

Zeeuws Museum

ROMAN COAST

THE LAND OF NEHALENNIA

English



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ABBREVIATIONS USED

- ADBZ = Archeologisch Depot Bergen op Zoom
ANMDH = Archeologie, Natuur- en Milieueducatie, The Hague
BOOR = Bureau Oudheidkundig Onderzoek Rotterdam
ELO = Erfgoed Leiden en Omstreken
GAMA = Gemeentelijk Archeologisch Museum Aardenburg
MMDH = Museum Meermanno, The Hague
NHA = Noord-Hollands Archief, Collectie Provinciale Atlas NH
PADZH = Provinciaal Archeologisch Depot Zuid-Holland
PDANH = Provinciaal Depot voor Archeologie Noord-Holland
RMO = National Museum of Antiquities, Leiden
SCEZ = Stichting Cultureel Erfgoed Zeeland
SGO = Streekmuseum Goeree-Overflakkee
WM = Westlands Museum, Honselersdijk
ZA = Zeeuws Archief
ZG = Zeeland Society
ZM = Zeeuws Museum

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ROMAN COAST

It is the year 200 AD. The northern frontier of the Roman empire crosses through the Netherlands. Walking along the coast from Texel to Aardenburg, a difference is perceptible. In the north there are free native tribes; the south resorts under Roman rule.

The people in the northern regions live their lives independent from the Romans, although there is 'political' Roman influence and contact. The frontier, the *Limes*, is situated roughly along the River (Old) Rhine, which flows into the North Sea at Katwijk. The region alongside and directly below the *Limes* is a Roman military defence zone with the *Matilo* fort (Leiden), the *Praetorium Agrippinae* fort (Valkenburg) and several forts in the The Hague area. Directly situated on the coast is *Lugdunum Batavorum* (Katwijk) with the imposing Brittenburg fort.

The Roman capital of this part of the province of *Germania Inferior* is *Forum Hadriani* (Voorburg). From here the *Fossa Corbulonis* [Kanaal van Corbulo] runs south towards Naaldwijk, where a Roman naval base has been built. To get even further south into the Roman zone along the coast the *Helinium*, the broad estuary of the Maas/Meuse and Waal rivers, must be crossed. On the other side the journey continues along the trading centres of Goedereede, Colijnsplaat and Domburg, to end at Aardenburg, the southernmost military fortification on the Dutch coast.

THE NORTHERN COASTAL REGION [DE NOORDELIJKE KUSTSTREEK]

The Romans call the coastal region above their northern frontier *Frisia* and the tribes who live here the *Frisii*. In the eyes of the Roman writer Pliny the Elder they are impoverished people living on manmade hills (terps) in cold, soggy marshes. However, this landscape of dunes, mudflats and embankments is fertile and eutrophic, and in many places densely populated. The native inhabitants live in simple farmsteads, firing their own pottery, weaving their own clothing and leading richly religious lives.

For the Frisians the arrival of the Romans in AD 16 is a major event. The Romans build an army camp with a harbour, the *castellum Flevum*, on the Oer-IJ. This is the most northerly branch of the Rhine, which connects to the River Vecht. There is probably also a connection to the north via the Lake Flevo.

Castellum Flevum, near modern-day Velsen, is attacked by rebellious Frisians in AD 28. The Romans win the battle, but nevertheless abandon the fort a couple of years later. Around the year AD 47 the Romans definitely retreat south of the Rhine. Over the following centuries Roman influence in this coastal region remains limited. Evidence of this is provided by the scarcity of finds: a number of coins, the occasional deity figurine and some fragments of pottery.

The Frisians remain independent of the Romans, although they often serve in the Roman army. After 25 years of service they gain Roman citizenship and a bounty. They are also allowed to keep any plunder they have seized.

TEXEL

In 1777 Pieter van Cuyck draws objects from the Sommeltjesberg, the grave of an important inhabitant of Texel who may have served with the Roman cavalry. At the excavation horse riding gear, coins and a wine strainer have been found. These findings illustrate that in Roman times there have been contacts between the Romans and the inhabitants of the 'Noordkop', far above the *Limes*. At that time Texel is still attached to Noord-Holland.

1. Pieter van Cuyck, Excavation of the Sommeltjesberg

Engraving, 1777, NHA

The hill, in which according to tradition *sommeltjes* or brownies have lived, is in fact a burial mound.

2. Roman helmet

Bronze, AD 1-50, beach of Texel, RMO

A legionary with the name Firon or Piron, crew member of the galley *Hirundo* (swallow), has worn this helmet. His name is on the neck plate.

3. Amor

Bronze, AD 0-300, Den Burg, Texel, PDANH

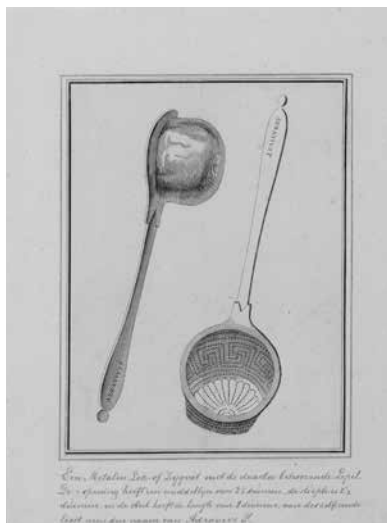
4. Drinking vessel with stalk foot

Hand-moulded earthenware, AD 0-300, Den Burg, Texel, PDANH

5. Wine strainer

Bronze, AD 150-250, Nistelrode, RMO

Wine strainer of the type as found in the Sommeltjesberg on Texel. The original find has not been preserved.



Pieter van Cuyck, Roman wine strainer of the Sommeltjesberg

Engraving, 1777, NHA

From: *Beschrijving van eenige oudheden*/P. van Cuyck, Amsterdam, 1780.

VELSERBROEK

The Frisians have a sacrificial centre close to Velsen, in Velsersbroek. The site has existed for centuries before the arrival of the Romans and continues to be used long after their departure. For the Frisians this is an important spot. Here many fibulas, earthenware, coins, militaria, utensils, jewellery and human and animal bones have been excavated. Roman and native objects have been found next to each other.

The sacrificial site may have drawn the Romans' attention. It could be one of the reasons why they decide to build *castellum Flevum* in its vicinity in AD 16.

1. Bracelet

Bronze, AD 0-300, Velsersbroek, PDANH

2. Aucissa fibula

Bronze, AD 0-50, Velsersbroek, PDANH

The reference '*Aucissa*' can be found on some cloak pins of this type and so explains its name. Presumably it is the name of the maker.

3. Tutulus fibula

Silver plated bronze, AD 100-400, Velsersbroek, PDANH

The *tutulus* is a Roman coiffure with twisted braids positioned like a cone on the head.

4. Disc fibula

Silver plated bronze, AD 0-100, Velsersbroek, PDANH

5. Wire fibula

Copper, AD 100-200, Velsersbroek, PDANH

6. Six finger rings

Bronze, AD 0-50, Velsersbroek, PDANH

7. Finger ring

Bronze, 200 BC - AD 50, Velsersbroek, PDANH

8. Rein ring distributor (horse gear)

Bronze, AD 0-50, Velsersbroek, PDANH

9. Horse skull

Bone, AD 100-300, Velserbroek, PDANH

10. Seal box

Bronze, AD 0-300, Velsen, PDANH

Wooden writing tablets which are sent as letters, are sealed using this type of boxes. The two boards are tied together with a piece of cord, the ends of which are placed into the box. Wax is poured into the box and then the sender presses his signet ring in the wax. Only by breaking the seal the text can be read.

