

PROCEEDINGS

I. AUTUMN MEETING, 1949.

THE autumn meeting was held on 14 and 15 September 1949, with headquarters in Lancaster; local arrangements were made by a committee composed of Mr H. Hornyold-Strickland, Mr G. M. Bland, Miss K. S. Hodgson, Dr J. E. Spence and Mr B. L. Thompson. The weather was not inclement, though a certain amount of rain fell on the second morning, and the temperature was less tropical than it had been for the Centenary Pilgrimage, two months earlier. This was the Society's fifth meeting at Lancaster; for accounts of the previous visits see CW1 xi 309-311 (1890) and CW2 xii 412-423 (1911), xxiii 286-293 (1922) and xxxiv 206-216 (1933).

Wednesday, 14 September.

Members assembled in the Public Library in LANCASTER, where they were welcomed by the Librarian and Curator of the Museum, Mr G. M. Bland, F.S.A., who described the main features of the museum and drew attention to its most important exhibits. Dr I. A. Richmond, F.B.A., then delivered an address on "Roman Lancaster", devoting particular attention to the results of a recent study of all available evidence for the character and history of the site, including the first of a series of trial excavations which he had been able to undertake, on the initiative and with the support of Mr Bland and a strong local committee; further excavations have taken place since the Lancaster meeting, and it is hoped to include an account of them in a later volume of *Transactions*. Meanwhile, it must suffice to refer to the brief summary of the late R. G. Collingwood's paper on Roman Lancaster in CW2 xxiii 289-290, and to W. Thompson Watkin's *Roman Lancashire* (1883), 164-192, which summarises the discoveries made at Lancaster in earlier days and illustrates several of the inscriptions and sculptures which have been found there. The Society next proceeded to the MUSEUM, which had been closed to the general public in order to enable our large party to examine it at leisure. After an interval for lunch, the Society re-assembled at LANCASTER CASTLE, where Mr John Charlton, F.S.A., gave an account

of the history of the place and Mr L. Crook, the Court Keeper, conducted the party over the building: for a brief description of the castle and its history see the precis of Alderman Nuttall's address to the Society in 1933, CW2 xxxiv 206-207. From the castle the Society proceeded to the PARISH CHURCH, where it was addressed by the Bishop of Lancaster, who drew particular attention to the relics of earlier occupation preserved in the church; an account of its history, a description of its main structural features and a plan, by the late H. J. Austin (who was the architect in charge of the extensive reconstruction of the church early in the present century), will be found in CW2 xii 418-421. There followed a march across the city to the TOWN HALL, where the Society was received and entertained to tea by the Mayor of Lancaster; after tea, Mr T. Pape, F.S.A., described the fine series of charters and the municipal regalia and plate, which had been arranged in a special display for our benefit (cf. CW2 xii 417). At the close of Mr Pape's address the President, Miss K. S. Hodgson, F.S.A., voiced the thanks of the Society to the Mayor and Corporation, and to Mr Pape, for their kindness in providing so warm a welcome and so interesting an exhibition.

A meeting of Council was held at 6 p.m. and at 8-15 p.m. the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Society was held in the Town Hall, with the President in the chair. The President reported the death, two days previously, of Mr Norman Forster Wilson, who had been a member of the Society for 49 years and had served it faithfully as Honorary Auditor for upwards of 20 years; and the members stood in silent tribute to his memory. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been confirmed, Major G. W. Titherington expressed the thanks of all who had taken part in the Centenary Pilgrimage of Hadrian's Wall, to the organising committee and to the members of the directing staff, whose hard work had made the event such a success (cf. CW2 xlix 196-202). The Editor reported that most of the copy for *Transactions* vol. xlix was now in the printers' hands, and he hoped to have the remainder ready before long. For the Cumberland Excavation Committee, Dr I. A. Richmond reported that the excavation of milecastle 79 had been completed shortly before the Pilgrimage, and that it was hoped to produce a detailed report in due course, when there had been time for Mr J. P. Gillam to carry out a comprehensive study of the stratified pottery; and Dr J. E. Spence, for the Committee for Prehistoric Studies, gave an account of some recent work at the stone-axe factory site at Pike of Stickle (see ART. I in this volume). The Editor reported that Council

had authorised the printing of Mr R. Sharpe France's calendar of the Holker muniments, now deposited in the Lancashire Record Office, as a pamphlet in the Society's Tract Series, and that it was hoped to include similar pamphlets in the programme of publications in preparation by the Records and Publications Committee. In the absence of the Treasurer, the General Secretary presented the financial statement for the year ending 30 June 1949, which showed that the Society's finances were in a satisfactory condition: and it was agreed to thank the Treasurer for his statement, and to wish him a speedy recovery from the ill-health which had prevented him from attending recent meetings.

The election of officers and councillors for the ensuing year then took place. Miss K. S. Hodgson was unanimously re-elected President; the Bishop of Carlisle was elected a Patron of the Society, Mr Kenneth Smith was elected Honorary Librarian and Major G. W. Titherington a member of Council, the remaining officers and members of Council being re-elected *en bloc*. On the motion of Council, put to the meeting by the Editor, Mr Ferdinand Hudleston of Hutton John was elected an Honorary Member of the Society, under Rule VIII, in recognition of his services to the Society and to antiquarian studies for upwards of fifty years. Dr Spence reported that arrangements were well in hand for an excursion to Derbyshire in May 1950, and that it was hoped to hold a joint meeting with the Cambrian Archaeological Association, with headquarters in Carlisle, at the end of August 1950; the normal July meeting would probably be held in the Lake District, with Kendal as headquarters. The President announced that the newly-formed Carlisle Regional Group had held its first meeting, and that she had been elected chairman and Mr Robert Hogg secretary of it; Council had approved the constitution of the Group, and hoped that similar groups might be established in other parts of the Society's territory. The following papers were then read or reported by the Editor: "The Vallum again" by John Morris (ART. V), "A Roman author in north-west Britain" by C. E. Stevens (ART. VII), "Notes on the manor of Drigg" by Mary C. Fair (ART. XII) and "Barwis of Cumberland" by the Rev. F. B. Swift (ART. XIV); and the President gave a brief account of the progress of excavations at Broomrigg (see ART. IV). The Rev. Kenneth Harper exhibited some documents recently discovered in a house at Ainstable (see ART. XVII), and the Editor exhibited a number of recent publications relating to our district, to be reviewed in *Transactions*. Ten new members were elected at this meeting.

