

## PROCEEDINGS

## I. AUTUMN MEETING, 1950.

THE autumn meeting was held in conjunction with the Cambrian Archæological Association from 29 August to 1 September 1950, with headquarters at Tullie House, Carlisle; the programme was drawn up by the Secretary for Excursions, Mr J. E. Spence, F.S.A., in consultation with Professor T. Jones Pierce, F.S.A., his opposite number in the Cambrians, assisted by the two Presidents (Miss K. S. Hodgson, F.S.A., and Sir Ifor Williams, F.B.A., F.S.A.), Mr R. C. Reid, the Hon. Marjorie Cross, Mr Robert Hogg and Mr Eric Birley, F.S.A. The main purpose was to show our visitors as good a selection as possible of the most interesting monuments of Cumbria, and in order to make sure of a balanced view of those in our own territory, the programme included excursions into Northumberland one day and Dumfriesshire another, where we were able to examine important related monuments; the Society's thanks are due to the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne and to the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Society for their generous co-operation. The weather was variable, but on the whole adequate; the rain usually fell most heavily when we were under cover, and from time to time the sun came out.

*Tuesday, 29 August.*

The meeting was inaugurated at 9 a.m. in Tullie House, where our President welcomed the Cambrians to Cumbria. She reminded them that the region which they were about to visit had many geographical similarities to Wales, but it also offered many archæological contrasts: there was here no wealth of Iron Age hill-forts, as in Wales, but the Roman frontier works were of outstanding interest, as was the important series of pre-Norman crosses, of which the examples at Bewcastle, Hexham and Ruthwell were to be visited. Mr Eric Birley then gave a brief explanation of the principles on which the programme had been drawn up, and drew our visitors' attention to the contributions which our Society had made to the elucidation of Cumbrian history. Two men, he said, stood out amongst a host of contributors, namely R. S. Ferguson, who joined the Society at its foundation in 1866 and continued as editor of *Transactions* until

his death in 1900, and W. G. Collingwood, who inaugurated the new series of *Transactions* and for a third of a century, as Editor and later as President, kept our Society in the very front rank, as a learned society actively engaged in historical and archæological research. Chancellor Ferguson now belonged, in a sense, to antiquity itself, but W. G. Collingwood had been the teacher and friend of many of those now present. Our visitors would already be familiar with his great work on *Northumbrian Crosses of the pre-Norman Age* (1927); for a study of our own district, his inventories of the ancient monuments of Cumberland (CW2 xxiii 206-276) and of Westmorland and Lancashire-North-of-the-Sands (CW2 xxvi 1-62) were indispensable works of reference, his *Lake District History* (Titus Wilson, 1925) unmatched in its handling of the whole range of material from prehistoric to modern times, and his *The Lake Counties* (2nd edition, 1932) perhaps the finest guide-book ever written: and where the historical records were insufficient to yield a detailed picture, his historical novels (particularly *Thorstein of the Mere* and *The Bondwomen*) provided an exceptionally sensitive and convincing account, such as only a historian of real genius could produce. He took active steps, too, to further research into Roman archæology, helping in the excavation of Hardknott Castle—where his son R. G. Collingwood (who was to follow him as President of our Society, and to become the acknowledged leader in the study of Roman Britain) received his archæological baptism, carried slung in a shawl on his father's back up the mountain side, to do his first digging in a Roman fort at the age of three.

After Mr J. D. K. Lloyd, F.S.A., Chairman of Council of the Cambrians, had replied on their behalf to the welcome by our President and Chairman of Council, the day's programme continued with visits to the CASTLE (where Mr John Charlton, F.S.A., was the speaker) and to the CATHEDRAL; here we were welcomed by the Dean, our member the Very Rev. Cyril Mayne, and thereafter the Rev. C. M. L. Bouch described the history of the building and Mr C. G. Bulman drew our attention to its structural history (see *Prelates & People, passim*, and Mr Bulman's papers in CW2 xxxvii 56 f. and xlix 87 f.)

After lunch in Carlisle, the two Societies drove first to Little Salkeld, where Miss Clare Fell described LONG MEG AND HER DAUGHTERS, the most important megalithic monument in the Eden valley; for details, reference may be made to the summary of her address, on the occasion of the Society's visit on 11 July 1947, in CW2 xlvii 230 f. (referring also to C. W. Dymond's account and detailed survey, CW1 v 40 f.)—it was

interesting to hear some of the Cambrians discussing Long Meg herself in Welsh. Then we drove by way of Langwathby and Penrith to BROUGHAM CASTLE, where Mr John Charlton described the castle (cf. *RCHM Westmorland* 57-62 and Dr W. Douglas Simpson's paper in CW2 xlii 170 f.), and Mr Eric Birley spoke briefly about the Roman fort which had preceded it (cf. CW2 xlix 180, and the references there cited); thereafter we returned to Carlisle. In the evening, there was a reception at Tullie House, where Councillor Ritson Graham, Chairman of the Public Library and Museum Committee, welcomed the two Societies, and there was an opportunity for informal discussion, and for an inspection of the Museum and Art Gallery, which remained open until 9-30 p.m. each evening of the meeting.

*Wednesday, 30 August.*

We set out from Carlisle at 9 a.m., the first place on our programme being LANERCOST PRIORY, where the Rev. J. C. Dickinson, F.S.A., described the monastic remains and gave an account of the history of the priory (cf. CW2 xlii 183 f. for his discussion of the date of its foundation, which he there shows reason for assigning to *c.* 1166), and Mr Eric Birley described the Roman inscribed and sculptured stones, preserved in the undercroft, some of which came from Birdoswald and one (for which cf. CW2 xxxvi 1 f.) from milecastle 52, at Bankshead. From Lanercost we drove to BANKS TURRET (no. 52a in R. G. Collingwood's numerical list), where Mr J. P. Gillam described the evidence, first clearly identified there in 1927 (CW2 xxviii 382 f.), for the Wall from the Irthing westwards having been built originally of turf, with turf and timber milecastles but with turrets of stone; he also gave an account of the excavation of the turret in 1933 (CW2 xxxiv 148 f.), and drew attention to the importance of the stratified material found in it on that occasion, and still unpublished, for the study of the later history of the Wall in Cumberland. Next we drove, past the Turf Wall sector, to BIRDOSWALD FORT, where Professor I. A. Richmond, F.B.A., described the excavations carried out by the Cumberland Excavation Committee from 1927 onwards (reported on fully in CW2 xxviii-xxxiv), and Mr Gillam gave a preliminary account of recent excavations, carried out in co-operation with the Ministry of Works, at the main east gateway and on other structures forming part of the fort's defences (see now the account printed in CW2 1 63-69). A mobile canteen was in attendance at Birdoswald, and we were able to enjoy an

*al fresco* lunch while listening to Mr Gillam's address; for the weather, at this stage in the day, was warm and sunny.