11. Coin of Emperor Augustus

Bronze, AD 12-14, Velserbroek, PDANH

As with portrait of the emperor with a laurel wreath. Augustus reigns from 27 BC to AD 14.

12. Coin of Emperor Caligula

Bronze, AD 37-38, Velsen, PDANH

As with the inscription: *GERMANICVS CAESAR T AVG VST F DIVI AV {G N}*.

Germanicus Caesar is the official name of Emperor *Caligula* (small boot).

He gets this nickname, because as a small boy he already walks on caligae (soldier's boots) in soldiers camps. He reigns from AD 37 to 41.

NOORD-HOLLAND/OER-IJ REGION [OER-IJ-GEBIED]

The Oer-IJ region is an extensive intertidal zone with beach embankments and streams on the coast of Noord-Holland. Here the Frisians live in farms under one roof with their livestock, mainly cattle and some sheep or goats. They are engaged in agriculture and also some hunting and fishing. Presumably they earn money for luxury items with iron extraction and cheese and wool production.

1. Pot

Earthenware, AD 0-300, Schagen, RMO

2. Pot

Earthenware, AD 100-250, Schagen, PDANH

3. Pot

Earthenware, AD 0-250, Uitgeest, PDANH

4. Lid

Earthenware, AD 130-240, Uitgeest, PDANH

5. Spindle whorl

Earthenware, AD 0-300, Uitgeest, PDANH

A stick is placed in the opening. This creates a spindle on which wool or flax can be spun by whirling.

6. Loom weight

Earthenware, AD 0-300, Uitgeest, PDANH

Weaving weights hang from the warp threads of a standing loom. This keeps the wires tight.

7. Fishing net weight

Earthenware, AD 0-300, Schagen, PDANH

8. Die

Earthenware, 12 BC - AD 450, Schagen, PDANH

9. Die

Earthenware, AD 100-300, Langedijk, PDANH

10. Game chip

Earthenware, AD 0-300, Uitgeest, PDANH

11. Coin hoard of 50 *Antoniniani* (double *denarii*)

Silver, between AD 232 - 269, Schagen, PDANH, Finder: R. de Roode
The owner of these 50 *Antoniniani* or double *denarii*, buried in the ground in Schagen, also possesses luxury Roman objects, including a gold ring. Perhaps the treasure is war booty from a Frisian who has served in the Roman army.

FLEVUM (VELSEN)

Castellum Flevum on the Oer-IJ is the northernmost situated fortification on Europe's mainland. From here ships sail to the Rhine, the Lake Flevo, and more northerly, to the Vlie and the North Sea. The fortification has been built in a period of attacks on the Germanic peoples in AD 15 and 16 and has been used until AD 28. The harbour has been dredged and altered several times.

When a new imperial official demands a higher tax revenue on bovine skins in the year 28 AD, rebellious Frisians assault the Roman fort and garrison in Velsen. Tacitus writes extensively about the siege of *castellum Flevum*. Excavated human remains prove that fighting has indeed taken place here.

Although the Frisians abort their siege, the Romans evacuate the fortification after some time. About ten years later a second fort is built a bit further along. This fort too is short-lived. Between AD 40 and 50 the Romans abandon their footholds north of the Rhine.

1. The two army camps and naval base near Velsen on the south bank of the Oer-IJ, artist's impression Graham Sumner

2. Skull

Bone, AD 15-30, Velsen, RMO

During the siege of *castellum Flevum* this Roman is thrown in a water hole and covered with stones afterwards. His skull clearly shows damage. Has the soldier died of a blow to the head? Or is the crack caused by the stones that have been thrown in the well later?

3. Video Man in the well - Velsen I

Duration: c. 5 minutes

4. Spring fibula

Bronze, AD 0-50, Velsen, RMO

5. Signet ring with Mars

Iron, carnelian, AD 15-30, Velsen, RMO

6. Dagger and sheath

Iron, leather, silver nails, inlay of silver, niello and enamel, AD 15-30, Velsen, RMO

A fine dagger like this belongs to a Roman officer.

7. Small plate with studs

Bone, silver, AD 15-30, Velsen, RMO

This is the upper plate of the pommel of the dagger. A pommel is the counterweight at the end of the hilt which provides balance.

8. Studs found with the dagger

Silver, AD 15-30, Velsen, RMO

9. Fittings for a military belt

Silver plated bronze, AD 15-30, Velsen, RMO

10. Shoe sole nails

Iron, AD 15-30, Velsen, RMO

11. Shoe sole

Leather, iron, AD 15-30, RMO

12. Sling shot

Lead, AD 28, Velsen, RMO

In the battle against the Frisians the Romans use sling shot with a fine almond-shape. When their supply dwindles, they pour new ones hastily. However, these are irregular in shape as they, in the heat of the battle, stick their thumbs in the sand and pour lead in the holes to make new bullets as quickly as possible.

13. Two ends of bows

Bone, AD 0-50, Velsen, RMO

14. Ship's cladding

Iron, AD 0-50, Velsen, RMO

15. Tent peg

Wood, AD 0-50, Velsen, RMO

16. Jug

Earthenware, AD 0-50, Velsen, RMO

17. *Terra sigillata* bowl with stamp of the producer *Salvetus*

Earthenware, AD 0-50, Velsen, RMO

Terra sigillata is the most well-known import earthenware from Roman times. It is made especially in France, where *Salvetus* works, and in Germany. In our parts it is a luxury good. One can recognize it by its striking orange-red colour.

18. Fragment of a writing tablet with remnants of inscriptions

Pine, AD 0-50, Velsen, RMO

19. Fragment of a writing tablet with remnants of inscriptions

Wood, AD 0-50, Velsen, RMO

20. Gem with stage masks

Carnelian, AD 0-50, Velsen, RMO

21. Gem with Apollo

Agate, AD 0-50, Velsen, RMO

22. Gem with bust of a philosopher

Glass, AD 0-50, Velsen, RMO

23. Gem with horseman with lance

Sard, AD 0-50, Velsen, RMO

24. Gem with Minerva-Roma

Carnelian, AD 0-50, Velsen, RMO

25. Gem with curriple

Onyx, AD 0-50, Velsen, RMO

26. Gem with Bacchus

Carnelian, AD 0-50, Velsen, RMO

27. Gem with Zeus

Carnelian, AD 0-50, Velsen, RMO

28. Gem with shepherd and cow

Glass: imitation of layered agate, AD 0-50, Velsen, RMO

29. Gem with corbita

Agate, AD 0-50, Velsen, RMO

30. Gem with the young Octavianus (later Emperor Augustus)

Sardonyx, AD 0-50, Velsen, RMO

31. Gem with inscription *VITA*

Glass, AD 0-50, Velsen, RMO

The text is written backwards. When the gem is used to make an imprint, the inscription is readable. *Vita* means life.

ALONG THE LIMES [AAN DE LIMES]

The *Limes* comes into being in AD 47 when Emperor Claudius finally decides to abandon Rome's attempts to conquer *Germania* completely. He establishes the Rhine as the northern frontier of his empire. In subsequent centuries the Romans build a military defence line along the river's southern bank, with *castella*, legionary camps and watchtowers. Via the watchtowers soldiers can send light signals from one fort to another.

Villages, a town with military defences and an extensive network of roads and waterways develop to the south of the Rhine, especially in the period AD 80-180. Here the local population lives alongside thousands of Roman soldiers.

The *Limes* is heavily guarded both as a frontier and as a transport artery. The Rhine is after all of vital importance to frontier troops' foraging activities and shipping from the German Rhineland to *Britannia* (England).