Thursday, 15 September.

The coaches left Lancaster at 9-15 a.m. and drove to Heysham, where the first visit of the day was to the CHURCH OF ST. PETER and ST. PATRICK'S CHAPEL. Dr F. Hogarth was present to describe the structures and the Anglo-Norse sculptures which are preserved in the churchyard; the best account of them is included in the late W. G. Collingwood's paper, "Christian Vikings", in *Antiquity* i (1927) 172-180, from which the following extract is taken, by permission of the Editor of *Antiquity*, our honorary member Mr O. G. S. Crawford, F.B.A.:—

"At Heysham near Lancaster are two ancient buildings, the church of St. Peter and the chapel of St. Patrick just above it. Close to St. Patrick's are rock-cut graves; the chapel itself is in plan like a Celtic oratory of the tenth-century, but it has a round 'Saxon' arch to the doorway and jambs of long-and-short. The church of St. Peter shows twelfth-century work and even earlier features; it was granted to the abbey of Séez in Normandy in 1094 but is not mentioned as a church in Domesday Book, so that we can date the first stone building pretty closely to about 1090. But there must have been an Anglian church on the spot two hundred years and more before this Norman rebuilding, because in the churchyard were discovered a cross-shaft of the first half of the ninth century, a cross-head of perhaps a little later, and the base of a cross. There was also found here the hogback, very rude and curious but certainly of the Norse series and dating 1000 A.D. or rather later. How can we fit these facts into the history of Heysham? We have a ninth-century Anglian church, no doubt of wood. Early in the tenth century we read that Vikings were raiding, before they settled, on this coast; many other instances suggest that the clerics were driven away by that danger. Some time between 920 and 950 the Vikings gave up raiding and began to settle here. They would find St. Peter's deserted and decayed; they were by this time christianized and would need the proprietary chapel frequently attached to a capital settlement. Such a chapel would be built by Anglian masons, but to the plan of the newcomer from Ireland, and the name of St. Patrick, which appears to be traceable here as far back as the earlier middle ages, needs no further explanation. Near it are the rock-cut graves of the Norse family; the hogback, found below, was probably brought down to serve as a building stone, for we know from very many examples how the Normans used monuments of the previous age in their masonry. And as to the late legend of St. Patrick's landing at Heysham, it may be regarded as a myth of explanation, like that by which the fourteenth-century monks of St. Bees tried to explain their own name. . . . At Heysham or Lancaster there was no doubt a similar tale to explain, 'Why St. Patrick's?' and the substance of it is handed down. But its historical value is nothing at all; less at any rate than the inference that the chapel was founded by a christian Northman, somewhere about 950, from Ireland."

The whole paper, which is illustrated by several of the author's own drawings, is of the greatest interest, and of particular value as a summary of the evidence for the character and extent of later Norse settlement in our own district.

From St. Peter's the Society drove to HEYSHAM OLD HALL, where we were welcomed by Miss Royds, who kindly allowed us to examine her residence inside as well as out. For a brief account of this beautiful sixteenth-century house, by the late T. Cann Hughes, cf. CW2 xxxiv 208-209, referring also to *Trans. Hist. Soc. of Lancs & Chesh.* n.s. xii 171-192; see also *VCH Lancs* viii 112 f. Here, too, Dr Hogarth was present to describe the building and its history, and the President expressed the Society's thanks to him for his services and to Miss Royds for her gracious welcome.

From Heysham the Society drove eastwards, past the suburbs of Lancaster, to HALTON CHURCH, where Mr John Charlton described the pre-Conquest stones. Their importance was first made known by one of the leading figures in the early days of our Society, the Rev. W. S. Calverley, who first recognised that the cross in the churchyard bore representations of the Sigurd legend. Calverley was among the first to observe that northern Anglian crosses incorporated pagan or heroic subjects among their carvings; and it was appropriate that our late President, W. G. Collingwood, should have included Calverley's account of the Halton stones in his edition of the latter's posthumous volume, *Early Sculptured Crosses, Shrines and Monuments in the Diocese of Carlisle* (1899, vol. xi of our Extra Series); for though Halton lies outside the diocese, its stones are essential documents for the study of the pre-Conquest sculpture of our district, and it is impossible to study, say, the great standing cross at Gosforth without reference to Halton. To Calverley's description (*op. cit.*, 183 f.) little need be added, though it should be read in conjunction with W. G. Collingwood's account in *Northumbrian Crosses of the Pre-Norman Age* (1927) 73 f. and 159 f.; it should be noted that the treatment of the figures is of some interest: in particular, the various Christian figures, though adequately represented, are stereotyped in style, while those of the heroic Sigurd legend have something of the freedom and robustness to be seen (to take a much later example) in the secular subjects which decorate the margins of the Luttrell Psalter. Apart from the figure subjects, the most striking feature is the presence of a figure-of-eight scroll, which closely resembles (in design, though not in competence and power of carving) that on the Bewcastle cross. This particular motif, though never common, appears to have persisted long after the golden age of the pre-Conquest crosses; it is found not only in Yorkshire, for example, but as far afield as Penally in Pembroke-shire, at a date perhaps comparable to that of the Halton fragments. This echo of Bewcastle in the matter of *motif* leads to

a further point: though the great Halton cross comes near the end of the pre-Conquest series, its general arrangement still retains something of the Bewcastle tradition, and testifies to the strength of the latter in the north after some three centuries.

