

## Editorial

**D**URING 1975, after more than 15 years' service, Mr. D. R. Wilson asked to be relieved of his position as Editor of the *Sites Explored* section of the annual Roman Britain report. He first took a substantial part in the preparation of this important work of reference in 1961 as assistant to Miss M. V. Taylor; and since her death in 1963 he has been entirely responsible for its compilation. All students of Roman Britain owe him a great debt of gratitude for these years of devoted labour during which the report has grown from 34 pp. (in 1963) to 64 pp. (in 1975); it has never been a light task to extract information from tardy excavators and to recast it when extracted in terse yet comprehensible form. Material for the *Sites Explored* section should henceforth be sent to Mr. R. Goodburn at 35 Beaumont Street, Oxford OX1 2PG.

At the same time changes in the organisation of the *Inscriptions* section have been occurring. Dr. R. S. O. Tomlin and Mr. Mark Hassall are now responsible for the collection of new material (as described on pp. vii–viii), and Mr. R. P. Wright serves as coordinator and editor of the section. Now that Mr. Wright has retired from his Readership at Durham University he is devoting most of his time to the production of Vol. ii of *The Roman Inscriptions of Britain*. Since he succeeded Collingwood in responsibility for Romano-British inscriptions, as long ago as 1939, Mr. Wright has maintained a very high standard of accuracy and completeness of coverage. His long service and achievements call for grateful congratulation, and we must wish him well in the completion of RIB II.

This year has seen the death of two great figures in British archaeology, D. F. Allen and I. D. Margary. Margary was for many years a devoted member and Vice-President of this Society and a benefactor both during his life and by his will. His interest in Roman Roads is well known, and in earlier years he did distinguished field work in his native Sussex and surrounding counties; but perhaps he will come to be chiefly remembered for the part he played in 'the Fishbourne story', of which he wrote a characteristically modest account in *Britannia* ii. He was a delightful friend, and he was very generous towards archaeologists. The early volumes of *Britannia* received substantial subsidies from him, and it should be recorded that the lists of find-spots of British coins, enormously expensive to print, in Derek Allen's monumental 'Origins of Coinage in Britain' could never have been published in *Problems of the Iron Age in Southern Britain* (1961) had it not been for a generous subsidy from Margary.

Of Derek Allen's life and work a full account will be published in the *Proceedings of the British Academy*. Here we must pay tribute to the generosity with which he answered questions about and wrote accounts of British coins for those who found them in excavations. In this field he was not merely the leading

but almost the only expert, and his place will be hard indeed to fill; he was well aware of the historical as well as the purely numismatic importance of all the material he handled. The present volume contains two short articles found among his papers, and we hope to publish others (which are at present in a less complete state) in future volumes.