After lunch, we drove northwards, the first halt being at ASKERTON CASTLE, where our member Lady Henley received us, and gave us a brilliant and entertaining account of the history of the fabric and of its owners and occupants; the Editors greatly regret that they were unable to take detailed notes of Lady Henley's address, which was one of the most enjoyable occasions of the whole meeting (for printed accounts, cf. R. S. Ferguson's paper in CW1 iii 178 f., given on the occasion of the Society's first visit to Askerton, in 1877; T. H. B. Graham's paper in CW2 xi 254 f., and that by E. L. Warre in CW2 xxiv 149 f., which pays special attention to the history of the fabric; a summary of W. T. McIntire's address, on the Society's visit in 1934, will be found in CW2 xxxv 264 f.) Lord and Lady Henley, and members of their family, then acted as guides to the castle, which we were permitted to examine from foundations to roof; as some of us were standing on the roof, rain began to fall, distant views were obscured by mist, and it really made us feel as though we were in a Border fortress.

A short drive brought us to Shop Ford, where we were to inspect BEWCASTLE CROSS and CASTLE, under Mr John Charlton's guidance, and the ROMAN FORT, under that of Professor Richmond and Mr Gillam. On the Cross, Mr Charlton referred to R. G. Collingwood's paper in CW2 xxxv 1 f. and to W. G. Collingwood's views as set forth in his *Northumbrian Crosses of the Pre-Norman Age* (1927); as to its dating, he felt bound to postulate an earlier date and a different historical setting to that for which the Collingwoods had argued. At the Editors' request, Mr Charlton has provided the following brief summary of the accounts which he gave of this matter, partly at Bewcastle, partly (two days later) at Ruthwell:—

"The Bewcastle and Ruthwell crosses are, with the Acca Cross (now restored to Hexham), the principal surviving remains of the great period of Anglian sculpture, which was one of the most remarkable achievements of the Dark Age in Europe. Their dating has in the past been the subject of argument and controversy, but it is now generally agreed that they belong to the later years of the seventh century. Their creation may, in a sense, be regarded as an indirect product of the victory of the Roman over the Celtic element at the Synod of Whitby in 664. The triumph of the Roman party was not limited to dogma and ritual; it meant the introduction not only of Roman rites but of the humanism of those who sponsored them — whereas the life of the Celtic monasteries, strict and devout and isolated from European influences, was still in a missionary stage which left little time for things of other than the spirit. Five years after that Synod came the mission of

Theodore of Tarsus and Adrian, to reintroduce scholarship and art to the distant island of Britain; and their view of Christianity embraced not only theology, but the Greek language in which much of it was expounded, and the eastern mediterranean art in which its prime figures were then being represented. In the train of that mission, to take but one example, was Benedict Biscop, founder and head of the great Northumbrian monasteries of Monkwearmouth and of Jarrow — a man who is recorded as having repeatedly visited the Continent, bringing back with him not only pictures to decorate his churches, but masons to build them more splendidly *more Romanorum*; this point is almost startlingly confirmed by the late Sir Alfred Clapham's recognition, among the Anglian fragments now preserved at Monkwearmouth, of two carved lions for whose artistic origin we must look to Ravenna or Byzantium (cf. his posthumous paper, AA4 xxviii 1-6). This arrival of Roman and Byzantine ideas seems to have struck a spark to the varied but latent artistic powers of the Anglian and Celtic population of the North, producing an isolated artistic renaissance of the highest class in one of the darkest corners of Europe — and a renaissance which leapt suddenly into full vigour. Both figure-sculpture and formal decoration were handled with a vigour which involved no slavish copying of foreign models, but rather their use as guides by artists who had found a new and exciting way of expressing themselves and the ideas of their period.

"That period is best equated with the great days of the Northumbrian kingdom and the time of its greatest territorial expansion. The cross at Ruthwell in Dumfriesshire, and fragments from similar crosses in southern Scotland, almost inevitably associated with the short-lived late seventh-century see of Abercorn, all place the beginning of this great movement in the last quarter of the seventh century. Furthermore, the runes on the Bewcastle cross, though difficult to read, seem best interpreted as a memorial to Oswy's son Alchfrith, who died in 670. In sum, therefore, the historic and artistic elements in the Bewcastle and Ruthwell crosses point to a date before the end of the seventh century, during the period of Northumbrian political predominance. Such a dating allows (as the late W. G. Collingwood's typology does not) for an adequate stylistic development of Anglian cross-sculpture before the Danish invasions. Our late President held that Bishop Acca's cross at Hexham was virtually the archetype of the rest, his view being based largely on a careful study of its ornament; but Acca died in 740, when Dumfriesshire was already lost to Northumbria."

On the castle, Mr Charlton referred to the late W. T. McIntire's account in CW2 xxxv 266 f. and to the detailed study by J. F. Curwen in CW2 xxii 186-197. Professor Richmond then described the excavations of 1937, which provide us with a detailed picture of the structural history of the Roman fort (CW2 xxxviii 195-237), and Mr Gillam gave an account of some digging done in October 1949, when part of an internal bath-house was found (cf. CW2 xlix 216-218). Rain was falling intermittently at Bewcastle, and there were periods when by common consent the addresses were intermitted and most members took shelter in the buses, though others braved the rain to queue for cups of tea at the mobile canteen, which had followed us from Birdoswald.