Mr Charlton directed attention to the remains of three further cross-shafts, now preserved inside the church, which owe their present safety largely to Calverley's interest. One, which is outstanding, is in the grand manner of the great crosses: it shows a saint with cross and book, an angel holding a tablet and with a cross at his feet, and (part of a larger panel) a flock of sheep; all these figure subjects have a monumental "Romanesque" quality which places the shaft from which they come in the direct tradition of the great Anglian crosses, and implies a date perhaps earlier and certainly not much later than A.D. 800. The second shaft is a poorer thing; its subject-matter is similar but it lacks the bold "Romanesque" treatment and may indeed be a later copy. The third stands midway between the two in quality though, like the second, its date is probably well into the ninth century: it shows Christ with a kneeling figure ("*Noli me tangere*"?), three figures which W. G. Collingwood identified as the Three Children in the Furnace, and an archer who is related to the secular figure on the Bewcastle and Ruthwell crosses. The treatment of these figures reflects, indeed, the golden age of Northumbrian art, but the formal ornament accompanying them is poor and suggests a relatively late date, not long prior to the Norse incursions and the later settlements to which the Sigurd cross testifies.

Mr Charlton next gave a brief account of HALTON CASTLE, which the Society had an opportunity of examining before continuing its drive. It is a small motte and bailey structure of the standard type, interesting both for its excellent state of preservation (and Mr Charlton pointed out that it might prove an ideal site for excavation, with a view to obtaining closely datable archæological material) and for its proximity to the more important river-crossing at Lancaster, though its small size precludes the possibility of it having ever been a serious rival to Lancaster castle. The presence of pre-Conquest remains and early Norman fortifications at both sites is, however, a point worth developing in any history of the Lune valley.

From Halton we drove upstream to Hornby, where we were welcomed by Sir Harold and Lady Parkinson at HORNBY CASTLE. The Society's long-standing rules did not permit us to accept his generous offer of lunch, but we were most hospitably provided with tea and coffee and light refreshments, and those members who wished to eat their picnic lunches under

cover were able to do so beneath an awning which had been specially hoisted against our coming, whilst others ate their sandwiches on the broad terrace round the castle, which affords a delightful view of the surrounding country. After the lunch interval, Sir Harold and Lady Parkinson described the history of the castle and the successive owners of it, and showed the Society all over its interior, pointing out not only the many structural features but also some exceedingly fine pieces of furniture and some pictures of much historical interest (for accounts of Hornby Castle see W. O. Roper's paper in *Trans. Hist. Soc. of Lancs & Chesh.* xli, 1890, and *VCH Lancs* viii 191-198). In expressing the Society's thanks to our kind hosts, the President paid special tribute to their hospitality in throwing their house open to so large a company of visitors, and to the care with which they had provided for our bodily needs as well as for our antiquarian interests.

A short drive from Hornby brought us to CASTLE STEDE (sometimes referred to as Gressingham Mote), where Dr J. E. Spence, F.S.A., described the fine motte and bailey, crowning a bluff above the Lune, for which reference may be made to the account by the late J. F. Curwen in *CW2* xii 412-416, with plan and elevation; the site was presumably that selected by the first Norman ruler of the district, Roger de Montbegon, for his stronghold, later superseded by the stone-built castle at Hornby, a little downstream. Finally, a visit was paid to WARTON CHURCH, which was described by the rector, the Rev. Eric Rothwell (see *CW2* xxxiv 215-216 and *VCH Lancs* viii 153-158), after which the coaches departed for Carnforth and Lancaster, and a very interesting meeting came to a close.

II. SPRING MEETING, 1950.

The spring meeting was held at Tullie House, Carlisle, on 25 March 1950, with the President in the chair. Council had held its usual meeting earlier in the day, to make arrangements for the season's programme of excursions and to transact routine business, and had decided to send a letter to the chairman of the Carlisle Public Library and Museum Committee, expressing the Society's pleasure and satisfaction that the important Bronze Age remains from Old Park, Kirkoswald, had been secured for the Carlisle Museum. The Honorary Librarian reported that exchanges of publications had been arranged with the Mainz and Trier museums, whose journals regularly include well illustrated accounts of prehistoric and Roman antiquities, and are likely to be of constant service to students of

the archæology of Cumbria. It was agreed to make the following grants, out of the Society's Research Fund, towards the cost of forthcoming excavations: to the President, for labour at Broomrigg, £10, and to Mr E. J. W. Hildyard, F.S.A., for trial excavations at Low Borrow Bridge, £25. The Editor reported that he had been unable, owing to ill-health, to make any progress with *Transactions*, vol. xlix, but he was now much better and hoped to have the remaining copy in the printers' hands within the next fortnight; he had plenty of material in hand for the following volume. He also laid on the table the following papers: "The Great Langdale stone-axe factory" by Clare Fell (ART. I) and "The West Cumberland group of pre-Norman crosses" by Mary C. Fair (ART. X). Mr Robert Hogg then gave a most stimulating report on the activities of the newly-established Carlisle Regional Group. During the winter session it had held a series of evening meetings, devoted to various aspects of the history and archæology of the region, and its formation had already led to some important new accessions to the Carlisle Museum, some of which he exhibited and described (see ART. XVIII). The Group hoped to undertake trial excavations at Burgh-by-Sands, on the site of the medieval castle (north-east of the Roman fort), during the coming summer; several of its members had been assisting the President and the Rev. Kenneth Harper in their excavations at Broomrigg.

