for example the strigils - in Lyon contexts.

The 'urban' context of baths in military vici in southern Germany

C. Sebastian Sommer, *Landesarchäologie Bayern*

The general opinion is that next to every fort baths can be found. In a recent article on the Upper German-Raetian Limes the following description was given: „Vor den größeren Kastellen befand sich zudem noch eine zivile Ansiedlung, der *vicus*, in dem auch das obligatorische Badeshaus stand. Dieses immer gleiche Ensemble erweckt insgesamt den Eindruck einer gewissen Monotonie.“ (Förster 2013, 208). True as it may be from an outsiders point of view a closer look reveals a lot of differences, details and specific approaches. However, common rules, perhaps even handbooks, seem to have been the background for the construction and setting of baths at the Limes. To summarize:

1. After a certain period of time every fort had baths, even fortlets, at least if they showed a certain organisational independency.
2. For the setting of the baths in a military vicus topographical aspects play an equally important role as the structure of the vicus. With the “street-type”, the “tangential-type”, and the “ring-type” three principle layouts of military vici can be distinguished.
3. Not all of the baths seem to follow Vitruv's recommendation, i.e. that the warm rooms should be exposed to the South.
4. In particular in Upper Germany most baths next to forts can be found either in front of the *porta praetoria* or in front of the *porta principalis dextra*.
5. Usually, the baths are the largest single building within a military vicus. Certainly, for the soldiers they were one of, if not the most important “point of interest” in the vicinity of their fort. Therefore it is most likely that baths were set in a particular “urban” frame and were elaborated architecturally.
6. Unfortunately, for most of the baths we know much more than the ground plan, of none we know enough details of their immediate vicinity to understand their particular setting. However, it appears that most of them were oriented with their halls towards a major street from the fort or a small or even large square.
7. At several places we know of several baths or bath-like buildings. No particular explanation for this can be given yet.
8. In only one case the beginning of the construction can be dated closely by dendrochronology. Here the baths were begun 5 years after the construction/installation of the fort and the relevant section of the Limes had started. This may indicate that baths were not the first point on the agenda of the soldiers once they set up a new fort.

It would be worthwhile to follow up the topic in more detail, perhaps in a master thesis.

Y. Förster, Limitierte Präsenz. Grenzen des Römischen Reiches: Obergermanisch-raetischer Limes. In: P. Andreas u. a. [Hrsg.], UNESCO Welterbe. Eine Deutschlandreise (Heidelberg/Berlin 2013) 206-211

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Decline and end of Roman bathhouses at the *limes* in the 3rd century AD

Markus Scholz, *Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum Mainz*

Badegebäude gehörten zur Standardausstattung römischer Standlager. Sie wurden nicht als Luxus angesehen, sondern als eine für die Gesundheit der Soldaten unentbehrliche Einrichtung. Der Unterhalt der Badegebäude war kostspielig und immer wieder waren Reparatur- und Umbauarbeiten notwendig. Dieser Beitrag befasst sich mit den jüngsten archäologisch nachweisbaren Nutzungsphasen der Bäder am *limes*. Im 3. Jahrhundert kam es oft zu Verkleinerungen und Umnutzungen von Badegebäuden oder Teilen von ihnen. Mancherorts stammen die jüngsten Spuren römischen Lebens aus dem Bereich der Badegebäude. Wie lange hielt man den Badebetrieb aufrecht? Wie passte man sich den vielerorts verringerten Truppenstärken an?

Bathhouses were standard facilities of (permanent) Roman garrisons (*castra hiberna*). They were not regarded as luxury or as wellness service but as indispensable for the soldiers health and hygiene. Maintaining the bathhouses was costly and renovation and reconstruction works were often to carry out. This paper is about the latest phases of using bathhouses at the *limes* and how they can be traced archaeologically. During 3rd century crisis bathhouses or parts of them were often reduced in size or even converted to other purposes. At some places the latest traces of Roman life were detected in or beside bathhouses. How long was bathing maintained at the *limes*? How did the garrisons adopt their *balnea* to reduced troop sizes?

