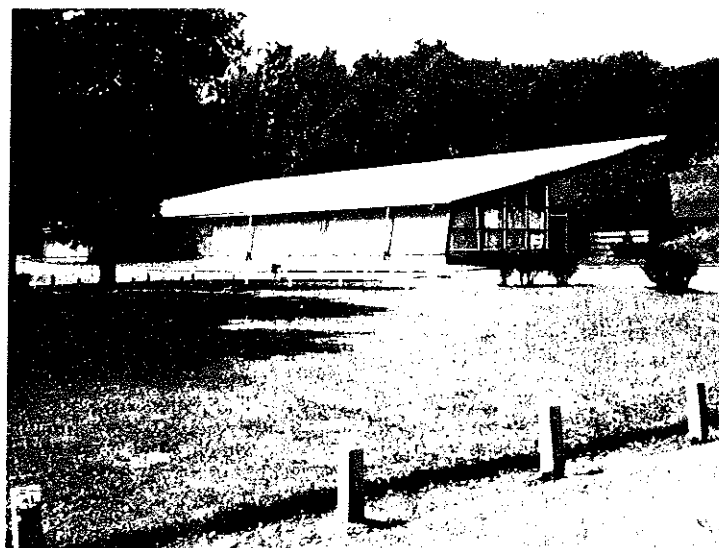


The Museum

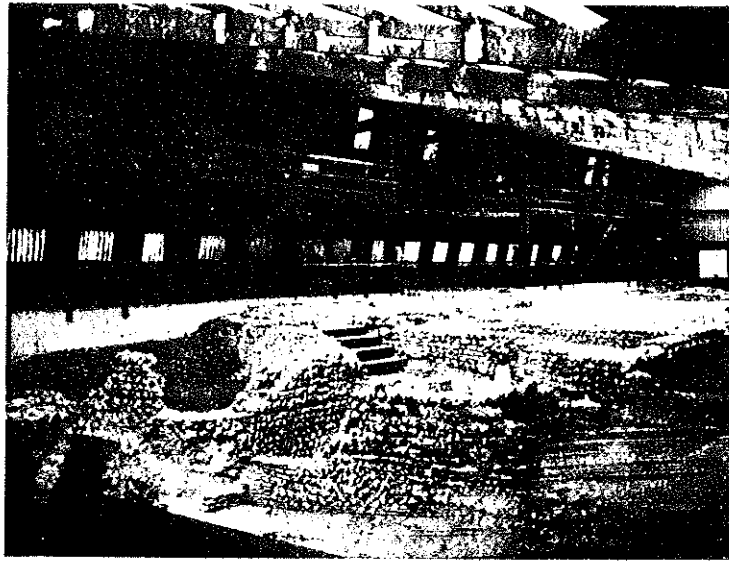
The collections are housed in a new building that covers the excavated area of the villa. The building has walls and roof made of a semi-transparent glass fibre material. There are a number of large opening windows (open on day of survey) and two large air fans that serve to give some degree of environmental control. The two large air fans are capable of circulating hot air during the winter months.



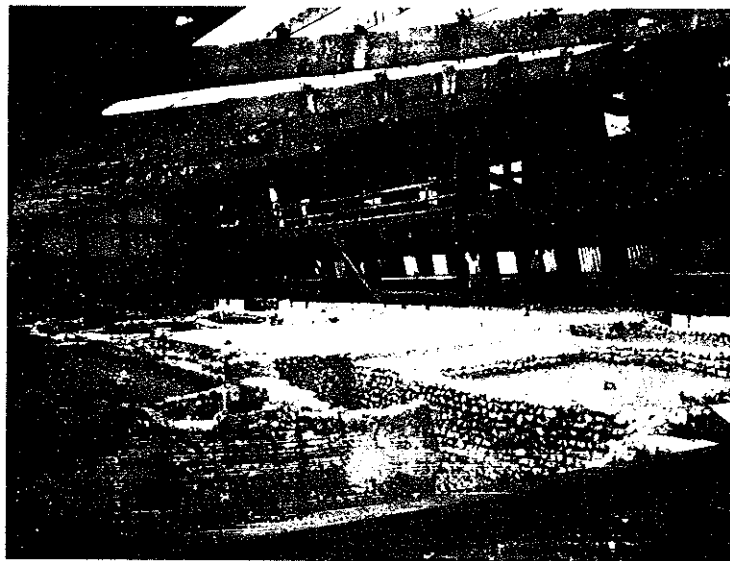
photograph 1. Exterior View of Museum Building.