The Rev. W. W. Farrer exhibited some interesting documents which he had recently come across in the Langwathby parish council's safe: both relate to Inglewood Forest, one of them (dated 18 October 1665) gives the names of the jurors and their findings as to payments due to the queen from tenants of holdings in the forest, and the other (dated 1765) refers to the conveyances of two portions of land by the Duke of Portland. He also reported the discovery, in a house at High Lorton, of two chests containing scores of documents, the oldest of which he exhibited: it is a charter of Richard de Lucy, awarding Mosser to Adam de Mosser *circa* 1208. The charter itself had not been noted before, but there is an assize roll, commented on by the late William Farrer in CW2 ii 330 f., which shows Richard de Lucy prosecuting Adam for defaulting with regard to some of the conditions which the charter lays down. He also exhibited a translation of a charter by Isaac Fletcher of Mosser, dated 1758. Fifteen new members were elected at this meeting.

III. EXCURSION TO DERBYSHIRE, MAY 1950.

About 70 members took part in an excursion to Derbyshire,

with Buxton as headquarters, from 15 to 18 May 1950. Arrangements had been made by a committee composed of Miss K. S. Hodgson (President), Dr J. Wilfrid Jackson (President of the Buxton Archæological Society), the Editor and Dr J. E. Spence (Excursions Secretary). The weather was variable, producing now hot sunshine and cloudless skies, now rain and wind and darkness, but it seldom interfered with the programme of visits, and its most enjoyable effects were reserved for the places where they were best in keeping — at Arbor Low and Tissington.

Monday, 15 May.

The first function of the excursion was an inaugural meeting, in the Pavilion Café in BUXTON at 8-15 p.m., at which the Society was welcomed to Derbyshire in general and Buxton in particular by the Mayor, Councillor G. A. Williams, and by Dr J. Wilfrid Jackson, F.S.A., President of the Buxton Archæological Society, who with Dr Spence was mainly responsible for the planning and organisation of the tour. The Editor then read a paper on "Roman Derbyshire and its connections with Cumberland and Westmorland", the introduction to which was as follows:—

"It gives me exceptional pleasure, at the outset of my paper on Derbyshire in Roman times, to acknowledge my own debts to the county. For it was at Bakewell, a dozen miles from here, that I first went to school; and it is to the headmaster of St. Anselm's School, Bakewell — Mr W. Storrs Fox — that I owe my first introduction to archæology, and the wise guidance that led me to a course of study which was to give me the opportunity for further acquaintance with the subject. It was in those formative years at St. Anselm's, over thirty years ago, that I had my first contact with the remains of antiquity, some of which Mr Storrs Fox had himself dug up; my first experience of excavation was under his charge, in a Derbyshire cave; and the first Roman inscription I ever saw was the altar at Haddon Hall, which we shall be visiting on Wednesday. Many of the other places which we are to see in the course of this meeting (the first that our Society has held in Derbyshire) were once familiar to me, for our half-holidays and occasional whole holidays were regularly devoted to visits to just such monuments as archæological societies delight to examine; I only wish that there were more schools which took such effective steps to provide a flow of recruits to societies such as ours.

"There are other links which members of the Cumberland and Westmorland Society will wish me to mention this evening. The basis for any study of Roman Derbyshire nowadays is the masterly survey which was contributed to the Victoria History of the county by Francis Haverfield, the great rejuvenator of the scientific study of Roman Britain, who was the prime mover in the work of our own Cumberland Excavation Committee, and in the last years of his life was our President. Haverfield himself built on the foundations laid by W. Thompson Watkin, whose series of papers in the *Derbyshire Archæological Journal* still provides a useful check-list for the records of early discoveries;

and those of us who have had occasion to refer to the Old Series of our *Transactions* are aware that it was Thompson Watkin who was our Society's chief consultant and generous helper in the study of Roman inscriptions in the 70s and 80s of the last century. Finally, in visiting Derbyshire, Roman archaeologists in particular remember with gratitude the name of John Ward, the excavator of Gellygaer and the author of the first scientific handbooks of Romano-British study; for it was in this county, before his transfer to Cardiff, that Ward laid the foundations of his archaeology, and it was in the Derbyshire Society's *Journal*, just over sixty years ago, that he published the first sections of coarse pottery, thereby establishing a new and increasingly important basis for the dating of Roman sites. In no part of Britain has the study of Roman coarse pottery been further developed than in our own territory, thanks to the example and leadership of our Past-President, Mr Gerald Simpson, and we may therefore take all the greater pleasure in commemorating the lead which John Ward and the Derbyshire Society gave us.