The bath building in late Roman forts in the north-west of the Roman Empire. The case of the Roman *castellum* of Oudenburg (Belgium).

Sophie Vanhoutte, Onroerend Erfgoed

This paper wants to focus on the late Roman military bath building and its appearance within the walls of auxiliary forts.

Large-scale excavations by the Flemish Heritage agency from 2001 until 2005 at Oudenburg uncovered the remains of a 4th century bath building in the south-west corner of the *castellum*. In Roman times the coastal military site of Oudenburg, now located at a 8 km distance from the Flemish coastline in between present-day Bruges and Ostend, was positioned strategically on an elevated sandy ridge overlooking the coastal plain. From the second half of the 1st century AD onwards, the sandy ridge was already a very attractive location. A bath building uncovered in the 1960's probably belonged to this civil settlement, which flourished later on as a military village until c AD 270. The recent archaeological research on the fort area yielded a chronology of five successive *castella* from the late 2nd until the beginning of the 5th century AD.

Throughout its occupation history, the military site shows drastic changes in spatial organization and functional implementation *intra muros*. In the stone fort of the second quarter of the 4th century, a bath building was erected in the southwestern corner. Later on, during the second half of the 4th century, this building fell in decline and the fort corner was turned over in an area for stabling horses.

As for the Principate, the military bath building of a *castellum* is usually expected outside the fort walls, in most cases not far from one of the fort gates. As for the late Roman period, more bath buildings appear in the interior of forts. The position of the bath building in the corner area of some Saxon Shore forts along the eastern and southern English coasts, indicates that the location of the bath building at Oudenburg is not exceptional. The decline of the bath building after the middle of the 4th century too has parallels in Gaul.

In this paper, we aim to obtain a better view on the position of the late Roman military bath building in the north-west of the Roman Empire and try to find an explanation for this late Roman change.

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Public baths of the vicus of Bliesbruck

Jean-Paul Petit, Parc archéologique européen Bliesbruck-Reinheim

The vicus of Bliesbruck, located in the eastern part of the civitas Mediomatrici, has been the subject of ongoing research over the past thirty years. It starts in the middle of the first century A.D. and gradually reaches a true urban level.

Public baths in the heart of the city, on the public center.

The urban character of the city is reflected in particular by the existence of a public center whose public baths, explored between 1987 and 1993, are, by their size, the main monument. Built in the early second century, they are integrated into a vast complex also including two wings of shops. This complex forms a sort of "urban front" of about a hundred meters, overlooking a wide square, open on the main road and structured by a network of paths that is not organized orthogonally, but whose consistency is related to its adaptation to three other buildings that occupy this public space.

The arrangement of the buildings on this public center and the organization of the paths reveal a true architectural, functional and visual staging of this space.

In the middle of the square, a monumental rectangular fountain has been set which forms with the baths an "axis of water." Other public functions of this space are reflected by the presence, on the north side, of a large building, whose characteristics indicate that it is a basilica. The commercial aspect of this public center is reinforced by a third wing of shops which closes the square on its southern part.

Evolution of the public baths and of their environment

During operation, the public baths experience several changes, but never any questioning of their original blueprint. The development of the establishment is accompanied by an enlargement of the basins and the increasing number of heated rooms. These changes characterize a gradual change in the nature of the institution which consists in a multiplication of heated rooms without balneal function. The social aspect of this establishment becomes progressively more marked.