The show cases are arranged in 2 galleries, an upper and lower which are situated on the higher side of the museum building. The show-cases in the lower gallery are 'top viewing cabinet type' (photograph 4) with one additional large custom made glass case that houses a lead coffin containing a skeleton. Above each of these cases is a spot light (not on on day of survey), but the distance is sufficient that no significant change of environment within the cases should take place when they are in use. However behind a number of these cases is a large glass fibre window which allows the sunlight to fall across the glass tops of the show cases. This could be

detrimental to objects of an organic nature.



photograph 2. General View inside Museum Building



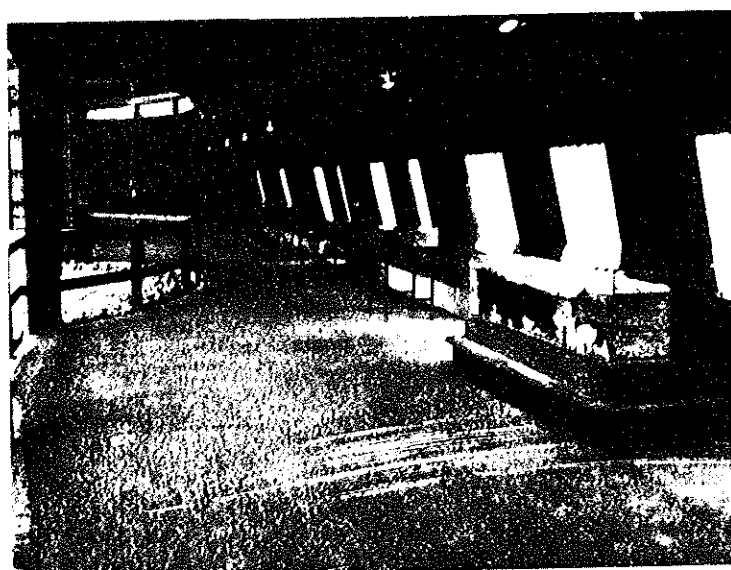
photograph 3. General View inside Museum Building

The show cases in the upper gallery are the large free- standing type lit through a light diffuser at the top. It is in this upper gallery that the opening windows are situated, and the two air fans are situated on top of two of these cases. This is satisfactory during the summer months but could possibly cause some trouble during the winter when the heating elements are in use.

photograph 4. Cases in lower gallery showing windows and spot lights.



photograph 5. Showing large custom made case with lead coffin.



photograph 6. Upper gallery showing show cases, opening windows and air fans.



Contents of Show Cases

The cases in the lower gallery contain the following objects (cases numbered from the left as in photo. 4) :-

First Case:- A collection of Roman tiles showing makers/legionary marks as well as accidental marks i.e. dog foot prints etc. The contents of the case require no conservation work.

Second Case:- A bronze hoard of 5 large bronze objects is housed in this case. Although the objects appear never to have been conserved they are quite stable and require no attention at the present.

Third Case:- Contains a skeleton of a dog lifted with associated soil. The individual bones have been cleaned and the whole is quite stable.

Fourth Case:- As above but with a skeleton of a goose. Stable.

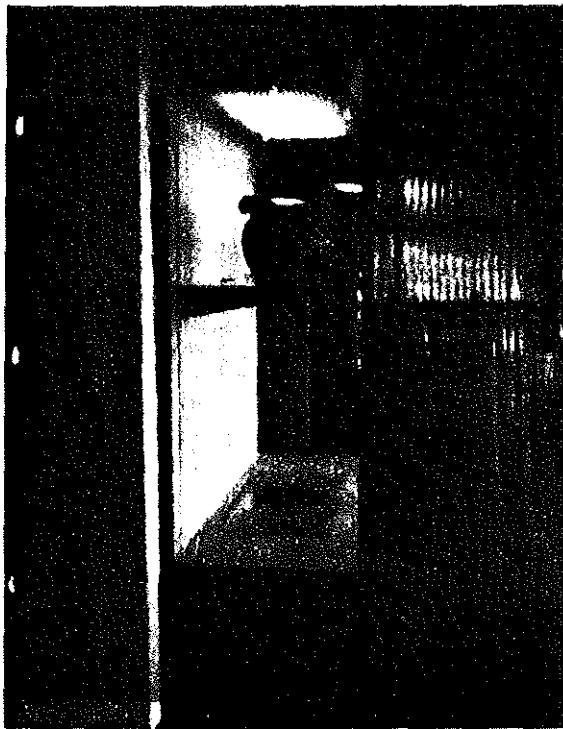
Fifth Case:- As previous two cases but with a child burial.