The Rhine forts *Matilo* (Leiden) and *Praetorium Agrippinae* (Valkenburg) have been strategically located. They are connected to each other by the Rhine and the *Limes* road beside this river. *Matilo* guards the junction of the Rhine and the *Fossa Corbulonis* [Kanaal van Corbulo], which links the *Limes* and the capital. *Praetorium Agrippinae* is situated on a narrower section of the Rhine estuary where ships can moor safely. The estuaries are guarded by the *Classis Germanica*, the Roman naval fleet on the Rhine frontier.

The Romans also defend the North Sea coast. The fort *Lugdunum Batavorum* near Katwijk (the Brittenburg) is situated at the mouth of the (Old) Rhine. The defensive line along the coast furthermore consists of small forts on the landward side of the low dunes, among which are the forts at The Hague (Ockenburgh and Scheveningseweg). Here small cavalry units (*turmae*) maintain order. They guard the area around the capital, *Forum Hadriani* (Voorburg).

MATILO (LEIDEN)

The *castellum Matilo* near Leiden has been built after the Batavian uprising in AD 69/70. In this border fort reside circa 480 soldiers. In the *vicus* (settlement) near the fortification live several hundred people. Between AD 100 and 125 the fort is extended. Around the year 200 AD the *castellum* is built in stone. After AD 250 *Matilo* no longer plays a part in the frontier defence.

1. Fort *Matilo* near Leiden on the *Fossa Corbulonis* [Kanaal van Corbulo], artist's impression Mikko Kriek

2. River goddess

Pipe clay, AD 100-200, Leiden, RMO

3. Hand of an emperor's statue

Bronze, AD 100-125, Leiden, ELO

This anatomically correct hand has once held a staff. It has probably been part of a more than life-size statue, originating from the middle region of the Rhineland.

4. Signet ring with remnants of a gem

Gold, carnelian, AD 0-100, Leiden, RMO

The finger ring has been found in one of the few graves excavated at *Matilo*.

5. Cauldron with cremated human remains

Earthenware, AD 140-300, Leiden, ELO

6. Fragment of a brick with stamp *LXGPF*

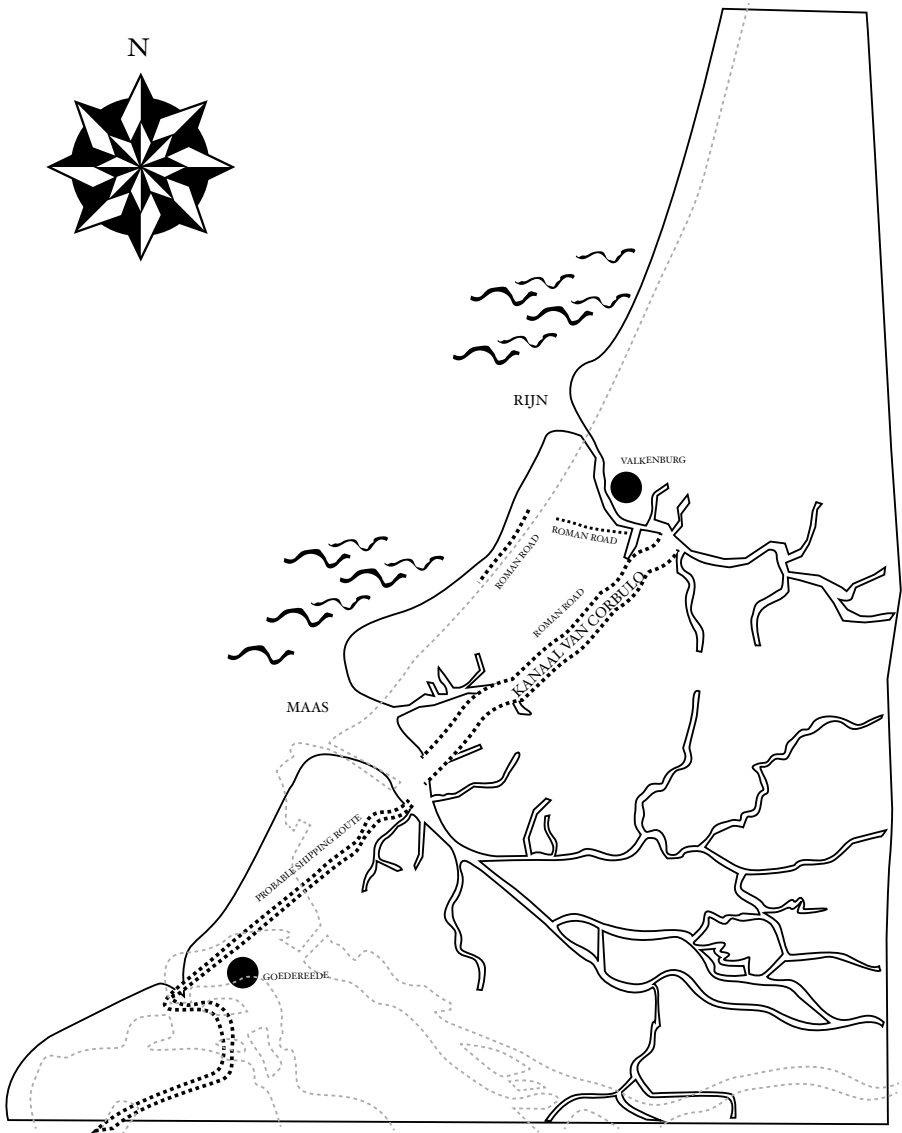
Earthenware, AD 96-103, Leiden, RMO

The *Legio Decima Gemina* (*LXG*) has the honorary title *pia fidelis* (*PF* - faithful and loyal).

7. Horseman's mask

Bronze, AD 80-125, Leiden, ELO

Masks like these are used in parades and tournaments and also during fights to scare the enemy. The mask is then attached to a helmet and can hinge. This mask has been found on the bed of the *Fossa Corbulonis* [Kanaal van Corbulo]. Possibly it has been offered to a river god.



Location of the *Fossa Corbulonis* [Kanaal van Corbulo] around the year 200 AD

PRAETORIUM AGRIPPINAE (VALKENBURG)

Praetorium Agrippinae (Valkenburg) is one of the best preserved and most complete excavated forts on the Limes. Next to the military installations, such as the *castellum* and even a *praesidium* (small fort, in this case for 80 soldiers), Valkenburg has a rich infrastructure with harbours, roads, cemeteries and a prosperous commercial neighbourhood with a bathhouse.

1. Double writing tablet with inscriptions

Wood, AD 42-69, Valkenburg, RMO

Traces of writing are partially covered by the remains of a black layer of wax. On the front the remainder of a carved address can be seen.

2. Inkwell

Earthenware, AD 50-100, Valkenburg, RMO

3. Plate with graffiti

Earthenware, AD 40-150, Valkenburg, RMO

This *terra sigillata* plate belongs to soldier Senecio. His name has been carved in it.

4. Fragment of a mural from the headquarters (*principia*) of the *castellum*

Lime mortar, pigments, AD 40-250, Valkenburg, RMO

5. Dipper

Bronze, AD 40-100, Valkenburg, RMO

6. Skin scraper (*strigilis*)

Iron, AD 40-300, Valkenburg, RMO

With a *strigilis* oil, used during sports as soap or as skin care, is scraped from the skin. This one has possibly been used in the Valkenburg bathhouse.

7. Shield boss (*umbo*)

Bronze, AD 40-250, Valkenburg, RMO

This boss most likely belongs to the shield of a Germanic soldier. Roman shield bosses do not have a lump, Germanic ones do.