Another evolution has been observed. While, in the second century, the entrance of the bathing establishment is in the front, on the side of the square and while the shops are clearly separated from the balneal spaces, the changes of the late second or early third century lead to interpenetration between the balneal and social activities and the economic activities. The central entrance is suppressed to make room for a side entrance from the gallery of the northern wing of shops which has been partially closed in the meantime. Other changes occur at the front where service rooms have now been established. They reflect a kind of "loss of monumentality" in the first half of the third century which is the period of maximum expansion of the city. This degradation of the urban area is also marked by the presence of large amounts of waste due to the transformation of animal bones. The space in front of the south wing is covered by a layer of bones up to several centimeters thick and forming a true level of traffic while, at the rear, several pits have been excavated that have mainly delivered bone pegs of horn.

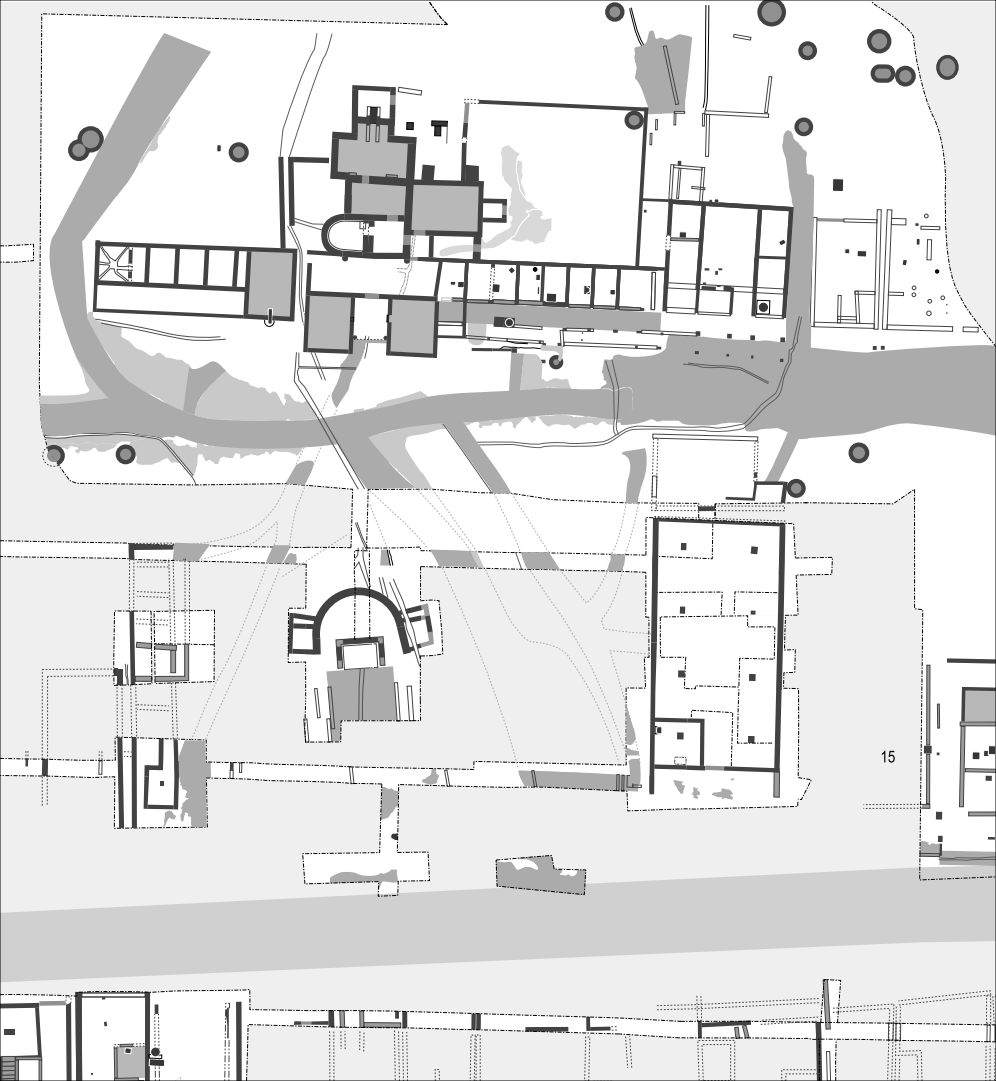
Small finds from the public bath complex.

