

Recent research on the *limes* in the Netherlands

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Fig. 1. Map of the Netherlands and places mentioned in the text: 1 Valkenburg, 2 Leiden-Roomburg, 3 Zwammerdam, 4 Bodegraven, 5 Woerden, 6 Vleuten-De Meern, 7 Vechten, 8 Kessel-Lith, 9 Nijmegen, 10 Maastricht. Drawing ROB.

As a result of intense urban development and work on the modern infrastructure, the Dutch delta has become an area of equally intensive archaeological research. The delta coincides with the Roman frontier zone (fig. 1), and a rapid succession of new excavations and other work has shed new light on the Roman period. Although a general summary of the *limes* in Germania Inferior appeared in 1995 (Bechert and Willems), referring to the latest publications, a wealth of further information has since become available, and the present paper reports on some of the new investigations as well as referring to a few of the older finds.¹

Nijmegen

The Augustan fort on the Hunerberg

The excavations in the large legionary fort on the Hunerberg at Nijmegen continued in 1996-97.² For the first time a trench could be opened through the wall and ditches comprising the defences on the W side. It showed that the construction made use of the natural advantages offered by the topography. The wall was situated at the top of a slope and the ditches had been dug at the foot.

The Augustan barrack-blocks, discovered in 1994, gave the prospect of finding further timber buildings in the adjoining area to the east. However, the excavation completed in the autumn of 1997 revealed only isolated foundation trenches, the purpose of which has yet to be explained. A relatively large number of refuse pits was found, including several deep ones, which have enlarged the still quite small series of coins from the Augustan fort. They support the earlier suggestion that the camp had already been abandoned before the first coins of the Lyon Altar type reached Nijmegen. In addition, the finest pottery assemblage hitherto known from this fort came to light (fig. 2): amongst other pieces it contained 3 Aco beakers with the names ACO and HILARVS, as well as a terra sigillata dish (*Conspectus* 8.3.1) with the stamp OLVS./ALBIVS. Together with a second stamp of the Arretine potter Tarquitiuus (L.TAR on a plate of the type I b), this piece belongs to the earliest horizon of Roman finds on the Lower Rhine.

1 This paper is based in part on Haalebos and Willems (in press) which was prepared for the 17th Congress of Roman Frontier Studies held in Romania, 1997. It is chiefly intended to give an overview of discoveries from 1995 to 1998.

2 Haalebos 1995, 9-26.