8. Arrowhead

Iron, wood in shaft, AD 40-250, Valkenburg, RMO

9. Dagger in sheath

Iron, bronze, gold, enamel, AD 40-250, Valkenburg, RMO

10. Fittings from a scabbard

Bronze, AD 40-50, Valkenburg, RMO

Sheath with decorations of winged creatures, a wild boar, a lion and a deer which is attacked by hunting dogs. Between the garlands also animals are depicted.

11. *Terra sigillata* bowl from La Graufesenque

Earthenware, AD 80-110, Valkenburg, RMO

La Graufesenque is a well-known production centre of *terra sigillata* in Southern France. The decoration with among others a Venus figure and a man in toga makes it likely that the potter is one Marcus Crestio. Similar depictions are known to be his.

BRITTENBURG (KATWIJK)

The Brittenburg is the Roman *Limes* fortification *Lugdunum Batavorum*, now disappeared into the sea. After storms in the 16th and 17th century the remains reappear on the Katwijk beach for a while. Until now no original finds of the Brittenburg have been identified. They must have existed, but have never been properly documented. The finds in this display case may come from the Brittenburg.

1. Anonymous, The Brittenburg near Katwijk aan Zee

Oil on canvas, 17th century, RMO

This painting is based on a woodcut by Adriaan Ortelius from 1562. It shows the square floorplan of the Brittenburg and some of the finds, such as coins and roof tiles.

2. Finger ring with gem

Gold, carnelian, AD 300-400, Katwijk, RMO

3. Finger ring

Bronze, AD 1-300, Katwijk, RMO

4. Dupondius of Caligula

Bronze, AD 37-41, Katwijk, RMO

The Roman writer Suetonius describes how Caligula gathers his troops on the Katwijk beach. He lets them search for shells as war booty. It is long thought that this is a mocking story or a wrong translation, but according to new insights it could be part of a victory ritual.

5. Jug

Earthenware, AD 150-250, Katwijk, MMDH

A jug of this kind is depicted on the woodcut of the Brittenburg by Adriaan Ortelius (1562). For this reason it was bought as a Brittenburg find.

6. Small bowl

Earthenware, AD 70-200, Katwijk, MMDH

The decoration with diluted clay is applied with a piping bag (barbotine technique). According to a study dating from 1965 this bowl is a 'Brittenburg find'.

7. Small plate with stamp *DISETVS*

Earthenware, AD 140-180, Katwijk, RMO

Stamp of the potter Disetus from Trier. Bought by museum director Reuvens in 1826. On the bottom of the plate it says: 'van 't HVYSTE BRITTEN' [of the HOUSE at BRITTEN].

8. Roof tile with production stamp

Earthenware, AD 80-250, Katwijk, RMO

The roof tile has the stamp of the producer: *EXGERINF (EXercitus GERmania INferior)*: the army of *Germania Inferior*.

THE HAGUE-OCKENBURGH [DEN HAAG-OCKENBURGH]

The dune fort Ockenburgh is a small fort (*praesidium*) and has the capacity to hold a unit of 16 horsemen (*turma*) and a few guards and stable boys. The horses are stabled within the fort.

1. Dune fort Ockenburgh, artist's impression Kelvin Wilson

2. Roof tile fragments

Earthenware, AD 100-300, The Hague Ockenburgh, ANMDH

The stamp *PRIMACORT* means *Prima Cohors* or the first cohort. This may be a division of the Germanic fleet.

3. Fragment of an amphora with inscription

Earthenware, AD 100-300, The Hague Ockenburgh, ANMDH

4. Spiral fibula

Bronze, AD 175-225, The Hague Ockenburgh, ANMDH

5. Handle in the shape of a swan head

Bronze, AD 100-300, The Hague, ANMDH

This decorated swan head is the handle of a dipper or an oil lamp.

6. Mould for a sword belt holder and a sword belt holder

Earthenware, bronze, AD 200, The Hague Scheveningseweg, ANMDH

The sword belt holder, part of a scabbard, has been found together with half a mould in which this kind of holder is made. The mould still contains a remnant of another sword belt holder. The blacksmith makes parts on the spot or repairs for the army.

7. Spearhead

Iron, AD 100-300, The Hague Ockenburgh, ANMDH

8. Fragment of a hauberk (*lorica hamata*)

Iron, AD 200, The Hague Scheveningseweg, ANMDH

THE HAGUE- ROTTERDAMSEBAAN [DEN HAAG- ROTTERDAMSEBAAN]

This hoard has been found during excavations in the route of the future Rotterdamsebaan. Archaeologists find a Roman pot containing a large lump of metal objects. It is a real challenge to 'unscramble' them. Thanks to the expertise of the conservator, 107 coins appear from the rust clump, all of which are more or less readable. In the pot there are also six silver bracelets, a large silver plated cloak pin and some glass beads.

Some coins are already old when they are buried. Between the oldest coin, that of Emperor Nero, and the youngest, of Emperor Marcus Aurelius, is a period of 100 years. There are some rare coins of an emperor who ruled only three months: Emperor Otho. The coins are all *denarii*. Striking is the fact that all are silver coins, while during that period predominantly copper money is being circulated. For the Romans silver is also costly. As all items were put together in a pot, the hoard must have been buried deliberately. We will never know for sure why this was done. It may have been a sacrifice, but the hoard can also have been buried because of the threat of an invasion or some other danger.

1. Coin hoard consisting of 107 *denarii*, 6 bracelets, beads and a cloak pin

Earthenware, silver, bronze, glass, AD 160-200, The Hague Rotterdamsebaan, ANMDH

FORUM HADRIANI (VOORBURG)

Just south of the Limes live the *Cananefates*, a native tribe. One of their settlements alongside a creek, widened and deepened by the Romans around 50 AD to construct the *Fossa Corbulonis* [Kanaal van Corbulo], later becomes the capital city *Forum Hadriani* (Voorburg).

The city derives its name from Emperor Hadrian who visits the region in AD 121-122 and grants the settlement the right to organise markets. It is subsequently remodelled as a Roman town.

Around AD 150 *Forum Hadriani* seems to have been granted a charter and the official name *Municipium Aelium Cananefatium*. The abbreviation of this, MAC, appears on Roman milestones found in the region.

Forum Hadriani is a fortified city with a harbour playing a major role in transit trade to *Britannia*. Outside its walls there are busy trading quarters. Inside the city walls are buildings associated with government, public life, religion and commerce. A statue of the emperor adorns the central square.

1. The port of *Forum Hadriani* on the *Fossa Corbulonis* [Kanaal van Corbulo], artist's impression Mikko Kriek

2. Fragment of a Corinthian capital

Limestone, AD 100-300, Voorburg, RMO

3. Fragment of a mural

Limestone, pigment, AD 50-270, Voorburg, RMO

4. Fragment of construction material with inscription

Limestone, AD 120-270, Voorburg, RMO

The inscription is interpreted as:

DEC(urio).. MVN(icipii)..

..]ANI[,

The *decurio collegii municipii* is one of the leaders in a Roman city. This inscription has been found near a small gate in *Forum Hadriani*. It may be the building inscription of the city gate, commissioned by the city council.

5. Fragments of a water pump

Bronze, AD 100-300, Voorburg, PADZH

6. Fragment of a wine amphora with a wooden stop, originating from Crete

Earthenware, wood, AD 0-150, Voorburg, PADZH

Since they are from far away, wine amphoras of this type occur only sporadically in the northern Roman area.