From Bewcastle we returned to Carlisle, where, after dinner, a joint meeting of the two Societies was held at Tullie House, with our President (Miss K. S. Hodgson) in the chair, to hear a paper by Sir Ifor Williams, President of the Cambrians, on "Wales and the North"; its text is printed as Art. VI above. A vote of thanks for Sir Ifor's most stimulating paper was proposed by Mr Eric Birley, and carried by acclamation.

*Thursday, 31 August.*

The third day of the meeting was devoted to an excursion into Northumberland. We drove through heavy rain, by Haltwhistle and Haydon Bridge, to Hexham, where the Rev. Thomas Romans, F.S.A., President of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne, was waiting to receive us, and to describe HEXHAM PRIORY to us. Thence we drove on to Corbridge, to inspect the excavations and the museum on the site at CORSTOPITUM, where Professor Richmond, Mr Gillam and Mr Eric Birley acted as guides; the mobile canteen was awaiting us there, and the weather improved sufficiently for us to be able to eat our lunch out of doors. After lunch, we drove up to Portgate, and thence westwards along the Military Road to HOUSESTEADS, where the same three guides described the Roman fort, milecastle and other structures, and drew attention to the principal exhibits in the museum. (For recent excavations at Corstopitum, cf. AA4 xv 243 f., xvii 85 f., xxi 127 f. and xxviii 152 f.; for excavations at Housesteads cf. AA2 xxv 193 f. and AA4 ix 222 f., x 82 f., xi 185 f., xii 204 f. and xiv 172 f.)

In the evening, after dinner, there was a meeting of Council at Tullie House, and our visitors held their General Meeting elsewhere in the same building.

*Friday, 1 September.*

On the last day of the meeting we made a journey across the Border into Dumfriesshire. The first visit was to BURNSWARK, where we were met by our honorary member Mr R. C. Reid, Past-President of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Society, on whose behalf he welcomed us into its territory. Mr Eric Birley then gave a brief description of the Roman structures on either slope of the hill, and of the native fortified town which occupied its summit, referring for the historical setting to his paper in *D. & G. Trans.* xxv, 1948, 132 f., and for the structural evidence, as recovered by excavation in 1898 or as still visible, to PSAScot. xxxiii 198 f. and to *Arch. Journ.* xcvi,

1939, 315-317; it seemed clear that the hill-top town had been besieged by a Roman force at some stage in the Antonine period, and that its defences had thereafter been slighted. After Mr Birley's address, the whole party made its way up to the summit of the hill, in order to inspect the surviving remains of the native site (the distances were unfortunately too hazy for us to be able to enjoy the panoramic views from it, for which Burnswark, on a clear day, is justly famous); at the west end of the hill, Mr Bryan O'Neil, F.S.A., Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments, drew our attention to the "small heart-shaped fortlet, N" (PSAScot. xxxiii 238), which by its plan and layout should be identified as a gun-emplacement of the Civil War period: it is excellently placed for commanding traffic along the Roman trunk road, still in regular use until comparatively modern times, which passes immediately below the western shoulder of the hill.

From Burnswark we drove across country to AMISFIELD TOWER, where Major Johnstone welcomed us, and kindly conducted members over the tower, after Mr R. C. Reid had given us an account of its history, and had drawn our attention to its most interesting features. For plans, elevations and a careful description of the structure, reference may be made to the Scottish Commission's volume on the *County of Dumfries*, 1920, 196 f.; Mr Reid pointed out to us that in its present form it was built in 1600, apparently by a local architect, who set out to provide the increased accommodation required by the period, not by adding to the tower a hall, kitchen and domestic range of buildings, but by adapting the simple tower to modern requirements: so, following the indigenous style of a tower, he evolved a tall, slim and elegant erection of six storeys, crowned with a cap-house some 77 ft. above the ground. On the fourth floor, three angle-turrets project, each of two storeys, the fourth angle being occupied by a turret stair corbelled out at first-floor level and developing into a square corner turret, surmounted by the cap-house. The tower, thus developed, was only occupied for a few years; by 1631 its owners were living in a house now incorporated in the back of the present mansion. So the architect had built in vain—but not entirely: for whilst so many other contemporary buildings are now in a ruinous condition, this one still stands in the same form as when it was completed, except that its original rendering in roughcast has been removed, and the exposure of the rubble masonry detracts somewhat from the planned effect of the decoration on the ashlar of the turrets. Mr Reid pointed out that up to first-floor level the tower belonged to an earlier period, the work of 1600

having been grafted on to the stump of a pre-existing structure. The tower was not always in its present good condition; when Major Johnstone succeeded to the estate purchased by his father, he found that the roof-timbers were far gone, the walls urgently required re-pointing, the windows were unglazed and the floors generally in bad condition: he therefore had it reconditioned under the expert care of the Historical Monuments Commission for Scotland and at his own expense. The result has been to make of Amisfield Tower one of the most impressive monuments in Scotland, and members of our own Society in particular were tremendously impressed by the contrast in conception and execution between this tower and those in our own district. The two Presidents, on our behalf, moved a special vote of thanks to Major Johnstone for his kindness in allowing us to visit his beautiful and historic home, for acting as guide to the tower and for suggesting that we might eat our lunch in his garden (the mobile canteen having taken up position in the stackyard near by).

From Amisfield we drove via Dumfries to CAERLAVEROCK CASTLE, where the Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments described the history of the structure, on the preservation of which his Department is at present engaged. Space will not permit of his account being summarised here, but it is hoped that before long an expanded version of it, taking into account the important structural discoveries which have been made at Caerlaverock during the work of preservation, will be printed in *D. & G. Trans.*; meanwhile, reference may be made to the *County of Dumfries* volume, 10 f. (with ample illustrations), and to the paper by Dr W. Douglas Simpson in *D. & G. Trans.* xxi.

Tea was provided by the canteen for those members who were not too absorbed by the remains of the castle and of the remarkable 17th century mansion inserted into its interior; and then, as persistent rain began to fall, we set out for our last visit of the meeting, to the RUTHWELL CROSS. At Ruthwell church we were welcomed by the minister of the parish, the Rev. M. W. McCoul, and Mr John Charlton gave an account of the cross and of its history, recalling of the cross that one of the earliest antiquaries to visit it had been William Nicolson, bishop of Carlisle (for full details, cf. *County of Dumfries*, 219-286). We then returned to Carlisle.