The bath complex gave considerable small finds in metal, bone, glass, stone and terracotta. The table below summarizes succinctly against the nature and quantity of the objects from the thermal baths and clearly located (small finds from the constructive field is not taken into account.).

Domain	Nature	Au	Ag	Cu	Fe	Pb	oBone	Glass	PStone	ceramic
Personal	Fibulas			125						
Personal	Jewellery	1	1	54			57	22	1	
Personal	Body care/ Cosmetics			11	3		1		3	
Social	Writing			1	12					
Social	Games						29		3	
Household	Cochlear			9			12			
Household	Knives				8					
Household	Furniture/ Chests			41	28					
Economic	Coins		28	116						
Economic	Tesseras					3	2			
Economic	Harness			25						
Economic	Tools (wood, metal, textile)				24		15			3
Economic	Scales			2						

The excavation has also delivered some fragments of sculpture and a large amount of dishes. The analysis of the location of these small finds can offer some answers to questions asked by the conference organizers.

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The Roman baths in Augusta Raurica: their locations and small finds

Tamara Tännler/Hans Sütterlin, Augusta Raurica

Four public baths are known to have existed in the colony town of Augusta Raurica, which was located some 10 km east of present-day Basel on the River Rhine. Two of these, the so-called *Frauenthermen* (women's baths) and the *Zentralthermen* (central baths), were located on the plateau of the *Oberstadt* (Upper Town) of Augusta Raurica in close proximity to the town centre. Based on the chronological sequence established to date, they were among the earlier public buildings in Augusta Raurica.

Another bath complex, the Grienmatt spa, was located a little further to the southwest of the town centre on the plain of the small River Ergolz. This spa was part of a larger sacred district which also included a sanctuary probably dating from the Neronian to the Early Flavian period. We may assume that the associated spa also dated from that time and was thus also one of the earlier baths in the town.

The *Rheinthermen* (Rhine baths) in the area of the *Unterstadt* (Lower Town) on the southern bank of the River Rhine appear not to have been built before the 3rd century AD. During the construction of the *Castrum Rauracense* from AD 300 onwards, the bath complex was incorporated into the fort and henceforth accounted for a considerable section of its northwestern quadrant.

For the sake of completeness we should also mention another bath which was located on the periphery of the *Oberstadt*, at the foot of the Kastelen hill in the valley of the Violenbach stream. This building has been interpreted as a privately run bath, which was open to the public.

The information provided by the finds recovered from the baths in Augusta Raurica is rather limited, since none of the bath complexes have so far been studied in detail. The interpretation of the finds is further hampered by a frequent lack of occupation surfaces so that it was possible only on rare occasions to make a direct link between the finds and the functions of the rooms.

The finds recovered from the deposits in the wastewater channels of the so-called *Frauenthermen* have been studied because they were most likely found *in situ*. The name *Frauenthermen* was taken from a report submitted by the director of the 1930s excavations, who noticed an accumulation of hairpins and glass beads in the wastewater channels and concluded that the baths had been used by women. This, however, does not prove that these baths were used exclusively by women; no gender-specific male finds could be identified that would attest to the presence of men at the baths in a similar way.

The Baths of Trier in the transformation of urban design

Georg Breitner, GDKE- Rheinisches Landesmuseum Trier

The monumental public baths of Roman Trier have been widely studied from the point of archaeological and architectural issues. Thus, the essential features of the dating and use and integration into the historic urban development are known. The article therefore will not address the analysis of architectural remains, but the involvement of the bathrooms in an urban context. Besides the question of architectural concepts to the issue would be looked into how there are conceptual and functional relationships with other large public buildings. The different topographic location of the bathrooms in the city seems to have deliberately chosen. Nevertheless, an open question whether such a plan and the conceptual relationship building for contemporary visitors were noticeable and thus were in a functional context. As high perimeter walls prevented the one hand the view in the central event of the building while also separating urban areas of specific functional requirements of the building complexes. Also here is to question the perception and importance within the city life. The methodological approaches to analyzing urban concepts allow this to develop new perspectives. Finally, a look at the historical development of the city is directed to discuss the changing urban planning concepts. For the analysis of the baths is to consider how this change also caused a functional change.