7. Thorn-puller, fragment

Earthenware, AD 70-150, Voorburg, RMO

The thorn-puller, a statuette of a young man who pulls a thorn from his foot, is a well-known image from Roman times. It is made after a Greek original, which has not been preserved.

8. Hand of an emperor's statue

Bronze, AD 100-300, Voorburg, RMO

9. Griffin

Bronze, AD 50-270, Voorburg, RMO

10. Greyhound

Bronze, AD 50-270, Voorburg, RMO

11. Handle with animal heads

Bronze, AD 50-270, Voorburg, RMO

12. Fibula with letter R

Bronze, AD 200-300, Voorburg, PADZH

Letter fibulas incidentally appear in the northwestern provinces of the Roman Empire during the second century AD. 'R' can stand for Roma or it can be an initial of a person.

13. Wheel fibula

Bronze, enamel, AD 100-300, Voorburg, PADZH

On this wheel fibula decorated with enamel the head of a man with wavy hair is depicted.

14. Equilateral fibula

Bronze, enamel, AD 150-200, Voorburg, PADZH

This type of fibula is mainly found in northern France, Belgium and the Rhine area.

15. Knee fibula

Bronze, AD 150-225, Voorburg, PADZH

These cloak pins often appear in Britannia, but are far less common along the Rhine-Danube-*Limes*.

16. Trumpet head fibula in the shape of a fly

Bronze, AD 100-200, Voorburg, PADZH

This fibula has a clear relationship with the province of *Britannia*, where more cloak pins like this one have been found. In total only 12 copies are known.

17. Two bracelets with stylised snake heads

Bronze, AD 175-225, Voorburg, PADZH

This type of bracelet is not just worn for decoration. It probably also wards of evil.

18. Key-rings

Bronze, AD 100-250, Voorburg, PADZH

Key-rings are made for small thumb turns of chests in which probably jewellery is kept.

19. Seal box with lid

Bronze, enamel, AD 100-300, Voorburg, PADZH

20. Seal box with lid

Bronze, enamel, AD 175-300, Voorburg, PADZH

On a round surface rectangular pieces of *millefiori* enamel have been put in a chessboard pattern. Octagonal seal boxes are rare.

NAALDWIJK

Emperor Hadrian not only establishes *Forum Hadriani* along the Roman coast, but probably also the naval base in Naaldwijk. This guards the *Helinium* (the broad estuary of the Maas/Meuse and Waal rivers) and the *Fossa Corbulonis* [Kanaal van Corbulo]. Evidence for this is the inscription on an excavated bronze plate.

The busy traffic on the shore of the *Helinium* and the presence of the naval station at Naaldwijk ensure an increased prosperity. This wealth is evident from the archaeological finds, but one can only speculate who have been the original owners of these luxury items.

1. Fragment of a shoulder part

Marble, AD 200-250, Naaldwijk, PADZH

Part of an emperor's statue or bust. Visible are three *pterugeria*: leather flaps with tassels, which must protect the shoulder. It may have been an image of Emperor Septimius Severus (AD 193-211).

2. Lion's paw

Bronze, AD 100-300, Naaldwijk, PADZH

This heavy foot is part of a piece of furniture, possibly of a lamp stand.

3. Venus

Bronze, AD 100-300, Naaldwijk, PADZH

4. Bust of Serapis

Bronze, AD 100-300, Naaldwijk, PADZH

The god Serapis is a Greek god, worshipped by soldiers from all parts of the Roman Empire.

5. Reclining lady

Bronze, AD 100-300, Naaldwijk, WM

6. Hand of an emperor's statue

Bronze, AD 100-300, Naaldwijk, RMO

The hand is held in the *adlocutio* pose, with stretched right arm: the greeting that the ruler brings to his troops.

7. Roof tile fragments with stamps

Earthenware, AD 100-300, Naaldwijk and Voorburg, PADZH

In these roof tiles the letters (CGPF) have been pressed. These letters stand for *Classis Germanica Pia Fidelis*: the German fleet with the honorary title 'faithful and loyal'.

8. Roof tile fragment with stamp PRIMCORS

Earthenware, AD 100-300, Naaldwijk, RMO

PRIMCORS is the abbreviation of a military unit. *Prima Cohors* is the first cohort. This may be a division of the Germanic fleet.

9. Plate with inscription 'Classis.AV'

Bronze, AD 150-200, Naaldwijk, PADZH

This bronze plate has cladded the pedestal of an emperor's statue.

The inscription reads (text supplemented):

*[Imp(eratori) Caes(ari) Divi Traiani
Parth(ici) f(ilio), Divi Ner(vae) nep(oti),
Traia(no) Hadriano Aug(usto),
pont(ifici) max(imo,) trib(unicia) pot(estate)]
XV, co(n)s(uli) III, [proco(n)s(uli) p(atri) p(atriae)]
classis Au(gusta) German(ica)]*

Translation:

For Emperor Hadrian, son of the divine Trajan, grandson of the divine Nerva, chief priest, fifteen times holding the power of the people's tribunal, three times consul, father of the fatherland, has the imperial fleet in *Germania* (established this statue).

Interpretation: Ton Derks, Vrije Universiteit

10. Protection piece of a scabbard

Bone, AD 150-250, Naaldwijk, RMO

THE LAND OF NEHALENNIA [HET LAND VAN NEHALENNIA]

South of the *Limes* defence zone lies a calmer region. Near Naaldwijk the *Helinium* (the broad estuary of the Maas/Meuse and Waal rivers) can be crossed. Behind the dunes of Voorne-Putten lay the commercial harbour of Goedereede and the peat region of Zeeland. Here it is easier to travel over water than on land. There are large and small production centres for salt extraction, shell processing and the making of fish sauce. Many coastal routes start from the major seaports of Colijnsplaat and Domburg and it is from here that ships depart for overseas trade with *Britannia* and the coast of *Gallia*.

Seaborne transport is fraught with risk and thus requires both military and divine protection. The commercial centres feature besides protective naval bases and coastal forts also temple complexes. The goddess Nehalennia is a major patron of trade and shipping. She not only protects local traders, but also Roman ship-owners and travellers from all points of the compass. Situated on relatively higher land, Aardenburg is the southernmost point of the Roman coast in the Netherlands. Here an industrious town of craftsmen has grown into a monumental *castellum*.

SOUTH OF THE *HELINIUM* [TEN ZUIDEN VAN HET *HELINIUM*]

Native farmers in the coastal region south of the *Helinium* have learned to manage the wet landscape. Using numerous drainage channels, ditches, dams and culverts they regulate the water level of the clay- and peat-based soils. This way they can grow crops and let cattle graze. The farmers trade crop and livestock surpluses. Regional Roman troops, such as those at Oostvoorne fort, are regular customers.

In Goedereede business is also booming. The bartering spot along a creek grows into a large transit harbour. The large amounts of luxury earthenware which have been found here, must certainly have also been destined for trade. It is way too much for the inhabitants of the port itself.

Along the coast near Goedereede lies a military support base, possibly as part of the coastal defence. In the 17th century walkers on the beach see 'an old and derelict stead', which they name '*De Oude Waerelt*' [The Old World]. However, since the 18th century it has not been seen and no drawings or finds have been preserved.

1. The Roman port of Goedereede with in the background the military support base '*De Oude Waerelt*', artist's impression Mikko Kriek

2. Whetstone

Natural stone, AD 50-250, Nieuwenhoorn, BOOR

With a whetstone small burrs can be removed after sharpening metal tools.