Sixth Case:- Special case see photo. 5, lead coffin appears to never have been treated, it is covered with the typical white corrosion products of lead but is still visually acceptable. One of the sides seems to have been 'cut away' to exhibit the skeleton in the coffin. the whole case's contents appear to be stable.

The cases of the upper gallery contain the following (cases numbered from the right in photograph 6) :-

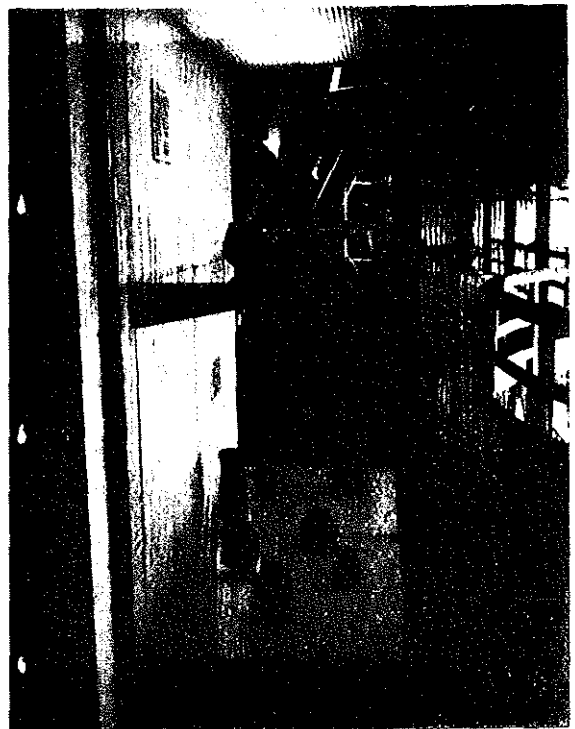
First Case :- This is one of the cases that has an air fan above it. This case contains two plaster reproductions of marble busts from the villa.

Second Case :- See photograph 7. Contains on upper shelf 4 complete Roman Pottery Vessels while the lower section has a plan. No work is required in this case, but the contents are hardly sufficient to provide any significant amount of visual information to the viewer.



photograph 7.

Second Case



photograph 8

Third Case.

Third Case :- Contents solely of a ceramic nature. Again contents of case are quite stable, but the visual presentation leaves something to be desired.

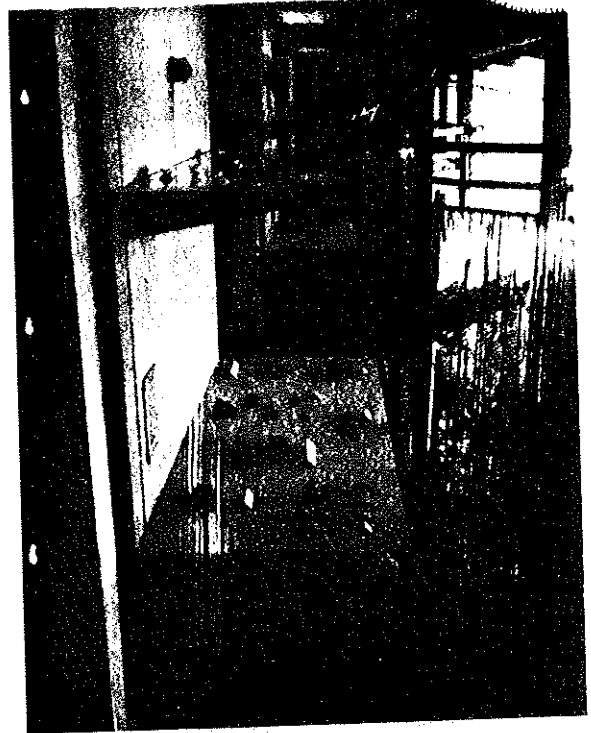
Fourth Case:- As above.