Rheinisches Landesmuseum Trier

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Water, bathing and gods. Reflections on the so-called spring-cults and the bathing practice

John Scheid, Collège de France

The fact that most of the temples located on the rural side of the Roman cities were equipped with thermae seems to confirm the idea that the « water-cult » was a central element of rural cultplaces and more generally that water was a central element in ancient religion. However, his relation between thermae and temples is largely misinterpreted. Not in the sense that the Romans did not venerate Nymphs or spring-gods, but because of an automatic linkage between water and cult. This opinion heavily relies on the romantic conception of Naturgottheiten and on the Eliadic waterconcept, which is mainly a christian meditation on baptism, but also on the doctrine of modern thermalism, which attributes to bathing a healing power.

From an archaeological perspective, these theories also ignore a certain number of problems. The so-called water-sanctuaries are in fact very specific, and according to Roman conceptions the water serving for bathing no longer corresponds to « sacred » water when it is used. Then the urban sanctuaries also are related to thermae, fountains or waterbasins, without belonging to healing gods. In cultic spaces, water mostly serves for purification, some times for divinatory purpose. So the problem is a lot more complicated than simplistic theories about « nature-cults » pretend.

Baths in the great sanctuaries of roman Gaul: location and chronology

Cécile HARTZ, University of Paris-Sorbonne

Great sanctuaries are currently defined as monumental public cult places. They consist of one or more temples and other buildings such as baths, a theater and service annexes (kitchens, *hospitalia* etc.). At first sight, those areas have the characteristic to appear isolated from any long-term housing, which could explain their wealth and their monumentality.

This definition may however be discussed. Indeed, investigations carried out over the past forty years in the immediate vicinity of some of these sanctuaries reveal the presence of a dense urbanization, proving the existence of a real town-planning (for instance Vendevre-du-Poitou (Vienne), Le Vieil-Evreux (Eure) in France).

Those places have mainly a religious vocation, and are distinguished by a specific town organization. Public buildings, and among them the main temple, theater and *thermae* complex, are grouped together or lined up in the centre of the town, and are surrounded by the dwellings. Due to this special location, the *thermae* complex is frequently seen as bath buildings used by the priest and the worshippers for ritual washing before religious ceremonies.

Thanks to recent archeological data, I propose to re-examine the question of the role and the function of these baths in great sanctuaries. We will therefore reflect on the following questions: What is the location of the baths from the main temple, theater and residential areas? What are their respective stages of development compared to the other buildings of the town? Is there for instance a link between the rebuilding of baths and main temple? Can we conclude, as the commonly held idea, that those baths had a primarily ritual function?

In order to answer those questions, three sites will be examined: Champlieu (Oise), Le Vieil-Evreux (Eure) and Ribemont-sur-Ancre (Somme).

Water Equality? A comparison of small finds from springs and baths

Katherine M. Erdman, University of Minnesota

Coins, sculptures, and various forms of personal ornamentation are some of the Roman period objects most frequently recovered from springs. Veneration of springs in Europe dates back as early as the Neolithic, but it is in the Roman period that new forms of material culture appear in these contexts. Also during this time, some springs were abandoned, while others that were previously ignored began to receive offerings. Springs, whether they contained freshwater, mineral water, or thermal water, played an important role in rituals, and in some cases, had bath houses built nearby to harness the natural resource.

Were all springs treated equally? Did alterations to a spring change how visitors perceived the natural feature? Are the types of objects found in unaltered springs and those in bath houses of a similar nature? Do the objects found in springs differ from those in bath houses? Does the type of water produced by a spring determine the types of objects found within it? What do these similarities and differences tell us about the use and perception of springs in ritual practices?