3. Two painted cups

Earthenware, AD 150-200, Rockanje, BOOR

Just like *terra sigillata*, painted earthenware is a typical import product from another region in the Roman Empire.

4. Coarse ware pot

Earthenware, AD 140-300, Rockanje, BOOR

5. Painted cup

Earthenware, AD 50-250, Goedereede, PADZH/SGO

6. Oil lamp

Bronze, AD 50-250, Goedereede, RMO

7. Head of a Venus statuette, possibly from Cologne

Terracotta, AD 50-250, Rockanje, BOOR

8. Sacrificial bowl or smoke bowl

Earthenware, AD 50-250, Goedereede, PADZH/SGO

9. Chest handle

Bronze, AD 50-250, Rockanje, BOOR

10. Handle

Bronze, AD 50-250, Rockanje, BOOR

11. Game chip

Antler, AD 50-250, Rockanje, BOOR

12. Terret

Bronze, AD 150-250, Rockanje, BOOR

13. Fragment of a hauberk

Bronze, AD 40-200, Goedereede, RMO

Part of a *lorica hamata* and *lorica squamata*. This is a combination of chainmail and scale armour. This kind of armour is worn by Roman military officers.

BEACHES OF ZEELAND [ZEEUWSE STRANDEN]

A trade settlement with harbour develops at the southern estuary of the Scheldt River near Domburg. This settlement has an important relationship with the temple of the goddess Nehalennia, which probably lies behind the dunes. Early January 1647 a heavy westerly storm smashes away part of those dunes. Afterwards people are surprised to see sculpted stones with Latin inscriptions on the beach. The circa forty altar stones, devoted to Nehalennia and some other Roman gods, are brought to a church in Domburg. Unfortunately this church is struck by lightning in 1848 and destroyed by fire. Mainly some broken pieces are left. Even now objects from Roman times are being found on the beach.

1. Fibula

Bronze, AD 120-200, Domburg, ZG/ZM

2. Wire fibula

Bronze, AD 150-300, Domburg, ZG/ZM

3. Hook fibula

Bronze, 20 BC - AD 60, Domburg, ZG/ZM

4. Two fibulas

Bronze, AD 120-200, Domburg, ZG/SCEZ

5. Crossbow fibula

Bronze, AD 50-120, Domburg, ZG/SCEZ

6. Finger ring with inscription *CASR*

Bronze, AD 150-300, Domburg, ZG/ZM

The letters *CASR* most likely are the initials of the owner of the ring. De reversed V has to be read as an A. So the inscription actually reads CASR. Names of Roman civilians consist of three parts: first name, family name and nickname. The two letters in the middle, AS, probably are the initials of the family name, which is the most important name.

7. Piece of fitting

Silver, late Roman era, Schouwen-Duiveland, ZG/ZM

8. Roman keys

Metal, AD 0-300, Domburg, ZG/SCEZ

9. Genius

Bronze, c. 1985

Bronze replica, made of a plaster cast of a bronze statuette of a *genius*. The original statuette has been found on the beach of Domburg in 1737. A *genius* is an invisible protector, who escorts every human being for better or worse. The Romans' faith in this is very strong. They honour statuettes of *genii* on festive and birthdays.

10. Fragment of a plate with animal feet

Earthenware, AD 150-250, Domburg, ZG/SCEZ

A hamster has possibly walked over the drying clay. Its footprints are visible. Hamsters are not indigenous to the Low Countries, but have probably arrived here with the Roman trade.

11. Roof tile fragment with stamp

Earthenware, AD 100-200, Domburg, ZG/ZM

12. J. Goeree, The find of three altars and three medals

Ink on paper, 17th century, ZA/ZG, Zelandia Illustrata

This drawing shows the find on the beach in Domburg of the Nehalennia altars, which were lost for the greater part.

13. Page with drawings by H. Schuylenburg and notes by Mr. J. Verheye van Citters

Ink, chalk and pencil on paper, 17th century /c. 1800, ZA/ZG, Zelandia Illustrata

ELLEWOUTSDIJK

In AD 200 this settlement has already been abandoned for fifty years. However, much of what we know today about native farmers is based on the excavations near Ellewoutsdijk. Prior to the construction of the Westerschelde tunnel, archaeological research has been carried out. A settlement of the local tribe, the *Menapii* or the *Marsaci*, is discovered.

Due to the location on the peat, with a high groundwater table, organic materials remain well-preserved. Archaeologists discover nine well-recognizable farms and three outbuildings, the posts of which sometimes still stand. When their age is determined, some posts show something special. They date from about 5500 years ago, so in Roman times they are already very old. It is likely that the tree trunks come from a fossil forest, that has partly surfaced at that time. A forest like this has among others been found near Terneuzen.

Paradoxically, the reclamation and drainage of the peat by the farmers probably also causes an unforeseen end. The peat soil subsides. This gives the water a chance and eventually the settlement is abandoned.

1. Farm near Ellewoutsdijk, artist's impression Rob van Eerden

2. Part of a small amphora

Earthenware, AD 120-150, Ellewoutsdijk, SCEZ

3. Hand-built pot

Earthenware, AD 65-150, Ellewoutsdijk, SCEZ

Before the arrival of the Romans, all the earthenware in our regions is hand-built. The potter's wheel is a Roman innovation.

4. Tuyere

Earthenware, AD 65-150, Ellewoutsdijk, SCEZ

A *tuyere* functions as the air vent of an oven.

5. Part of a farm construction

Wood, AD 65-150, Ellewoutsdijk, SCEZ

6. Part of a farm construction

Wood, AD 65-150, Ellewoutsdijk, SCEZ

The excavation photo shows how well the wood has been preserved in the peat. An oak board of a similar quality in a sandy soil will completely deteriorate. The purpose of this board is unknown.



Photo: ADC ArcheoProjecten

7. Part of a farm construction

Wood, AD 65-150, Ellewoutsdijk, SCEZ

AARDENBURG

Aardenburg is the final location where the Romans build a military fortification for the protection of the North Sea coast. The earliest forts have been built here from AD 170 with fortifications from wood and earth. Around AD 260 a new stone fort with a stone defensive wall and a fifteen meter wide moat rises here. It has a *principia* (headquarters) and a bathhouse. Around the *castellum* there are a number of industrial districts and a harbour. For trade, the location of Aardenburg is extremely favourable: on a waterway to the North Sea and via country roads among others the Roman main road from Cologne to Boulogne can be reached.

1. Roman Aardenburg, artist's impression Mikko Kriek

2. Terra sigillata drinking bowl

Earthenware, AD 150-270, Aardenburg, SCEZ

This bowl shows an erotic scene. The depiction of this kind of scene is part of Roman culture and customs.

3. Terra sigillata drinking bowl

Earthenware, AD 175-225, Aardenburg, SCEZ

4. Fragments of a terra sigillata bowl

Earthenware, AD 150-270, Aardenburg, SCEZ/GAMA

Already in Roman times the owner is economical with his luxurious earthenware. The fracture in this bowl is 'glued' with a piece of lead.

5. Painted cup with indentations (beaker)

Earthenware, AD 150-270, Aardenburg, SCEZ

6. Painted hunting cup

Earthenware, AD 150-270, Aardenburg, SCEZ

7. Pitch fork

Bone, AD 170-290, Aardenburg, SCEZ

Fork for tuning a Roman harp.

8. Game discs

Bone, AD 150-290, Aardenburg, SCEZ/GAMA

The Romans do like their games. There is also a lot of gambling, although this is not officially allowed.