In the evening, the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was held in Tullie House at 8-15 p.m., with many members of the Cambrian Archæological Association present as our guests; Miss K. S. Hodgson, President, was in the chair. After the minutes



of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, and 12 new members had been elected, the Editor reported that 160 pages of *Transactions*, N.S., xlix were in print and that he expected printing to be completed by the end of October, but it was not possible to estimate how long binding would take. On consideration of the list of officers and councillors for the ensuing year, it was resolved that Major J. W. Cropper, Lord Lieutenant of the County of Westmorland, should be invited to become a Patron of the Society. Sir Ifor Williams, President of the Cambrian Archaeological Association, was elected an honorary member of the Society, on the nomination of Council, for his eminence in antiquarian studies (as our Rule VIII puts it) and as a mark of our gratitude for the stimulating paper which he had given us two evenings previously; in acknowledging the honour, Sir Ifor modestly suggested that it was intended to mark the close community of interests between the two Societies of Cambria and of Cumbria. Miss K. S. Hodgson was unanimously re-elected President of the Society, and all other officers and members of Council were re-elected *en bloc*. It was resolved, on the motion of Mr Spence, that a letter should be sent to Professor T. Jones Pierce, Excursions Secretary of the Cambrian Archaeological Association, expressing our great regret that he had been prevented, by ill-health, from taking part in the meeting, to the organisation of which he had given so much time and energy; and the warmest thanks of both Societies were voted to Mr R. C. Reid, for all his kindness and help in organising the visit to Dumfriesshire, and to the Rev. Thomas Romans, for his address at Hexham. The Editor, and the Chairman of the Cambrians, then moved a special vote of thanks to Mr Spence, for the magnificent planning and execution of the whole meeting. The following papers were then read: "The prehistoric site at Broomrig near Ainstable: the excavations of 1948-49" by Miss K. S. Hodgson, President, and "Ninekirks, Brougham" by the Editor on behalf of the author, the Rev. C. M. L. Bouch (cf. now CW2 1, Arts. IV and IX). Thereafter, in a brief and informal ceremony the Cambrians bade us farewell and we wished them a pleasant journey homewards, and the meeting then terminated.

## II. SPRING MEETING, 1951.

The spring meeting was held at Tullie House, Carlisle, on Saturday, 7 April 1951, at 2-15 p.m.; Council had met earlier in the day, to transact routine business and to perform its duties under Rule XI. Miss K. S. Hodgson, F.S.A., President, drew attention to the loss which the Society had suffered by the

deaths of Mr Ferdinand Hudleston, the Rev. W. S. Sykes and the Rev. M. P. Charlesworth, and the Society stood in silent tribute to their memory (cf. now CW2 1 223-227). Mr J. E. Spence, F.S.A., Secretary for Excursions, gave details of the arrangements which Council had made for a special excursion into Northumberland, and for the summer and autumn meetings; he also reported that a joint excursion with the Cambrian Archæological Association was being arranged for late August or early September 1952, with Bangor as headquarters. The Editor reported that *Transactions*, N.S., xlix was expected from the binders within the next few days, while the first eight articles of the following volume were already in galley proof, and the volume itself might be expected in members' hands before Christmas; it was hoped that N.S. li might go to press in the autumn. 19 new members were elected; the following papers were then read or reported: "A prehistoric settlement on Walney Island, Part VII" by the Hon. Marjorie Cross, F.S.A.; "Newly discovered flint-chipping sites in the Walney Island locality", by F. Barnes and J. L. Hobbs; "Pottery from the Vallum filling at Birdoswald" by Brenda Swinbank and J. P. Gillam; "Recent excavations at Birdoswald" by J. P. Gillam; "Ann Tyson's ledger: an eighteenth-century account-book" by Mary C. Moorman—(these have all been printed in CW2 1, Arts. II, III, VI, VII and XV)—and "The population of the diocese of Carlisle in 1676" by Francis G. James of Tulane University, New Orleans (Art. XIII, above).

The meeting then terminated, but many members remained in the lecture-theatre in order to attend the official inauguration of the new Roman Room in Carlisle Museum. The Chairman of the Carlisle Public Library and Museum Committee presided, and the opening ceremony was performed by Dr Douglas Allan, Director of the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh, who drew attention to the importance of a planned display, such as that which we were about to see, in developing the educational mission of a museum. Mr Eric Birley, moving a vote of thanks to Dr Allan on behalf of our Society, gave it as his opinion that the standard of display which Mr Robert Hogg had achieved, in so small a space, could not be bettered in any museum in this country or abroad, and this view was generally endorsed by members when they had an opportunity of examining the museum a few moments later.

### III. EXCURSION TO NORTHUMBERLAND, MAY 1951.

About 90 members and their guests took part in an excursion to Northumberland, with visits to its principal castles as the

main business, at the end of May 1951. Mr J. E. Spence, F.S.A., Secretary for Excursions, was assisted in the organisation of the excursion by our member Mr C. T. Dixon-Johnson of Middle Ord, Berwick upon Tweed; Mr H. L. Honeyman, F.S.A., Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne, acted as guide to several of the places which we visited, and the Society's thanks are due to him for the very able and entertaining manner in which he discharged that function; references are given, below, to Mr Honeyman's volume on *Northumberland* (Robert Hale Ltd., 1949), valuable alike for its clear and readable account of the county, and for its useful bibliography (pp. 269-270). Most members travelled in buses, leaving Carlisle for Newcastle at 2 p.m. on Monday, 28 May and returning from Berwick to Carlisle in time for a late tea on Friday, 1 June.