Fifth Case :- See photograph 10. Lower half of case has a limited number of iron finds that when treated were stripped right down to the metal core. These appear as silver/white in colour. These finds should at least be re-treated or replaced with some of the numerous finds that must exist from the Roman Villa Site. The upper portion of the case has a few shale, jet and glass objects while being completely stable these surely can be displayed in a better way.

Sixth Case :- See photograph 11. Case contains bone pins, a Roman Lock (with modern re-construction, and a reconstructed Roman wooden barrel. Again no Conservation work is required but the display.....



photograph 9.
Show Case 4 on upper gallery.



photograph 10.
Show Case 5 on upper gallery.



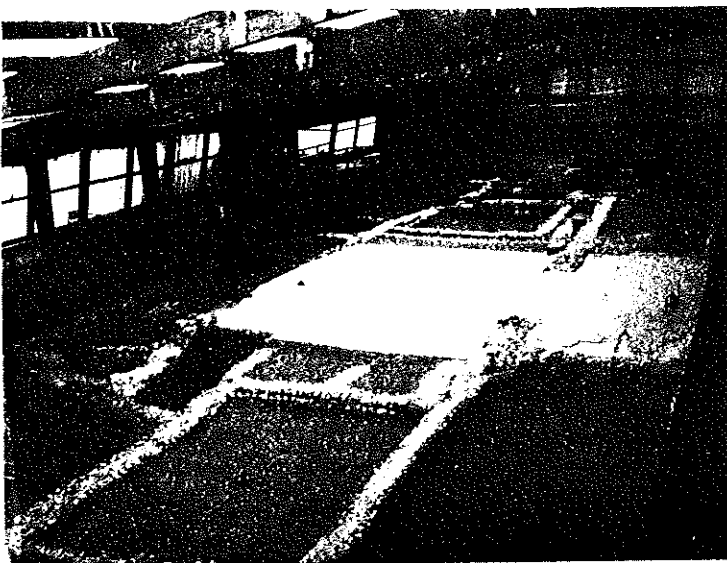
photograph 11.
Show Case 6 on upper gallery

Environment of Museum Building

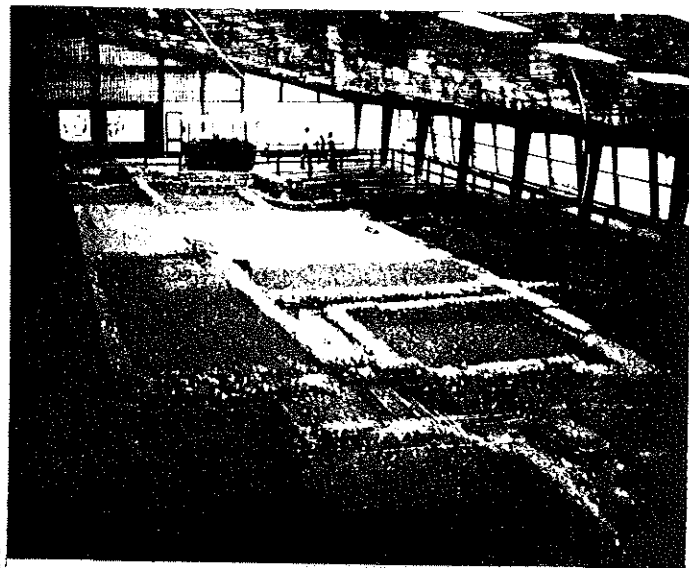
Unfortunately it was not possible to take humidity and temperature readings in the show cases but readings were taken of the two galleries where they were situated.

	Temperature	Humidity
Lower Gallery. Central Position	22.5°C	52%
Upper Gallery. Near Door to Outside Right of photo. 6	22°C	48%
Upper Gallery Central Position by Open windows	26°C	50%
Upper Gallery Far end from door	25°C	46%

These readings appear to be satisfactory but it is possible that the winter readings may be less so.



photograph 12
General View of Villa



photograph 13
General View of Villa.

Conclusions

The site has a sound basis for a good museum display, but surely we must have a larger range of finds than those at present on show. Improvements should also be made in the area of display. A further visit will take place in the winter months as it is possible the environmental readings could be not so good.

John E Cross
5th August 1974