This paper will outline the diversity of small finds recovered from springs located in eastern France. The small finds from different types of springs, such as freshwater or thermal, will be considered as well as those recovered from sites where baths were constructed around or incorporated an existing natural spring.

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The sculptural décor of the *thermae* in Carnuntum

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Carnuntum, Provinzhauptstadt der Provinz Oberpannonien und militärischer Stützpunkt am Donaulimes, besaß zahlreiche römerzeitliche Thermenanlagen. Mehrere dieser Thermenanlagen wurden im Lauf der seit über 150 Jahren stattfindenden archäologischen Ausgrabungen freigelegt. Einige dieser Befunde geben Auskunft über einen Teil der ehemaligen Skulpturenausstattung dieser Anlagen. Im Beitrag soll die Aussagekraft dieser Ausstattungselemente diskutiert werden. Vor dem Hintergrund der sakralen Topographie von Carnuntum soll auch die Frage nach Belegen für kultische Aktivitäten innerhalb oder im Umfeld von Thermenanlagen gestellt werden.

Carnuntum, capital of Pannonia superior and military base on the Danube Limes, included various bath complexes in the civil town as well as in the military area. Several of these *thermae* have been excavated during the last 150 years of archaeological investigations in Carnuntum. Some of these evidences give us informations about parts of the original sculptural equipment. Main issue of the paper will be the interpretation of sculptures found in roman *thermae* of Carnuntum. The question of cult related activities inside or nearby roman *thermae* will be analysed against the background of the ‚sacral topography‘ of Carnuntum, established on the basis of stone monuments.

Therapeutic baths in roman urban environment?

Alain BOUET, University of Toulouse

There are two distinct types of bath : cleansing and therapeutic baths. Cleansing bathing is a hygiene practice fixed and developed over centuries. It reached its highest point in evolution at the end of the first century BC with the introduction of cold bathing. Buildings get progressively more complicated. The most sophisticated of them had three intermediate rooms (*tepidarium*, *destrictarium* and *laconicum*) between the cold area (*frigidarium*) and the hottest area (*caldarium*). But many of them, smaller, only had one or two intermediate rooms.

The other type of bathing is said to be therapeutic or hydropathic. It does not present the same characteristics as cleansing bathing. Therapeutic baths feature a series of heated and cold pools. Those buildings were built on top of thermal waters whom therapeutic properties are still exploited today. But it is interesting to note that some of the buildings that present the same architectural characteristics are built in places without any curative waters whether in secondary agglomerations or in administrative cities. In some cases, they were supplied by the aqueduct which also supplies the entire city.

This lecture will deal with such buildings as poor attention was paid to them. We will also study the way they were financed.

The Roman baths at Aachen (D)

Andreas Schaub, Stadtarchäologie Aachen

In the city centre of Aachen we know three Roman thermal bathes („Quirinusquellenbad“, „Büchelthermen“, „Münsterthermen“) and one common bathhouse (without using thermal springs). Another thermal bath is situated in Aachen-Burtscheid which was also belonging to the roman settlement *Aquae Granni*. The oldest thermal bath was built around AD 10 nearby the thermal spring, called „Quirinusquelle“. In the middle of the 1st century the so called „Büchelthermen“ were found east of the first thermal bath, at the spring, called „Kaiserquelle“. While the first thermal bath was lying in the very centre of *Aquae Granni*, the „Büchelthermen“ were situated at the eastern border of the city. At the beginning of the 2nd century the first thermal bath was dismantled and substituted by the „Münsterthermen“. Those are lying more than 100 meters west and they are the first *thermae* which are built in quite a distance to the thermal spring („Quirinusquelle“). The fresh water comes from an aqueductus from Aachen-Burtscheid, which was built by the 6. Legion from Xanten. This Legion also started with building the new thermal bath, but it was finished by the 30. Legion which substituted the 6. Legion in Xanten. The free space, which exists after dismantling the first thermal bath was used to build a more than 5000 square meters large place with columns, *tabernae* and a temple. It could be, that this place was not only the religious part of the springs but also a forum (?). The two big thermal bathes were used until the end of roman settlement in Aachen in the 5th century. Parts of the „Büchelthermen“ where probably reused by Charlemagne in the 8th century. Not much is known from the thermal bath in Aachen-Burtscheid. There are parts of at least two basins, but it is not clear, if they belong to one or two buildings. The latest roman finds from Burtscheid date to the middle of 3rd century.