"It is a commonplace that there are serious disadvantages in the study of Roman Britain on the basis of English counties, which too frequently have little relationship to the boundaries of the self-governing communities into which the Roman province was divided. But in the case of Derbyshire the disadvantage is not so great as in many others; at least, the geography of the Peak District must always have dictated special treatment of it, and we shall find reason to suppose that the modern county approximately coincides with a region which the Romans themselves reserved for administration as a special area. The very wildness and remoteness of much of the county has made the investigation of its Roman remains lag far behind that of many other parts of Roman Britain. Camden, who had so much to say about Roman sites and Roman inscriptions in Cumberland and Westmorland, had hardly anything to list under Derbyshire: Roman baths at Buxton and a Roman road thence to Brough on Noe, finds of Roman coins at Little Chester (just outside Derby), and the probability that the Romans worked the abundant deposits of lead in the Wirksworth area — apart from these points he has nothing to record or to conjecture. The first Roman inscription to be found in the county came to light after Camden's day — namely the Haddon Hall altar, first published in Gibson's 1695 edition of Camden's *Britannia*; Stukeley described, and published a plan of, the Roman fort at Little Chester, and Horsley learnt of a Roman road thither from the neighbourhood of Lichfield and apparently continuing towards Templebrough in Yorkshire, but otherwise the early years of the eighteenth century, so rich in their contributions to the study of our own district, have nothing to add to the picture. It was in the second half of that century that evidence began to come to hand, and then only in dribbles, as local antiquaries (such as Pegge and Rooke) began to record chance finds; and it was left to the Derbyshire Archaeological Society, founded just over seventy years ago, to initiate methodical work. Even now, Derbyshire has produced far fewer Roman inscriptions than the single fort at Birdoswald on Hadrian's Wall; the county can only show two Roman forts which have been subjected to excavation and three or four other sites where there is reason to suppose that there were Roman stations of one kind or another; but the discoveries of the past half-century at least enable us to deduce some sort of a picture of the Roman occupation of the district, and serve to provide a basis for the further programme of research which, as I hope to show, is called for by the very peculiarity of the picture as it begins to emerge."

The Editor pointed out that there was reason to believe that Derbyshire as a whole lay outside the area of cantonal self-government, and that it must have been organized as "tribal territory", administered by the commanders of cohort-forts such as those at Brough on Noe (where Professor Richmond and Mr Gillam have recently done some further excavation) or at *Lutudarum* (the precise location of which is still a matter for conjecture) or at Buxton itself (though the Roman fort at Buxton has yet to be identified, the discoveries made at Silverlands make it reasonably certain that a fort was established there in the Flavian period); and he suggested that some parts of our own district had been organized on similar lines, though direct evidence is lacking. It was the native sites and the lead-mines which gave the area its greatest interest. The former must have been numerous and the cradle of a vigorous and turbulent population (otherwise the Romans would not have needed to re-occupy the Derbyshire forts in the middle of the second century); the lead-mines, mainly attested by the inscribed pigs, must have been the most important ones in Roman Britain, far more extensive than those near Alston in our own district: it seemed probable that in the first instance they had been worked under direct government control, but that later they had been leased to contractors.

After the Editor's paper had been given, the Mayor kindly entertained our party to light refreshments, and there was an opportunity for our members to make the acquaintance of several members of the Buxton Archæological Society who were present that evening, and who accompanied us on some of the visits during the following three days.

Tuesday, 16 May.

We left Buxton at 9 a.m., and the first place visited was the BULL RING, DOVEHOLES, where Dr J. Wilfrid Jackson described the monument. He pointed out that it consists of an almost circular platform, about 160 feet in diameter, surrounded by a wide and shallow ditch and an outer earth bank, some five or six feet in height above the old surface level; there are entrances on the north and south, the latter being the larger. In ground plan the Bull Ring is similar to the Arbor Low stone circle, though the bank is now denuded and no standing stones remain, as they seem to have been removed for building purposes nearly two centuries ago; one stone was still standing in 1789. There is a large rectangular mound about 100 feet south-west of the circle, but there is no record of it being excavated. Excavations carried out in March 1949 had proved the existence

of the northern entrance, of which there had been some doubt; a section cut across the ditch had revealed an irregular rocky bottom at a shallow depth, which had suggested to Dr Jackson that the makers of the circle had only removed the thin surface soil and a block or two of weathered limestone in making the ditch. Unfortunately, nothing had been found to give a precise date to the monument, but an earlier excavation by John Ward and others had yielded a few flints and some potsherds of prehistoric character, now apparently lost. For a short general account cf. *VCH Derbys* i 181-182.

From Dogholes we drove northward along the Castleton road; at the highest point a halt was made, to allow about half the party, with Dr Jackson as their guide, to inspect the hill-fort on MAM TOR. It consists of a tongue-shaped enclosure, some 16 acres in extent, surrounded by a double rampart on the west, north and east sides, and a triple line of ramparts on the south side, where there is an entrance approached by a sunken track; its circumference is 1,200 yards. The centre rises in a hog-back ridge; there is a constant spring on the north-west side. The extreme length of the hill-fort is 1,125 feet from north to south and the width 700 feet. Two small tumuli may be seen at the south end of it; one of them was opened in 1848 and found to contain a bronze celt and sherds of an unbaked urn. At the south-west and south-east corners of the hill-fort the ramparts are broken away by landslips; the widest gap is that on the south-east, overlooking Castleton—the local name for Mam Tor is “The shivering mountain”, on account of the large amount of decomposed shale and rock which falls from the escarpment every winter. This native fortress deserves examination in the light of recent researches elsewhere; it probably belongs to the Iron Age B series, and it recalls similar hill-forts on the central ridge of Cheshire and in the Welsh borders (see *VCH Derbys* i 184 and 367-370).

Meanwhile, the less hardy members of the party had proceeded down the pass to the Treak Cliff cavern, a mile short of Castleton, to examine its fantastic series of stalactites and stalagmites, and the remarkable effects of the Blue John, a rare mineral for which the Castleton district is famous; here they were presently joined by the Mam Tor party, and both then moved on to Castleton, where lunch was provided at the Nag's Head hotel. After lunch, we drove on to the next place on our programme, HATHERSAGE CHURCH, famous as the burial place of Little John, the henchman of Robin Hood¹; and thence to

¹ Cf. J. C. Cox, *Notes on the churches of Derbyshire* ii (1877) 227-240.