*Tuesday, 29 May.*

We left Bewick Street, Newcastle, at 9 a.m., our first visit being to NEWMINSTER ABBEY, where Mr Honeyman was guide (cf. his *Northumberland*, p. 172); thence to MITFORD CHURCH, described by the vicar, the Rev. J. W. Stirk, and MITFORD CASTLE, described by Mr Honeyman (*Northumberland*, p. 171 and cf. AA4 xiv 74 f.); lunch was taken at Mitford. Thence we drove to BOLAM CHURCH, described by Mr Honeyman (*Northumberland*, p. 201), and BELSAY CASTLE (*ibid.* 133), where Mr John Charlton, F.S.A., was the speaker. After referring to Dr W. Douglas Simpson's paper in AA4 xvii 75 f., Mr Charlton pointed out that Belsay is of interest as the domain of the Middleton family for some seven centuries, and almost unique in retaining three successive buildings in which that family has lived. The old castle was built in the first half of the 14th century, and it may be regarded as one of the prototypes of the Scottish tower-house; it is of almost keep-like proportions, consisting of a vaulted basement connected with the outer doorway by a passage, possibly later, which is flanked by guard-rooms, one of them containing a stairway to the upper floors. The plan displays an ingenious attempt to provide the standard accommodation of a medieval house—solar, hall, kitchen &c.—in the readily defensible but constricted dimensions of a large pele tower, and doing so, moreover, without sacrificing the social and architectural distinction between the lord's and the servants' apartments. West of the old tower, and now blocking its entrance, is the Jacobean mansion built in 1614 by Thomas Middleton and Dorothy his wife—a pleasant building, of no great distinction, with a columned entrance; it was greatly

extended to the west by succeeding generations, but these additions have since been demolished. The last building phase is perhaps the most remarkable: a great Grecian mansion, built 1810-17 by Sir Charles Monk (Middleton), sixth baronet. He had spent a two years' honeymoon in Athens (1804-05), where his son Charles Atticus was born; much of that time was spent in designing, in collaboration with the Hellenist Sir William Gell, a Grecian Belsay, which was to be erected three years before the Inwoods' Grecian masterpiece at St. Pancras. The building generally displays great correctness — the fronts, for example, have no pediments; its external appearance is ornamental and admirably executed, the interior is simple and severe, relieved only by the brass balustrading of the two-storeyed, atrium-like central hall and the sculptures by Flaxman. Hardly less remarkable are the gardens, which to the credit of the present owner are still maintained much as they were in their designer's day; they are of particular interest as a careful study in the "picturesque" and for their relation, at so late a date, with early ideas of landscape-gardening.

From Belsay we drove back to Newcastle where, after dinner, the Society of Antiquaries threw open its museums at the Keep and the Blackgate, and several of its members were present to explain the exhibits.

*Wednesday, 30 May.*

Leaving Newcastle at 9 a.m., we drove first to Warkworth, where Mr Charlton gave us an account of WARKWORTH CASTLE, referring to Dr W. Douglas Simpson's papers in AA4 xv 115 f. and xix 93 f. An early lunch was taken at the White Swan Hotel in Alnwick, after which we visited ALNWICK CASTLE (*Northumberland*, p. 125—an excellent *Guide* is obtainable from the porter), and thence drove to the picturesque fishing-village of Craster, from which a walk of almost a mile along the links brought us to DUNSTANBURGH CASTLE, likewise described by Mr Charlton (*ibid.*, p. 153, and cf. Dr Douglas Simpson's important paper in AA4 xvi, 31 f. and his "Further notes" in AA4 xxvii 1 f.); the morning had been wet and very windy, but in the afternoon the wind dropped, the sun came out, and the visit to Dunstanburgh was all the more enjoyable for that. After rejoining the buses at Craster, we drove to Bamburgh for tea, and there was an opportunity for members to visit BAMBURGH CASTLE and CHURCH (*ibid.*, p. 151) or the GRACE DARLING MUSEUM, before the drive was resumed to Berwick, where we stopped for the next two nights.

*Thursday, 31 May.*

We left Berwick at 9 a.m., first visiting the impressive remains of NORHAM CASTLE, where Mr Honeyman was once more our guide (*ibid.*, p. 149); thence we visited NORHAM CHURCH (described by the vicar, the Rev. J. A. Little) and ETAL CASTLE (described by Mr Honeyman—cf. his *Northumberland*, p. 149), before driving in to Wooler for lunch. The afternoon was devoted to visits to two of the most interesting local native sites, the village settlement at GREAVES ASH, Linhope, where Professor I. A. Richmond, F.B.A., was our guide, and the cup and ring markings at ROUTING LYNN, described by Miss A. J. W. Newbigin (for the former site cf. *Hist. Berwickshire Naturalists' Field Club*, 1856-62, pp. 293-316, and for the latter, *Northumberland County History* xiv, 1935, p. 47 and pl. v). Thence we returned to Berwick in time for tea. After dinner that evening, a meeting was held in the King's Arms Hotel, at which we were welcomed to the town by the Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriff, who stayed to hear the Town Clerk, Mr R. B. Davison, give us an account of the municipal charters, which were exhibited to us, and of a collection of coins minted at Berwick, which had just been acquired for the town's museum.

*Friday, 1 June.*

The morning was spent in Berwick itself. First we visited the PARISH CHURCH, Holy Trinity, where we were shown round by the Rev. W. B. Hicks; next we explored the OLD TOWN HALL, with its court-room and the prison cells above, and finally we perambulated the ELIZABETHAN TOWN-WALLS, under the guidance of Mr Parker. After lunch, the buses drove back to Carlisle by way of Kelso, Hawick and Langholm, and an extremely enjoyable excursion thus came to its end.

#### IV. SUMMER MEETING, 1951.

The summer meeting was held in the Furness district on 10 and 11 July 1951, with headquarters at the Victoria Hotel, Barrow. Local arrangements had been made by the Hon. Marjorie Cross, F.S.A., assisted by a committee consisting of the Rev. J. C. Dickinson, F.S.A., Mr J. L. Hobbs, Mr J. Melville and Mr J. E. Spence, F.S.A. The weather was reasonable throughout the meeting.