The only roman bath in Aachen without using thermal water was found in 2011 at the market place. Although only small parts of the ground plan can be reconstructed, we probably know parts of the *caldarium*. The bath was built in the first half of 2nd century and was destroyed around AD 275 – probably during a Germanic invasion. The bath is situated in the northwestern centre of *Aquae Granni*, directly at the main road. So it was probably a public bathhouse.

The Roman Spa of *Aquae Helveticae* and 2000 years of bathing culture in Baden (Canton Aargau; Switzerland).

Andrea Schaer, Kantonsarchäologie Aargau

The town of Baden (german for „to bathe“) lies in the Swiss Canton of Aargau, 25 km west of Zurich. The historic town is divided into the medieval Old Town situated around the Stadtkirche Maria Himmelfahrt at the foot of Stein Castle and the actual spa town (Bäderquartier) located on both sides of the bend of the Limmat River, 1 km to the north. Here, where the Limmat cut deeply into the limestone ridge of the Lägern, natural hot springs surge. Today 22 springs are captured and deliver about 700'000 l daily of Switzerland's most mineralized healing waters at a temperature of 42-48°C. There is so far no evidence of any considerable pre-Roman activities around Baden's hot springs. The Romans were then the first ones to capture the springs and build large *thermae* so to establish a spa at the Limmatbend. On the plateau to the south and west of the spa precinct as well as on the northern bank of the Limmat in Ennetbaden, a settlement developed, the name of which was (alas archaeologically in Baden still unproven...) *Aquae Helveticae*.

The recent excavations at the Bäderquartier and earlier work in Ennetbaden delivered especially good dating evidence for the beginning of considerable building activities at the spa and settlement around 15/20-30 AD and further on during the 1st century AD. The finds underline the close relationship between the spa and the nearby legionary camp of *Vindonissa* (Windisch).

The new evidence also allows to recognize spacial dynamics and to define areas of different functions and activities in and around the Roman *thermae* and the spa precinct.

Despite a considerable decline of baths and settlements in the late 3rd century, the *thermae* seemed to have stayed in use during the 4th and 5th century AD. There is even vague evidence that at least some of the Roman baths remained operational through the Middle Ages. During the 11th century AD some of the springs were newly captured and new baths and inns built. In the 14th/15th century AD the Habsburgian and later Swiss spa town developed its functional, formal and legal structure, which still defines the Bäderquartier today. Following the development of medicinal knowledge and the beginning and changing of modern tourism in the 19th and 20th century AD new hotels and clinics were built – still holding on to the Roman and medieval structures.

After a long and extraordinary history as Switzerland's first touristic destination and once one of the most famous spas in Europe, the baths of Baden suffered a constant decline of visitors and a neglect of its infrastructure during the last decades.

In the coming years the Bäderquartier shall be revived by building a new public spa designed by Swiss architect Mario Botta and the renovation of the historic landmark Hotel Verena Hof.

These forthcoming building activities lead to extensive archaeological work, which started in 2009 and will continue until at least 2013. Considering the functional unambiguity and continuity of the place as a spa and the resulting complex stratigraphical tissue, the recent archaeological research tries to constantly keep a diachronical view of the whole: the two-millenia-old cultural phenomenon of spa and bathing culture in Baden.

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