CHATSWORTH HOUSE, where we were received by Mr Francis Thompson, F.S.A., the Duke of Devonshire's Librarian and Keeper of Collections, who showed us the library (not ordinarily open to visitors), recounted its history and that of Chatsworth House itself,² and exhibited some of its greatest treasures. The Editor regrets that he was unable to take notes of Mr Thompson's address, which was generally thought to be one of the most delightful and absorbing ones ever given to the Society. After the President had expressed to him our thanks for his kindness, Mr Thompson placed us in the care of his assistant, who conducted us on a brief tour of the state-rooms, though our timetable did not leave us as much leisure as we could have wished for, to appreciate the beauty of their contents, and many members were heard to express their intention of paying another visit to Chatsworth for that purpose. From Chatsworth we drove on to Bakewell, where there was an interval for tea, and thence back to Buxton; in the evening, the Buxton Museum provided an attraction to many members, and Dr Jackson met many of them there (on other evenings as well) to describe and explain the principal exhibits.

Wednesday, 17 May.

It was a gloriously warm and sunny morning when we left Buxton at 9 a.m., our first place of call being the famous stone circle at Arbor Low, where Dr Jackson was once more our guide. ARBOR LOW, the Stonehenge of the Peak District, is about 8 miles south-east of Buxton and is about 1,200 feet above sea-level. It consists of a circle of some 46 prostrate slabs of limestone, the largest measuring 10 ft. by 4 ft. 6 in., pointing inwards, on an irregular platform 160 feet in diameter; surrounding it is a wide, silted-up ditch with an average depth of 5 ft. 6 in., and outside this a rampart, almost circular, with a circumference of about 808 feet and a diameter, from crest to crest, of 250 feet. The present height of the rampart above the general ground level is about 7 feet on the outside and about 6 feet above the central platform. The circle has two causewayed entrances, one at the N.N.W. and the other at the S.S.E. Near the centre of the inner platform are some large slabs of limestone which are supposed to have formed an altar, platform or possibly cromlech, but there is little evidence of their precise use. The most complete description of Arbor Low is that by H. St. George Gray, who carried out a survey and excavations in 1901 and 1902 (*Archæologia* lviii 461-498); dateable finds were

² Cf. F. Thompson, *A History of Chatsworth* (1949).

few, the most important being a barbed and tanged flint arrow-head, found on the ditch-bottom, thus suggesting that the ditch itself was open in Early Bronze Age times—it is significant that the circle is in the region of many beaker-burials. On the south-east side of the circle, adjoining the outer face of the rampart and partly resting on it, is a much mutilated tumulus from which are recorded two Bronze Age cinerary urns and calcined human remains and other objects. On the south-west, the rampart is joined externally by a slightly raised bank and silted-up ditch which run a little distance to the south. There have been various theories about this so-called "serpent", and it has been connected with a large bowl-shaped barrow, 15 feet high, called GIB HILL, which we visited next. This, the largest tumulus in Derbyshire, stands 1,043 feet west of the centre of Arbor Low. Attempts to excavate it have been made on several occasions, and in 1848 Thomas Bateman, digging near the top of the mound, found a stone cist, 2 ft. 6 in. by 2 ft., with a capstone 4 ft. square and 10 in. thick; within it was a small sepulchral urn, 4 1/4 in. high, 6 in. in diameter at top and 3 in. at base, containing calcined bones; this urn is now in the Sheffield Museum. Bateman took away the stones of the cist and erected them at his residence, but they have now been returned to Gib Hill and re-erected in their original position. It is not certain what the name Arbor Low really means; it seems probable that it applied originally to the tumulus on its south-east side and not to the circle itself. There is no evidence that the great stones were ever erect: excavation has revealed that the soil at their bases has never been dug to a depth sufficient to give them a secure socket to stand in.

From Arbor Low we drove on to Tissington, to examine TISSINGTON HALL and CHURCH. At Tissington Hall we were made welcome by Sir William and Lady Fitzherbert, who made us free of their delightful house, showing us all its treasures of furniture as well as the structure itself, one of the most interesting Elizabethan halls in Derbyshire.³ At Tissington Church⁴ we were addressed by the rector, the Rev. T. Williams, who described its main features of interest and told us about the local custom of dressing the wells, preparations for which had been observed as we walked the short distance from the hall to the church. We then drove on to Thorpe Cloud, close to Dovedale, where an excellent lunch was provided for us at the Peveril of the Peak inn; while we were doing justice to it,

³ Cf. Firth, *Highways and Byways in Derbyshire* (1908), 131-134.

⁴ Cf. Cox, *op. cit.*, 448-456; *Derbys Arch. Journ.* xxiv 1 f.

the sun went in and the sky became overclouded, the temperature fell sharply, and the rest of the day was more like November or December than May. A cross-country drive brought us to HADDON HALL,⁵ where we were shown round by the official guides and the Editor described the Roman altar (CIL vii 176), dedicated to Mars Braciaca by Quintus Sittius Caecilianus, prefect of the first cohort of Aquitanians: Braciaca is presumably a local deity (he is not attested elsewhere), equated with Mars; the prefect, to judge by his names, came from Africa, and the cohort is that which garrisoned the fort at Carrawburgh on the Wall in the time of Hadrian, and moved south to the fort at Brough on Noe, near Castleton, in the closing years of Antoninus Pius (cf. EE ix 1108 with JRS xvii 218); the altar was found at Haddon Hall itself, and presumably attested the presence of a shrine thereabouts.

A short drive brought us once more to Bakewell, where BAKEWELL CHURCH was the last place on the day's programme; it was described for us by the vicar, Canon N. S. Kidson.⁶ We then returned to Buxton once more.

Thursday, 18 May.