*Tuesday, 10 July.*

The party assembled at Ulverston railway station at 11 a.m., and drove thence to URSWICK CHURCH, perhaps the mother

of all churches in Furness, which was described by the vicar, the Rev. M. D. Grieve, who based his remarks on the descriptions of the building by the Rev. T. N. Postlethwaite in CW<sub>2</sub> vi 191 f. and xxiv 278 f. Next we visited URSWICK STONE WALLS, where Mr J. Melville was the speaker. The Society's first visit there had been in August 1877, when the site was described by John Fell of Dane Ghyll (CW<sub>1</sub> iii, p. xxvi f.); on its visit in June 1905, the speaker was John Dobson, school-master of Little Urswick (CW<sub>2</sub> vi 317), who in the following year communicated to the Society an important paper on its history and on the excavations which he had carried out there, earlier in the season, in co-operation with W. G. Collingwood and Harper Gaythorpe, on behalf of our Society (CW<sub>2</sub> vii 72-94, with plan facing p. 74); Mr Melville based his account on John Dobson's paper, pointing out that the site was that of a home-stead of late-Celtic type which, to judge by the remains found there, was already occupied before the first Roman penetration into the district. There are two separate enclosures: one is oval, and near its centre there are the remains of a circular hut, excavated in 1906; the other is rectangular, and perhaps of somewhat later, but still ancient, date; the walls of both enclosures are of a type intended to keep in stock, or to keep out wild beasts, rather than for defensive purposes. After a picnic lunch, we drove to GLEASTON CASTLE, which was described by Mr J. E. Spence, F.S.A., who based his account on that by W. B. Kendall in CW<sub>2</sub> vi 184 f. (referring also to H. S. Cowper's paper in CW<sub>1</sub> xiii 37 f.—cf. also CW<sub>2</sub> xxiv 361 f., and J. F. Curwen's *Castles & Towers*, 142); the castle seems to have been built *circa* 1250, rebuilt and strengthened soon after 1316, and finally abandoned, on ceasing to be a manorial dwelling, in the second half of the fifteenth century. The next place on the programme was FURNESS ABBEY, where we had the pleasure of listening to a full account of its history, given by the Rev. J. C. Dickinson, F.S.A., and of admiring the splendid state in which the ruins are preserved by the Ministry of Works; those members who have the good fortune to possess sets of the Old Series of these *Transactions* will remember the long and detailed description of the abbey, by Sir William St. John Hope, in CW<sub>1</sub> xvi 221-302, with plans and elevations and numerous excellent photographs: a few copies of the Part containing that splendid description are still available, on application to the General Secretary. The day's excursion ended with a visit to PIEL CASTLE, also described by Mr Dickinson, of which the best description in print is that by J. F. Curwen in CW<sub>2</sub> x 271-287.

A meeting of Council was held at the Victoria Hotel at 6-30 p.m., and at 8-15 p.m. there was a General Meeting of the Society, with the President in the chair. It was reported that two new pamphlets in the Society's Tract Series had been published (for particulars, see p. 209 f. below), and that the printing of *Transactions*, n.s., 1 was well forward; the President announced that Council had appointed the Rev. C. M. L. Bouch to be joint-editor with Mr Eric Birley, who had been finding it impossible, owing to his other commitments, to give as much time as he could wish to his editorial duties: Mr Birley would pay special attention to prehistoric, Roman and Dark Age matters, and Mr Bouch to the medieval and later periods. Mr J. E. Spence gave a brief report on some trial excavations which had been carried out at Kendal castle (cf. p. 185 f. above) and, in his capacity as Secretary for Excursions, gave details of the programme for the autumn meeting, to be held in the Penrith district; the President reported that her trial excavations at Baronwood had had negative results. The following papers were then read: "Flint implements from Plain Furness" by F. Barnes and J. L. Hobbs (Art. I above); "An early Mosser charter" by Canon W. W. Farrer (Art. VII); "A medieval tombstone at Stanwix" by C. G. Bulman (Art. X); "Eelchist: a forgotten farm in Holme Cultram" (Art. XI) and "Barwis of Cumberland, Part II" (Art. XII) by Rev. F. B. Swift; and "The old tower of Lamplugh" by Canon S. Taylor (Art. XIV). 14 new members were elected at this meeting.

*Wednesday, 11 July.*

The coaches left Barrow at 9-15 a.m., our first visits being to SWARTHMOOR HALL and the ABRAHAM AND SWARTHMOOR MEETING HOUSE, which were described by Mrs Isabel Ross. No full account of the former has appeared in our *Transactions*, though it was visited by the Society in June 1905 (CW2 vi 315); but there is a long and interesting description of the Meeting House, visited on the same occasion, in CW2 vi 237 f., and there is much to be found, of great interest, in Mrs Ross's recent book on *Margaret Fell, Mother of Quakerism*, a notice of which will be found in CW2 xlix 227. Next we drove to Dalton-in-Furness, where Mr J. L. Hobbs described DALTON TOWER, basing his account on the paper by Harper Gaythorpe in CW2 x 312-330; it was probably built in the first half of the 14th century, on the site of an earlier unfortified building in which the monks of Furness Abbey had held their manorial courts and had confined their prisoners, to fulfil the same function and also to provide protection against Scottish raids;

and it continued, after the dissolution of the abbey in 1537, to serve as a prison for debtors until 1774 and as the meeting-place for manorial courts until their abolition by the Law of Property Act, the last such court being held there in October 1925. The parish church of Dalton, though on one of the oldest consecrated sites in Furness, retains little of its ancient fabric, though it has a 14th century font, a good set of registers dating from May 1565, and church plate of which the earliest item is a chalice inscribed with the date 1571. The town, important as long as the abbey flourished, gradually declined after the Dissolution, and by the 18th century had been superseded by Ulverston; in spite of some trade revival after the middle of that century, it was still quite insignificant as late as 1825, consisting of little more than one long street, with a population of between 700 and 800. The iron-ore trade was responsible for a great expansion, when the huge deposits of ore in the neighbourhood caused it to become a mining town, but those deposits are now all worked out, and it is once more a small and unimportant place.

From Dalton we drove to KIRKBY OLD HALL, where Mr Melville was the speaker, basing his account on H. S. Cowper's papers in CW1 xiii 271-281 and 287-290 (originally read to the Society on the site in June 1894); the most interesting portion of the building is the chapel, situated over the parlour in the west wing, which is only approachable now through a trap-door in the ceiling of the diagonal passage (the original entrance into it having been blocked); its walls were decorated with paintings on plaster, which Cowper described and illustrated in the latter paper. The hall is sometimes known as Crosshouse, from a medieval cross which used to stand some 46 yards from its main entrance.

