

PAPERS
OF THE
BRITISH SCHOOL AT ROME



At the beginning of February 1984, Dr. David Whitehouse (seen above with the Duke of Edinburgh, who visited the British School in 1980) left the Directorship of the School, which he had held for nearly ten years, to become Chief Curator of the Corning Museum of Glass. It was no easy undertaking for a young man, not quite 33 at the time of taking up office, to follow John Ward-Perkins. But David Whitehouse already had nearly twenty years of active archaeology behind him, beginning in his native West Midlands where his interest in medieval pottery was first aroused, via the medieval pottery of Italy as Rome Scholar, excavation in the Arabian Gulf as Wainwright Scholar, and a brief but active period in Afghanistan as Director of the British Institute of Afghan Studies. Moreover, he shared with his predecessor a remarkable ability to grasp the importance of a site or monument and the equally valuable gift of expounding his approach and interpretation lucidly and convincingly to both expert and lay audiences. In spite of the problems he had to face in the early years of his Directorship, David Whitehouse both confirmed and extended his unique knowledge of Italian ceramics between the fifth and fifteenth centuries and set them firmly in a Mediterranean-wide archaeological and historical context. This broad vision was underpinned by a series of major excavations in Rome, Lazio, Umbria and Apulia. Successive volumes of the *Papers*, *Archeologia Medievale*, *Antiquity* and other journals are permanent witnesses to what David Whitehouse has achieved in the past ten years and what he still hopes to contribute in a still-growing field of study. David's contemporaries, with whom he always generously shared his knowledge, will feel that archaeology in Italy is the loser as much as glass-studies in the U.S.A. will be the gainer from his departure from Rome.

D. A. BULLOUGH

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CONTENTS

	PAGE
SOMMARI	viii
T. W. POTTER, M. Aylwin Cotton, O.B.E., HON. F.B.A., F.S.A., 1902–1984	1
FERDINANDO CASTAGNOLI, Il Tempio Romano: Questioni di Terminologia e di Tipologia	3
M. H. CRAWFORD, LAWRENCE KEPPIE, Excavations at Fregellae, 1978–1984: An Interim Report on the Work of the British Team	21
PAOLO LIVERANI, L’Ager Veientanus in Età Repubblicana	36
E. BADIAN, The House of the Servilii Gemini	49
ELIZABETH FENTRESS, Via Aurelia, Via Aemilia	72
LAWRENCE KEPPIE, Colonisation and Veteran Settlement in Italy in the First Century A.D.	77
NAIDÈ FERCHIOU, Un Decor Architectonique du II ^e Siecle en Afrique Proconsulaire (Tunisie): Les Vestiges du Capitole de Numlulis	115
FERGUS MILLAR, Condemnation to Hard Labour in the Roman Empire, from the Julio-Claudians to Constantine	124
RICHARD HODGES <i>et al.</i> , Excavations at Vacchereccia (Rocchetta Nuova): A Later Roman and Early Medieval Settlement in the Volturno Valley, Molise	148
DAVID ABULAFIA, Ancona. Byzantium and the Adriatic 1155–1173	195