Leaving Buxton at 9 a.m. we drove first to Wirksworth, to see its MOOT HALL⁷ and to hear from Mr H. B. Snow about the ancient laws and customs of the Derbyshire lead-mines: and to examine WIRKSWORTH CHURCH,⁸ where Mr Snow was again the speaker. Thence the party drove to Matlock for lunch, and then on to inspect the NINE LADIES STONE CIRCLE on Stanton Moor. The circle itself and the numerous Bronze Age burial mounds near by were described by Mr J. C. Heathcote, who with his son Mr J. P. Heathcote has carried out extensive excavations on the moor; Dr Jackson described the exhibits in the Heathcote Museum to several members of the party, drawing attention to the fine collection of cinerary urns and associated objects obtained from the moor: he remarked on the importance of the discovery of faience beads, probably imported to Britain from Egypt *circa* 1400 B.C., in one of the burials (cf. *Archæologia* lxxxv 203 f. and *Derbys Arch. Journ.* 1931, 1936 and 1939). The last place to be visited was EYAM,⁹ where the church and cross were described

⁵ Cf. *Country Life*, December 1949; and F. H. Cheetham, *Haddon Hall*.

⁶ Cf. Cox, *op. cit.*, 5-44.

⁷ Cf. Firth, *op. cit.*, 416-420.

⁸ Cf. Cox, *op. cit.*, 539-565.

⁹ Cf. Firth, *op. cit.*, 342-355.

by the rector, the Rev. E. M. Turner, and Mr C. Daniels gave an account of the Plague in Eyam. The party then returned to Buxton, where the meeting terminated after hearty votes of thanks to Dr Jackson in particular and to all the Derbyshire people who had contributed to making our examination of their county so enjoyable and profitable.

IV. SUMMER MEETING, 1950.

The summer meeting was held on 11 and 12 July, with Kendal as headquarters. Arrangements had been made by a committee consisting of Miss K. S. Hodgson (President), the Rev. J. C. Dickinson, the Hon. Marjorie Cross, the Editor and Dr J. E. Spence (Excursion Secretary). The weather was reasonably good, though there was a certain amount of rain on the first day.

Tuesday, 11 July.

The Society assembled at KENDAL CASTLE at 10.30 a.m., to hear an account of its history by the Rev. J. C. Dickinson, F.S.A. (see J. F. Curwen's *Castles and Fortified Towers &c.* = this Society's Extra Series, vol. xiii, 145-149 and *RCHM Westmorland* 122-124); he referred to earlier visits by the Society, notably those in 1886, at which R. S. Ferguson read the paper printed in CW1 ix 178-185, and in 1907, when J. F. Curwen gave an account of the history of the barony of Kendal as well as a description of the structure (CW2 viii 84-94); and he concluded his address by referring to the paucity of evidence for the plan and structural history of the domestic accommodation of the castle, and suggesting that its elucidation might profitably be undertaken by the spade. Mr John Charlton, F.S.A., then gave an account of the CASTLE DAIRY, referring to the description of the building in *RCHM Westmorland* 125 and to J. F. Curwen's paper in CW2 xvi 100-107; the building itself was too small for so large a party to visit simultaneously, but sufficient time had been allowed for all who wished to do so to inspect it before lunch.

After lunch, coaches were in attendance to take the party on the second half of the day's programme, the first stop being at BURNESIDE HALL. Here Mr Dickinson gave an account of the house and its history, referring to *RCHM Westmorland* 223-224 and to G. F. Weston's paper in CW1 94-105, read on the occasion of the Society's first visit there, in July 1881 (see also J. F. Curwen, *Castles &c.*, 260-261). From Burneside we drove to BLEASE HALL, which was described by Mr Charlton, referring to the brief description in *RCHM Westmorland* 117

(photograph on pl. 18); see also Taylor's *Old Manorial Halls &c.* (= this Society's Extra Series, vol. viii), 229-231. The house was built *circa* 1600, and in its day has been a most attractive one; but one wing was pulled down in the nineteenth century, the panelling for which it was once noted has been removed in recent years, and ominous cracks in the surviving structure caused many members to wonder whether it would survive for many more years, unless a great deal of money could be spent on a thorough overhaul.

The last place to be visited was CASTLESTEADS, THE HELM, where Mr Charlton was once more the speaker; a heavy thunder-shower caused the less bold members of the party to remain in the coaches, but a large number made the long trek southward from the Oxenholme road to examine the earthwork and to hear Mr Charlton's description of it (see *RCHM Westmorland* 181-182 and W. G. Collingwood's short paper in *CW2* viii 108-111). The worst of the shower missed the summit of the Helm, and the party returned to the coaches little the worse for its wetting, and all the readier for tea in Kendal, to which the coaches then returned.

Council met in the Town Hall, Kendal, at 6 p.m., and there was a General Meeting of the Society at 8-15 p.m., with the President in the chair. It was reported that Mr W. W. Taylor had resigned from the Council, as he had left the district and found himself no longer able to attend its meetings, and Council had elected the Rev. F. B. Swift to fill the vacancy thus created. The Editor reported that all copy for *Transactions*, vol. xlix, was in the printer's hands and 48 pages were already made up; he hoped to have the following volume ready for the press before the end of the year. The Excursion Secretary, Dr J. E. Spence, reported that the programme for the joint meeting with the Cambrian Archæological Association, to be held at the end of August, had been circulated; it was proposed that in 1951 there should be an excursion into Northumberland, to examine the notable series of castles in the north of that county. For the Parish Register Section, the Rev. C. M. Lowther Bouch reported that the Wigton volume would probably be ready towards the end of the year, and that Mr R. N. Birley was well forward with the material for the Kendal volume, which was to come next in the series. The President reported that excavations were still continuing at Broomrigg, and that a report upon them would be laid before the Society in due course; several members of the Carlisle Regional Group had taken part in the work there, and others were about to start digging at Burgh-by-Sands, under Mr Robert Hogg's direction: Council