9. Game discs

Slate, AD 150-290, Aardenburg, SCEZ/GAMA

10. Knife handle with dog and hare

Bronze, AD 150-290, Aardenburg, SCEZ

11. Pendant with crescent moon (*lunula*) and a phallus, horse gear

Bronze, AD 170-290, Aardenburg, SCEZ

12. Crossbow fibula

Bronze, AD 200-290, Aardenburg, SCEZ

13. Finger ring with gem

Silver, glass, AD 200-290, Aardenburg, SCEZ

14. Finger ring with gem

Bronze, glass paste, AD 150-290, Aardenburg, SCEZ

The figure in the cameo depicts the god Hercules.

15. Three gems

Glass paste, AD 150-290, Aardenburg, SCEZ

16. Sleeking stone

Marble, AD 150-290, Aardenburg, SCEZ/GAMA

It is possible that ointment or make-up was prepared on this stone.

17. Hairpin with dog

Bronze, AD 150-290, Aardenburg, SCEZ/GAMA

18. Mould for making terracotta birds

Earthenware, AD 150-290, Aardenburg, SCEZ/GAMA

19. Mercurius

Bronze, AD 150-200, Aardenburg, SCEZ

20. Fortuna-Isis

Bronze, AD 150-290, Aardenburg, SCEZ/GAMA

21. Bacchus

Bronze, AD 170-290, Aardenburg, SCEZ

22. Fragments of murals

Lime mortar, pigment, AD 190-290, Aardenburg, SCEZ

Mural paintings with imitation of, among others, porphyry and alabaster rocks. A reconstruction of these murals is positioned on the wall to the left of you.

23. Fragment of a roof tile with stamp *CIIS*

Earthenware, AD 220-245, Aardenburg, SCEZ

CIIS is the abbreviation for *Cohors Secunda Severiana*, the unit which is quartered in the Aardenburg fort.

24. Virtual reconstruction of Roman Aardenburg, realisation Mikko Kriek & Studio Moker / Thomas Drucker, 2017, SAMZ

25. From excavation to impression: the making of the virtual reconstruction of Roman Aardenburg, realisation Urbi et Orbi, 2017, ZM

Duration: c. 12 minutes

AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY [LANDBOUW EN VEETEELT]

On the reclaimed peat soils agriculture is being practised. There is proof for crops of oats, barley and horse bean, a kind of garden bean that is grown as animal fodder. Linseed is also grown, the basis for flax, from which linen is made.

The livestock (cattle, sheep, goat and some pigs) are grazed on the salt marshes. In Serooskerke (Walcheren), Ellewoutsdijk and Haamstede corrals for gathering animals have been found. Two different Roman sources mention the salty *Menapian* ham as a local delicacy. Because of their wool, sheep are important. The Roman cloth business is flourishing.

1. Wooden hammer

Wood, AD 50-250, Geervliet, BOOR

2. Agricultural implement

Wood, metal, AD 50-250, Hellevoetsluis, BOOR

With this so-called reaping hook the crop is being held together when mowing.

3. Quernstone

Tephrite, AD 150-290, Aardenburg, SCEZ/GAMA

4. Gem

Carnelian, AD 90-140, Poortvliet, SCEZ

In the gem the figure of a male goat has been carved.

5. Awl

Bone, AD 150-290, Aardenburg, SCEZ/GAMA

6. Spindle whorl of re-used *terra sigillata*

Earthenware, AD 150-270, Aardenburg, SCEZ/GAMA

7. Spindle whorl

Earthenware, AD 65-150, Ellewoutsdijk, SCEZ

8. Spindle whorl

Earthenware, 100 BC - AD 100, Koudekerke, SCEZ/ZG

9. Loom weight

Earthenware, 100 BC - AD 100, Koudekerke, SCEZ/ZG

SALT AND FISH SAUCE [ZOUT EN VISSAUS]

The Zeeland coast area offers industrial possibilities. In 's-Heer Abtskerke and Aardenburg, among others, salt is produced, which is bought by the army. Special salt officers, *salinatores*, oversee its production and trade. Salt, *sal* in Latin, is being used for food preservation and as an ingredient for fish sauce. It is a precious product. Our word 'salary' still refers to this fact.

Near Serooskerke (Walcheren) a seasonal production site for among others *allec*, a savoury fish sauce, is situated on a terp. To produce *allec* spice and salt are added to little fish and shellfish (mussels and cockles), after which they are left to ferment for a few months. The sauce is transported in earthenware containers of regional origin. Lime is made of shellfish, for use in construction and in tanning. The products are transported by boat to the entire western Roman empire.

1. Cup with indentations (beaker) of metal glazed earthenware

Earthenware, AD 200-300, 's-Heer Abtskerke, SCEZ

Pots like these are filled with salt water. Upon heating, the water evaporates and a residue with salt remains on its inner sides. This residue can be further processed into useful salt.

2. Cooking pot of northern Menapian grey earthenware

Earthenware, AD 150-270, 's-Heer Abtskerke, SCEZ



Excavated ovens near 's-Heer Abtskerke, used for the production of salt, *allec* and/or lime

Photo SCEZ

3. Tripods and fragments

Earthenware, 100 BC - AD 100, Koudekerke, SCEZ/ZG

The pots in which the salt is extracted are placed in the fire on these tripods. This kind of porous earthenware is associated with salt production and is called *briquetage* material. Because a lot of this material has been found near Koudekerke, the presence of a salt production site here is also suspected.

4. Fragments of salt containers

Earthenware, AD 100-200, Ritthem, SCEZ/ZG

5. Fragment of a dolium (storage jar)

Earthenware, AD 150-290, Aardenburg, SCEZ/GAMA

'*ALII C XI S*' is scratched in the edge of this storage jar. So it has been used to store well over 300 litres of *allec* (fish sauce).

6. Shells of mussels and cockles, ZG/ZM

These species are widely used in the production of fish sauce. At the production site near Serooskerke the waste of about 5500 kilos of shellfish, mainly mussels, has been found. Probably this amount is processed in just two seasons.

TRADE [HANDEL]

Local farmers trade their surplus production with the Romans. At Domburg and Colijnsplaat, which probably is the *Ganuenta* known from a Nehalennia altar stone, there are market places. The corresponding harbours are suitable for seaworthy cargo ships. These facilities also attract traders from far away, who bring exotic goods with them.

At such trading centres there are temples. As a thank you for the safe crossing and good trading results, local and Roman sailors and merchants devote hundreds of altars to local goddess Nehalennia. Only in Domburg other gods, both native and Roman, are also worshipped.

1. Roman port near Colijnsplaat, artist's impression Mikko Kriek

Artist's impressions are mostly based on archaeological excavations. However, *Ganuenta* lies on the bottom of the Oosterschelde. From recovered altars and building materials it becomes clear that there must have been a special settlement on this location. This impression has been inspired by other comparable locations. The landscape is based on geological, physico-geographical and ecological research.

2. Amphora from the Scheldt River valley

Earthenware, AD 150-200, Aardenburg, SCEZ/GAMA

3. Amphora from the Scheldt River valley

Earthenware, AD 150-225, Aardenburg, SCEZ/GAMA

4. Miniature amphoras

Earthenware, AD 100-250, Bergen op Zoom, ADBZ

In Bergen op Zoom large quantities of these miniature specimens, used for olive oil, have been found at an excavation behind the Gertrudis Church. They appear to have been sacrificed at a temple or ritual place and point to a transit place for Spanish olive oil.

5. Fragment of a mortarium

Earthenware, AD 150-200, Aardenburg, SCEZ

The stamp indicates that this mortarium is from Soller near Cologne.