Lunch was taken in Broughton, whence we proceeded to Millom, where the Rev. J. C. Dickinson described MILLOM CASTLE, and Miss M. C. Fair (deputising for Canon S. Taylor, who had been prevented by ill-health from attending) spoke at MILLOM CHURCH. For full descriptions of both buildings, reference may be made to the papers by H. S. Cowper in CW2 xxiv 181-234 and by the Rev. W. S. Sykes, *ibid.* 235-241; the latter account was written in 1923, since which date an extensive restoration of the structure has taken place. From Millom we returned to Ulverston, where the meeting terminated, and members dispersed on their various ways, with feelings of gratitude to the organising committee, the speakers, and the owners and occupiers of the places which had been visited in the course of an enjoyable two days.



## V. AUTUMN MEETING, 1951.

The autumn meeting was held in the Penrith district on 4 and 5 September 1951; the local arrangements had been made by a committee consisting of the Hon. Marjorie Cross, F.S.A., Mr C. Roy Hudleston, F.S.A., Mr T. D. Shepherd, Dr J. R. K. Thomson, the Rev. C. M. L. Bouch and Mr J. E. Spence, F.S.A. All the places visited on the first day, and the first two on the second, have been described in the Royal Commission's volume on Westmorland, to which references are given for detailed descriptions and illustrations. The first day began with persistent, though not very heavy, rain and was never very warm; on the following morning, we were favoured with bright sunshine and it became really hot, though rain began to fall before all members had returned home that evening.

*Tuesday, 4 September.*

The main party assembled at Penrith railway station at 10.30 a.m., and drove thence to SHAP ABBEY. Mr John Charlton, F.S.A., was to have been the speaker here, but he was detained in London by official duties, and his place was taken at short notice by the Rev. J. C. Dickinson, F.S.A., who had risen from a sick-bed to come to our assistance. The Society first visited the abbey in 1886 and next, after W. St. John Hope's excavations, in 1888; the latter's architectural account is printed in CW1 x 298-314, following a survey of the history of the abbey by Canon G. F. Weston, *ibid.* 286-298 (cf. also *RCHM Westmorland* 207 f. and plan facing p. 208). At the end of his paper, Hope mentioned that "The great accumulation of rubbish about this range of buildings ought to be carefully removed, and thereby render its arrangements more visible"; the site has now been placed in the custody of the Ministry of Works by its owner, the earl of Lonsdale, and those members who had not visited it since the Ministry's work began, were much impressed to see how much progress has already been made towards making the remains not merely safe but also intelligible. After a picnic lunch in Askham village, we drove to LOWTHER CHURCH, which was described by our member the Rev. B. G. Fell; there seems to be no description of the church in our *Transactions*, but a careful account of it, with a plan, is to be found in *RCHM Westmorland* 158-160, and many members took the opportunity of acquiring copies of an excellent guidebook written by Mr Fell himself. The church is remarkable as a composite structure, its interior being mainly of the 12th and 13th century date, but the whole of the outer

walls were rebuilt by Sir John Lowther in 1686; the tower assumed its present form a hundred years ago.

Next we drove to HACKTHORPE HALL, where the Rev. C. M. L. Bouch was the speaker; it was first visited by the Society as recently as July 1936 (cf. CW<sub>2</sub> xxxvii 192 f.), but it was described by M. W. Taylor in his *Old Manorial Halls* (this Society's Extra Series, viii, 96-97); cf. also *RCHM Westmorland* 160 and plate 19. The hall was built by Sir Christopher Lowther early in the 17th century and was twice enlarged, later in the same century and early in the 18th; two rooms on the first floor contain some interesting late 17th-century panelling. The last visit of the day was to YANWATH HALL, likewise described by Mr Bouch; it is worth recalling that this was one of the first places which the Society ever visited—at the meeting in July 1867, when it was described by M. W. Taylor (cf. CW<sub>1</sub> i 48 f., and *Old Manorial Halls* 52 f.); cf. also the detailed account in *RCHM Westmorland* 250 f. and plate 160, where its importance as an example of a medieval and later semi-fortified building is stressed. Its early history is confused. J. H. Parker, in his *Domestic Architecture* II 216, states that "the original structure (of the tower) is believed to have been built by John de Sutton who married Margaret, heiress of the De Somerie family, in 1322". On this authority, J. F. Curwen in his *Castles & Towers* 319 gives for Yanwath "Foundation History, 1322" and *RCHM Westmorland* 250, follows suit with "the tower is said to have been built by John de Sutton in 1322". But William Jackson in CW<sub>1</sub> ix 313, as long ago as 1887, had proved that this statement could not stand because the Sutton family (who took the name of Dudley at the end of the 15th century) had no connection with Westmorland till Thomas Sutton or Dudley married Grace, daughter and co-heiress of Sir Lancelot Threlkeld of Yanwath, shortly before 1512. All that can be said with safety therefore is that the tower was probably built early in the 14th century by one of the de Threlkelds; it reached its present form substantially before 1671, when it passed into the possession of the Lowther family.

A meeting of Council was held in Penrith Town Hall at 6 p.m., and the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING took place there at 8-15 p.m., with Mr Eric Birley in the chair in the first instance. After the minutes of the last meeting had been read and confirmed, and seven new members had been elected, the General Secretary (on behalf of the Treasurer, who was unable to be present) reported the balances in hand on 30 June, when the Society's financial year closed, and pointed out that a good deal of the balance in the General Fund was due for

