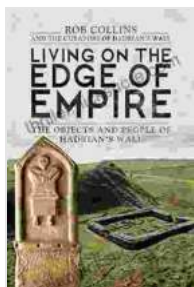


The Objects and People of Hadrian's Wall: A Journey Through Time

Hadrian's Wall, a colossal Roman fortification stretching 73 miles across northern England, stands as a testament to the empire's engineering prowess and strategic ambitions. Beyond its imposing stone ramparts, the wall conceals a captivating tapestry of objects, structures, and untold stories of the people who lived, worked, and defended its frontiers. This article embarks on a journey through time, exploring the fascinating objects and individuals that shaped the history of Hadrian's Wall.



Living on the Edge of Empire: The Objects and People of Hadrian's Wall by Rob Collins

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 45523 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 167 pages
Lending	: Enabled



The People of the Wall

Hadrian's Wall was not merely a defensive structure; it was a vibrant and diverse community. Roman soldiers, known as legionaries and auxiliaries, formed the backbone of the frontier force. These men hailed from all

corners of the Roman Empire, bringing with them their own unique cultures and traditions.

Alongside the soldiers, a multitude of civilians played vital roles in supporting the wall's operations. Traders, craftsmen, farmers, and laborers flocked to the frontier, drawn by the promise of economic opportunities and the protection afforded by the Roman presence.

The local population, known as the Brigantes, also played a significant role in the life of the wall. While initially resisting Roman occupation, many Brigantes eventually integrated into the Roman-dominated landscape, contributing to the region's cultural and economic development.

Objects of Everyday Life

Excavations along Hadrian's Wall have unearthed a wealth of everyday objects that provide tantalizing glimpses into the lives of its inhabitants. From humble pottery and cooking utensils to elaborate jewelry and personal belongings, these artifacts offer a tangible connection to the past.

Coins, found in abundance, not only served as currency but also bore the images and inscriptions of Roman emperors, providing valuable insights into the political and cultural landscape of the period.

Writing tablets, known as "vindolanda tablets," offer a rare and intimate glimpse into the thoughts and lives of ordinary people living on the frontier. These wooden tablets, preserved in the anaerobic conditions of the Vindolanda fort, contain a wealth of personal letters, official documents, and shopping lists.

The Forts and Gates of the Wall

Hadrian's Wall was not a continuous barrier but rather a series of forts and milecastles connected by a military road. Each fort housed a garrison of Roman soldiers and provided essential services such as accommodation, storage, and workshops.

The wall was also punctuated by gateways, which allowed for the passage of people and goods. These gateways were often heavily fortified, with elaborate gatehouses and guard towers to protect against potential threats.

Some of the most notable forts and gateways along Hadrian's Wall include Vindolanda, Housesteads, Chesters, Arbeia, and Segedunum. These sites have been extensively excavated and offer visitors a glimpse into the daily life and military operations of the Roman frontier.

Uncovering the Past

Hadrian's Wall has been the subject of archaeological investigations for centuries, and new discoveries continue to shed light on its history and significance. Ongoing excavations, surveys, and research projects are expanding our understanding of the wall and the people who lived and worked along its length.

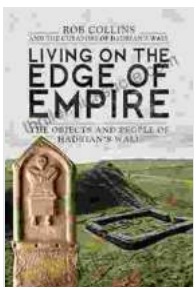
The Vindolanda Trust, a leading archaeological charity, has played a significant role in uncovering the secrets of Hadrian's Wall. Its excavations at Vindolanda fort have yielded a wealth of artifacts and documents, including the famous Vindolanda tablets.

The Hadrian's Wall Path National Trail, a long-distance footpath following the line of the wall, offers hikers and cyclists an immersive experience of its historical and natural landscape.

Hadrian's Wall stands as a timeless testament to human ingenuity and resilience. Through its objects, structures, and the stories of its inhabitants, it invites us on a journey through time, connecting us to the lives and struggles of those who shaped its history. By exploring the objects and people of Hadrian's Wall, we gain a deeper appreciation for the complexities and richness of Roman Britain and the enduring legacy of this iconic frontier.

Further Reading

- Hadrian's Wall - English Heritage
- Hadrian's Wall - National Trust
- Vindolanda Trust
- Hadrian's Wall Path National Trail
- Hadrian's Wall: The People and Places of the Frontier by David J. Breeze



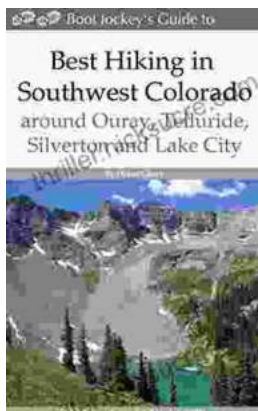
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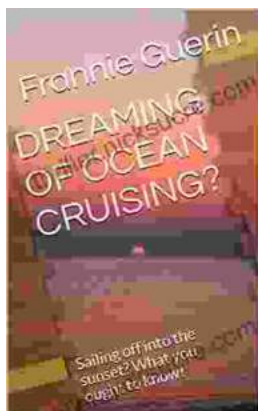
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