had made a grant of £15, out of the Society's Research Fund, towards the cost of the latter project. It was reported, further, that Council had appointed Mr T. D. Shepherd interim Chairman and Miss M. W. Innes interim Secretary of a new Regional Group which it was hoped to establish at Penrith during the coming autumn. Thirteen new members were elected. The Rev. C. M. Lowther Bouch exhibited a photograph of an early stone coffin which had recently been found in Kirkby Stephen (see p. 208 below), and Mr. J. W. Shepherd reported the discovery of an inscribed stone, the reading of which was not yet certain, a short distance north of Burrow Hall in Lonsdale (cf. CW2 xlvi 126-156 and xlviii 23-41). The Editor reported on a paper by Mr Anthony Armstrong, on the episcopal administration in the diocese of Carlisle, 1702-1747, which it is hoped to print, at least in part, in a future volume of *Transactions*; and the meeting was then adjourned.

Wednesday, 12 July.

The coaches left Kendal station at 9.15 a.m. and drove to Bowness, the first item on the day's programme being WINDERMERE PARISH CHURCH. Here Mr B. L. Thompson described the church and its history, basing his account on R. S. Ferguson's important paper in CW1 iv 44-75 and on subsequent studies in CW2 ix 41-77, xx 117-126 and xxxiv 30-34 (see also *RCHM Westmorland* 44-47); he pointed out that, though the church was probably founded in the twelfth century, the earliest mention of it is in a document of 1203, the bulk of the present building dates from 1483 and it was very drastically restored in 1870 and the following years, though the outside of the building still gives a general impression of late fifteenth-century work. The most important feature of the church is its medieval glass in the east window; this glass has been shown conclusively to have come from Cartmel priory, perhaps by purchase rather than by gift, not necessarily as early as 1483, when the church was rebuilt after destruction by fire in 1480. The churchwardens' accounts go back only to 1749 and are of no more than local interest, but the same book contains lists of the Four and Twenty and occasional minutes of the proceedings of this, the Select Vestry of the ancient parish, on which eight men represented Undermillbeck, eight Appletwaite, five Troutbeck and three Ambleside-below-Stock. From Windermere the Society drove on to AMBLESIDE ROMAN FORT, which was described by the Editor, who referred to R. G. Collingwood's reports on his excavations in 1913 and the following years (CW2 xiv 433-465, xv 2-62, xvi

57-90 and xxi 1-24) and to his little guidebook to the site, a second edition of which had recently been issued by the National Trust, in whom its custody was vested (see also *RCHM Westmorland* 1-3); the fort now visible was built in the early years of the second century, and continued in occupation until the close of the fourth, though there were probably times in the second century when it was not garrisoned, and it shared the fate of all the forts in the north of Britain at the end of that century, again in 297 and once more in 367, being re-occupied and reconstructed after each of those disasters: below it, however, R. G. Collingwood had found the remains of an earlier, smaller fort, of turf and timber construction, which could be assigned without question to the time of Agricola. The finds from the site, and reconstruction models of the two forts, were to be seen in the Armitt Library in Ambleside, which would well repay a visit; its little Museum room would form a lasting memorial to the best of R. G. Collingwood's work as an excavator.

From Ambleside the Society drove round the north end of Windermere lake to Hawkshead, where visits were paid to the CHURCH and the GRAMMAR SCHOOL before lunch and to the OLD COURT HOUSE after lunch. At the church we were welcomed by the Bishop of Penrith, and its fabric was described by Mr T. W. Thompson (cf. *VCH Lancs* viii 371 f. and the paper by J. F. Curwen in *CW2* xiv 303-311); like Windermere parish church it was built in the late fifteenth century and restored in the 1870s; the woodwork of the roof to the north aisle is Elizabethan, that aisle having been either added or re-built in 1578; the south aisle was in decay in 1633 and was presumably reconstructed shortly thereafter; among the furniture of the church special attention was directed to a chest made from a single tree-trunk. At the old grammar school Mr L. K. Brownson acted as guide, drawing the Society's attention to the names of some notable former pupils of the school, including William Wordsworth (see ART. XV above), and exhibiting the collection of books in the library upstairs: the school was founded in 1585, and the library in 1669 (*VCH Lancs* viii 371, 375). The Rev. J. C. Dickinson was the speaker at the old court house or Hawkshead Hall, on which see the paper by H. Swainson Cowper in *CW1* xi 7-49, and *VCH Lancs* viii 377 f.

The last visit of the meeting was to SIZERGH CASTLE, where the Society was welcomed by our Vice-President Mr H. Hornyold-Strickland, F.S.A., who gave an account of the history of the manor (which has been in the possession of the Strickland family since 1239, when a Strickland from North Westmorland

married the heiress of the Deincourts) and of the fabric, for which see *RCHM Westmorland* 106-108. Its nucleus is a pele-tower of the fourteenth century, the Great Hall being added in the following century and enlarged in the sixteenth; the south wing was built in Elizabethan times and the north wing a little later, the former to contain barrack accommodation for the retainers of the Strickland of the day, who followed their lord in the defence of the border country, and the latter to provide kitchens and sleeping accommodation. Sizergh Castle is noteworthy not only for its architecture, to which the Royal Commission devoted much space and many illustrations, but also for its unique collection of furniture, tapestries, pictures and family portraits; to appreciate it adequately would need far longer time than was available to the Society, and it is therefore a matter for all the greater satisfaction that it is open to visitors regularly, under the auspices of the National Trust, in whose custody it has recently been placed. The meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks, on the motion of the President, to Dr Spence for the excellence of the programme and to all the speakers who had contributed to making it such a successful occasion.