meeting the cost of *Transactions*; the possibility of the annual subscription to the Society having to be increased had been considered, but it was felt that every effort should be made to avoid such a course. The chairman drew attention to the two recent additions to the Society's Tract Series, "Early Railway History in Furness" and "A handlist of newspapers" (see p. 209 f. below), and pointed out that further publications in the same useful series could only be undertaken as funds permitted, either through increased contributions to the Record Publication Fund or as the result of sales of existing publications. As Editor, he added that *Transactions*, N.S., I was now virtually out of his hands and there was a reasonable chance that members would receive their copies of it before Christmas; Mr Bouch and he were hoping to get copy for N.S. II to the printers in the near future. Mr Spence, Secretary for Excursions, reported that it was proposed to visit Corby Castle, on the warm invitation of our member Colonel Levin, on the occasion of the Spring Meeting, which would probably be held at Carlisle early in May 1952, and added that arrangements for the visit to Wales later in 1952 were already well forward. The Rev. C. M. L. Bouch reported that work on the Kendal Registers was proceeding, and that it was hoped that the volume would be issued in the course of 1952. The meeting then proceeded to the election of officers and Council for the ensuing year. On the chairman's nomination, Mr J. E. Spence, F.S.A., was unanimously elected President of the Society, and he took the chair for the remainder of the evening. Sir Robert Chance, Lord Lieutenant of Cumberland, was elected a Patron of the Society; the Hon. Marjorie Cross, F.S.A., and the Rev. J. R. H. Moorman, D.D., were elected Vice-Presidents and Dr J. R. K. Thomson and Mr J. P. Gillam as members of Council; and all other officers and members of Council were re-elected *en bloc*. After the elections had been completed, the new President moved a very hearty vote of thanks to his predecessor in that office, Miss K. S. Hodgson, F.S.A., for the good and faithful services which she had performed on the Society's behalf during the three years of her Presidency; Mr Eric Birley, in seconding the motion, paid a special tribute to Miss Hodgson's work as an excavator and a trainer of excavators. The following papers were then read or reported: "Coin evidence, and the evacuation of Hadrian's Wall" by J. P. C. Kent (Art. II, above); "Renewed excavation at Low Borrow Bridge" by E. J. W. Hildyard and J. P. Gillam (Art. IV); and "Medieval glass in Penrith Church" by the late F. Hudleston and C. Roy Hudleston (Art. IX). The meeting then terminated.

*Wednesday, 5 September.*

The coaches left Sandgate, Penrith, at 9-15 a.m., and drove past Pooley Bridge along Ullswater to GLENCOYNE FARM, which the Society had never previously visited; on arrival there we were welcomed on behalf of the National Trust (who are now the owners of the property) by Sir Samuel Scott, Bart., our senior Vice-President. The Rev. C. M. L. Bouch, in describing the house, spoke of it as a typical example of a Lakeland farmhouse of the larger variety; with its heavily studded entrance door, its passage leading from the front door to another one opposite, and its fireplace protected by screens, it preserves many ancient features of great interest. There is a brief description of the house in *RCHM Westmorland* 194, and a photograph on plate 22. Next we drove along the Kirkstone road, through Patterdale, to LOW HARTSOP village, which too had never been visited by the Society; our guide here was Mr C. B. Martindale, who drew our attention to the exceptionally interesting group of small Lakeland houses, several of them with their spinning-galleries still intact, and with spiral staircases of stone, on either side of the narrow and winding lane which constitutes its village street (cf. *RCHM Westmorland* 192-193). We then returned along Ullswater and, passing out of Westmorland into Cumberland, made our way to MATTERDALE CHURCH, where our member the Rev. J. A. H. Bell gave us a most excellent description of that interesting building, basing his account of its history on the paper by the Rev. J. Whiteside in *CW2* i 235-255. Members then enjoyed a picnic lunch, sitting on the grass by the roadside and basking in sunshine which still had real warmth in it, though it became cooler as the afternoon wore on.

The first visit of the afternoon was to GREENTHWAITE HALL, where Mr J. E. Spence, F.S.A., President, was the speaker. He referred to earlier visits by the Society, which had led to papers by M. W. Taylor (*CW1* xi 90-96) and J. F. Curwen (*CW2* vii 128-135, with plan and excellent illustrations); the house was built by the Haltons of Greenthwaite, and is usually stated to have been erected in 1650, the date carved on the lintel of the projecting porch—though it may be noted that Curwen called its elevations “distinctly of Elizabethan character”, and the three carved stone horizontal panels “peculiarly Tudor in design”. The President drew attention to the continuous string-courses on the north face of the main wing, which stopped at the west side of the porch-turret, pointing out that the masonry to the west side of the porch differs

from that on the east and is not of such good quality; furthermore, over the north windows there is a label but no string-course, while on the south face of the building the masonry shows a straight joint, running up to the eaves, at a point opposite the turret. From this he deduced that the south block of the hall had been built in two sections, that to the east being the earlier; as no trace of an earlier abode of the Halton family is known, it seems possible that their previous house stood on the same site, and had been demolished after the building of the eastern part of the south block, the new hall (as it now stands) being completed thereafter. The last of the Haltons to live at Greenthwaite was Immanuel, who left it in 1678 to take over the charge of the duke of Norfolk's estates in Derbyshire, where that branch of the family remained; but descendants of his brother still live in Cumberland, and one of them was present that afternoon, in the person of Mr F. W. Halton, solicitor, of Carlisle—who owns land in Raughtonhead which has descended in a direct line from that brother of Immanuel Halton.

The last place to be visited was BLENCOW HALL; here also the President was the speaker, referring to M.W. Taylor's paper in CW1 xi 73-80 and that by J. F. Curwen in CW2 vii 120-127 (cf. also *Castles & Towers*, 351). On this occasion members were much interested in a lead cannon-ball, exhibited by Mr Todd, the tenant of Blencow Hall; it was about the size of a cricket-ball, and was one of several which had been found about the hall; it was conjectured that these missiles may have been fired at the building by the Parliamentary forces in 1648, when General Lambert's troops were based on Penrith for a month and are known to have operated against the castles at Greystoke, Rose and Scaleby.

At recent meetings it has been the custom for the President, at the close of the proceedings, to move a vote of thanks to the owners and tenants who have permitted the Society to inspect their property, to the speakers who have described the monuments to us, and to the Secretary for Excursions whose hard work has made the excursion not only possible but also enjoyable. But on this occasion there was the difficulty that the Society had just conferred the Presidency on Mr Spence—who was also Secretary for Excursions and one of the speakers; Mr Eric Birley therefore stepped into the breach, and moved the customary vote of thanks with all the greater enthusiasm because of the special circumstances of this first day of the new Presidency. Thus ended a very pleasant and instructive excursion.