6. Handle of an amphora for olive oil

Earthenware, AD 210-240, Aardenburg, SCEZ

The stamp '*ACIRGI*' is witness to the fact that this amphora has travelled from southern Spain to Aardenburg.

7. Handle of an amphora for olive oil

Earthenware, AD 160-200, Rockanje, BOOR

The amphora probably originates from southern Spain, as can be derived from 'LQS', the stamp of its producer.

8. Fragment of a *terra sigillata* plate

Earthenware, AD 180-260, Serooskerke, SCEZ

The plate has the stamp of the potter, his name is Felicio.

9. Fragment of a cup

Earthenware, AD 150-200, Welzinge, SCEZ

The decoration presents running deer and lying panthers. The cup has been made in the pottery of Ebaras in northern France.

10. Two wine sieves

Bronze, AD 150-290, Aardenburg, SCEZ/GAMA

11. Bracket hinge fibula with half round head plate

Bronze, AD 120-160, Middelburg, Peter Pinxteren

12. Steelyard (weighing instrument)

Bronze, AD 50-350, Burgh, ZG/ZM

13. Weight to use on a set of scales

Limestone, AD 150-290, Aardenburg, SCEZ/GAMA

14. Statue of the goddess Nehalennia

Limestone, AD 175-230, Colijnsplaat, RMO

Nehalennia is portrayed sitting on a throne. The sculpture is strongly weathered, but on the left side a dog can be seen. The groove lines in the background probably depict a curtain.

15. Dolium (storage jar)

Earthenware, AD 85-225, Goedereede, PADZH

16. Large mortarium

Earthenware, AD 220-240, Aardenburg, SCEZ/GAMA

This substantial bowl has been found near the little temple in the *castellum*. It has probably been used as a sacrificial bowl.

17. Altar stone for Nehalennia from a salt merchant

Limestone, AD 175-230, Colijnsplaat, RMO

Nehalennia is seated on a throne, flanked by a dog. Her cloak is clasped with a circular fibula. On the sides of the altar stone there is a horn of abundance.

The inscription reads:

DEÆ • NEHALE
NIAE • SACRUM
C • IUL • FLOREN
TINUS • AGRIPP
NEGOTIATOR
SALARIUS • PRO S
E ET • SUI[S • V•] S • L • M

Text supplemented:

Deae Nehale | niae sacrum | C(aius) I(lu(ius) Floren | tinus Agripp(inensis) | negotiator | salarius pro s|e et sui[s v(otum)] s(olvit) l(ibens) m(erito).

Translation:

To the goddess Nehalennia (this altar) has been dedicated. Caius Iulius Florentinus, Agrippinensis (= citizen of Cologne), salt merchant, has fulfilled his vow (with this) for the benefit of himself and his own, willingly (and) with reason.

18. Altar stone for Nehalennia from a salt merchant

Limestone, AD 175-230, Colijnsplaat, RMO

On the left side of this altar stone a tree has been depicted, on its right side a horn of abundance.

The inscription reads:

DEAE
NEHALENNI
Q CORNELIUS
SUPERSTIS
NEGOTIATOR
SALARIUS
V • S • L • M

Text supplemented:

Deae | Nehalenni(ae) | Q(uintus) Cornelius | Superstis | negotiator salarius | v(otum) s(olvit) l(ibens) m(erito).

Translation:

Towards the goddess Nehalennia Quintus Cornelius Superstis, salt merchant, has fulfilled his vow, willingly (and) with reason.

19. Altar stone for Nehalennia from two merchants in fish sauce

Limestone, AD 175-230, Colijnsplaat, RMO

The goddess is seated on a throne. In her left hand she holds a horn of

abundance. It is not clear what is in her right hand. To her left is a basket with apples, on the right side the contours of a dog can be seen. The sides of the altar are decorated with acanthus leaves with above them people bringing sacrifices; to the left it is a man and to the right a woman with a sacrificial bowl. The symbolism of the acanthus is associated with eternal life.

The inscription reads:

DE(AE)

NEHALENNIAE • L SECUNDIUS

SIMILIS • ET • T • CARINIUS

GRATUS • NEGOTIATORES

ALLECARI • V • S • L • M

[[—]]

Text supplemented:

De(ae) | Nehalenniae | L(ucius) Secundius | Similis et T(itus) Carinius | Gratus negotiatores | allecari v(otum) s(olverunt) l(ibentes) m(erito) [[—]]

Translation:

Towards Nehalennia Lucius Secundius Similis and Titus Carinius Gratus, allec (fish sauce) merchants, (with this) have fulfilled their vow, willingly (and) with a reason.

Colour

Our image of the Classics is quite colourless: buildings constructed from tuff, natural stone altars and marble statues. Research with, among other things, UV light indicates that many sculptures have been painted with varied colours. Also the Nehalennia altar stones shall originally have been much more colourful. Therefore we invite everyone to experiment with the application of colour on such an altar using the education table in the other room.

20. Video Nehalennia - goddess from the water

Duration: c. 4 minutes

THE ROMAN COAST

It is the year 200 AD. Walking down the Dutch coast, from Texel to Aardenburg, offers a new perspective of this region of the Netherlands during the Roman period.

After repeated attempts by the Romans to control their territories in the North the Frisians resume their independent lives. Their daily existence is little influenced by trade and contacts with the Romans. The area around the *Limes* and along the coast is a military defence zone with forts and watchtowers. South of the *Limes* live the *Cananefates*, a native tribe increasingly forming an administrative unit with the Romans in their region. Farmers and merchants have to pay taxes but also benefit from access to a Roman market. South of the *Helinium* Romans and locals (*Frisiavones*, *Marsaci* and *Menapii*) co-exist even more intensively. They worship the same gods, respect each other and collaborate in trading enterprises and the production of goods.

The rivers and the North Sea play a major role in all these developments, as transit routes between *Gallia*, *Germania Inferior* and *Britannia*. Time and again new emperors reinforce and defend this Roman coastal region. After many attacks by pirates from the North Sea and in the Southwest of the Netherlands also due to the drowning of the peat landscape, the Romans finally decide to abandon the territories, although they continue to defend the coastal zone. Where this is still possible, the local inhabitants carry on as before, making use of the opportunities provided by their environment, on the frontier between land and sea.

COLOPHON

Concept and composition

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1Arch / Hazenberg Archeologie, Leiden
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Zeeuws Museum

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Urbi et Orbi

Translation

Michèle Hendriks, Amsterdam
Zeeuws Museum

This text booklet is part of the exhibition ROMAN COAST – THE LAND OF NEHALENNIA, on view in the Zeeuws Museum from 18 November 2017 until 6 May 2018.

Lenders

Archeologie, Natuur en Milieueducatie, The Hague
Archeologisch Depot Bergen op Zoom
Bureau Oudheidkundig onderzoek (BOOR), Rotterdam
Erfgoed Leiden en omstreken, Leiden
Gemeentelijk Archeologisch Museum Aardenburg, Aardenburg
Museum Meermanno, The Hague
Noord-Hollands Archief, Haarlem
Peter Pinxteren, Baarland
Provinciaal Archeologisch Depot Zuid-Holland, Alphen aan den Rijn
Provinciaal Depot voor Archeologie Noord-Holland, Castricum
National Museum of Antiquities, Leiden
Stichting Archeologisch Museum Zeeland
Stichting Cultureel Erfgoed Zeeland (SCEZ), Middelburg
Streekmuseum Goeree-Overflakkee, Sommelsdijk
Westlands Museum, Honselersdijk
Zeeuws Archief, Middelburg
Zeeland Society, Middelburg

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