



Call for Papers:



THE *LIMITANEI* - THE MATERIALITY OF LATE ROMAN SOLDIERS AND FRONTIER COMMUNITIES

Scholars across a range of disciplines are invited to contribute to a volume about the frontier soldiers and communities of the Late Roman Empire.

To date, there is no volume that focuses specifically on the *limitanei* and researchers and students must search through primary sources and secondary literature, distilling information from the blended, synthetic presentations of late Roman army.

The *limitanei* – Rome's frontier soldiers in Late Antiquity – existed at the intersection of politics and place. Defending the frontiers of imperial Rome, these soldiers were formed into discrete armies commanded by generals and organized into a specific branch of the late Roman army. As such, the *limitanei* were supported by the imperial government and expected to follow imperial law and edicts. But the frontiers were also varied and distinct, with regional discrepancies emerging over time, not least due to the unique circumstances of life at the periphery of empire. In this regard, the *limitanei* must be considered in their own right, and not simply as the second-class soldiers to the more celebrated *comitatenses* of the imperial field armies. This collection brings together the diverse evidence for the *limitanei* and other frontier communities from across the late Roman Empire, *circa* 300-700 CE, into one volume, presenting a coherent study of this distinct profession as well as detailed case studies of universal practice and regional distinctions.

The ambition is that *Limitanei* will be **the essential companion** for any study of the Roman frontiers or the Roman army in Late Antiquity – it seeks to present **the first cohesive study of the *limitanei*** as both a formal branch of the Late Roman army and as a social group within and beyond the institutional aspects of the Roman army.

Invited topics/themes:

- Organisational structure of the *limitanei*
- Imperial relations with the *limitanei*
- Manpower and recruitment
- Bases, installations, and buildings
- Battles and tactics
- Official documents, literacy, and languages (incl. inscriptions and linguistics)
- Finances and costs
- Supply and logistics (incl. productive capacity)
- Equipment, dress and appearance (incl. visual representations)
- Marine and riverine fleets
- Military command and socio-political power
- Officers of the *limitanei*, incl. biographical and prosopographical studies
- Families, households, and communities in frontiers
- Religion and belief
- Mortuary culture and practice (incl. tombstones)
- Barbarian integration, service, and alliance (incl. foederati) and/or enmity
- Social dynamics of frontier zones, including interactions with local societies
- Regional case studies
- The dissolution/dissolving of the *limitanei*

Contributions will therefore draw from a range of international scholars across the disciplines of **archaeology, ancient history, art history, papyrology, and linguistics.**

Positive discussions have already taken place with a view to publishing with the Brepol series, *New Approaches to Archaeology*, with the intention for the volume to appear in print in Summer 2024.

Scholars of **all career-stages are invited** to contribute, and the volume aspires to represent scholars of diverse backgrounds.

If you are **interested in contributing**, please submit a paper title, abstract (500 words), and brief biography (150 words max) with valid contact information (preferably via email) to Rob Collins by 2 November 2020 at robert.collins@newcastle.ac.uk, indicating in the subject line 'limitanei'.

All final contributions (6,000-9,000 words, incl. references, captions, and bibliography) are to be written in English, supported as necessary by Latin, Greek or other ancient scripts. Text can be supported by up to 6 images.

About the editor: Dr Rob Collins is a Senior Lecturer in Archaeology in the School of History, Classics, and Archaeology at Newcastle University. He has published *Hadrian's Wall and the End of Empire* (2012), 8 edited volumes, and more than 35 papers about Hadrian's Wall, late Roman frontiers, and artefacts and material culture for scholarly audiences.

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