

Wales. Situated in the heart of a rich and fertile valley, with a noble river available for navigation, it must have ranked as one of the most flourishing mercantile cities, until, abandoned by the Romans, and having subsisted for nearly a century and a half under Romano-British rule, it fell at length, as seems most probable, under the sword of the invading Saxon.<sup>2</sup>

It is to be regretted that the funereal inscription to a Roman soldier, lately found, adds nothing to the knowledge already obtained from the inscribed stones discovered at Wroxeter, the number of the legion being partly obliterated ; but so large and promising a field of investigation remains, that if the explorations so successfully commenced be pursued vigorously, we shall doubtless hereafter obtain what may confirm the truth of previous history, if it does not extend its limits and clear up its obscurities.

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#### REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE EXCAVATIONS AT WROXETER, THE ROMAN URIOCONIUM, SINCE JULY, 1860.

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AT the meeting of the Institute at Gloucester, in July, 1860, I had the pleasure of bringing before the members an account of the discoveries which had been made at Wroxeter up to that date.<sup>1</sup> In the three years which have elapsed since that time the excavations have been continued, but they have not been confined to the same ground where the first discoveries were made. It was considered by the Excavation Committee that enough had been done for the present in ascertaining the form of the buildings and the direction of the streets, shown in the excellent survey by Mr. Hillary Davies engraved for this Journal,<sup>2</sup> and that the cemetery on the east side of the city was more likely to yield new matter of interest to the antiquary.

<sup>2</sup> See Dr. Guest's Memoir, *Archaeol. Journal*, vol. xix. p. 215.

<sup>1</sup> Printed in the *Archaeol. Journal*, vol. xvii. p. 240.

<sup>2</sup> *Archaeol. Journal*, vol. xvi. p. 266. See also the Guide to the Ruins of Uriconium, by Mr. Thomas Wright, Shrewsbury, 1859.

Although the ground-plans of several extensive buildings had been laid bare, and the floors uncovered, yet neither altar nor inscription of any kind had been found. The relics discovered consisted chiefly of bones, broken pottery, fictitious Samian ware, a touchstone, and a mass of powdered granite, possibly for lining the vessels known as *mortaria*, and to render them rough, 13 coins, a leaden ornament, a peculiar skiff-shaped capsule of bronze, in form resembling a little basket, possibly intended for use as a purse to be worn on the arm, and similar to that found at Thorngraston, Northumberland, as described by Dr. Collingwood Bruce,<sup>3</sup> a coin of Antoninus, a block of red sandstone, bearing the letters G M M, deeply cut, a heavy mass of impure iron, probably weighing about one cwt., and considered to be an anvil, many shells of a large white kind, a prettily formed female head cut in red sandstone, the eye-holes having been filled with pieces of vitreous paste, which has fallen out, leaving the sockets empty, a hammer-head of lead, and a fine fibula with the word FECIT inscribed upon it; these were the articles discovered from the latter part of the summer of 1860 until the autumn of 1861. It was then determined that examination should be made of the ground which had always been regarded as the necropolis of Urioconium. Accordingly, on September 16, 1861, workmen were directed to trench the field to the eastward of the city, which had long been known as the cemetery. There it was that the sepulchral stones were found which are now preserved in the school library at Shrewsbury. The Watling Street passes out of the city by what has been known as the ancient East-gate, and along the line of this road the cemetery extends.

After the men had been at work two days, they found a large inscribed stone, the upper portion of which had evidently contained a figure in relief, which was broken away, but the under portion, bearing an inscription of seven lines, remained perfect, although many of the letters are almost obliterated, so that it is feared the whole inscription cannot with certainty be made out. The stone was found with the inscribed portion downwards. Search was made for the

<sup>3</sup> Figured in Dr. Bruce's *Roman Wall*, p. 416; and in Akerman's *Coins of the Romans relating to Britain*. Another specimen found at Farndale, Yorkshire,

is figured in this *Journal*, vol. viii. p. 89. See notices of other like relics, *Catalogue of the Museum formed at the meeting of the Institute at Edinburgh*, p. 61.

upper part, but without effect. A photograph of this stone has been taken by Mr. Colley, and also an accurate drawing executed by Mr. Hillary Davies; a photograph was also taken of the pottery then dug up.<sup>4</sup> The feet alone of the figure remain, which are apparently those of a soldier wearing the military *caligæ* or sandals.

The letters—AMINIVS—are distinct, with sufficient space intervening between the A and the outer margin of the stone to admit the letters FL. If we read the name Flaminius, after the s follows the letter T, and what appears to be a stop, and we naturally look for an F, but the T is followed by the word POLIA, which would ordinarily be taken to indicate the tribe (*Politia*) to which the soldier belonged, but we have only one L on the stone. I am inclined, therefore, to think it must be taken for a *cognomen* of Flaminius, and that the F after the T must have been omitted in error.

In the inscription to C. Mannius, found in the same cemetery many years since, we read C. MANNIVS C. F. POL. SECVNDVS.<sup>5</sup>

The second line of the newly-found inscription, which gives the age of the deceased as forty-five, and the period of service twenty-two, may be plainly read, except the letters after the abbreviated words MIL. LEG., if indeed there were any, as the space seems to suggest, though none are now traceable. The beginning of the next line is defaced, and we have only two straight strokes—II—which probably give only a part of the number of the legion, and therefore we are left to conjecture whether it was the second or the fourteenth. We have from the same cemetery a stone to the memory of a soldier of the fourteenth legion, which is also inscribed GEM.; this tablet is noticed in a preceding paper in the *Archæological Journal*.<sup>6</sup> After the title of the legion the word MILITAVI follows, and then AQ: probably for *aquilifer*; then NVNC, and the letters HI, and, after a small intervening space, an s just discernible, and probably to be read HIC SITVS or HIC. SVM. After this seem to follow three hexameter lines, a few words of which only are to be deciphered at intervals, the last line ending TEMPVS HONESTE.

<sup>4</sup> It is engraved, *Gent. Mag.*, vol. cexii. April, 1862, p. 401.

<sup>5</sup> See the author's memoir in this *Journal*, vol. xvi. p. 63; and Mr. Wright's

second memoir on Uriconium, where this memorial is figured, *Journal Brit. Arch. Ass.*, 1859, p. 311.

<sup>6</sup> See *Arch. Journ.*, vol. xvi. p. 63.

They may be conjecturally restored, but I fear little more can be done. The Rev. John McCaul, LL.D., President of University College, Toronto, to whom I sent an accurate photograph of this inscription on its first discovery, has published his interpretation in a valuable selection of Britanno-Roman Inscriptions, with Critical Notes,<sup>7</sup> which are well worth the attention of scholars fond of inscriptions.

Dr. McCaul would read the inscription thus:—T. [or c.] FLAMINIVS. T. F. POL. (tribu), POLIA being used for POLLIA. The second line he reads as I have done:—ANNORVM XXXXV. STIPENDIORVM XXII. MILES LEGIONIS. In the third line he would read XIV for the number of the legion, and AQ. for *aquilifer*, thus:—XIIII. GEMINAE. MILITAVI. AQVILIFER. NVNC HIC SVM.

Dr. McCaul observes that the use of the first person in funereal inscriptions is common, and the word MILITAVI is clear; also we have an example of HIC SVM in Orelli, n. 4738, and Henzen, n. 7411. The hexameter lines he thus completes:—

“Perlegite et felices vitā plus minus juta,<sup>8</sup>  
Omnibus æquā lege iter est ad Tænara Ditis,  
Vivite, dum Stygius vitæ dat tempus, honeste.”

On the use of *vivere* and *honeste* in such inscriptions, see Orelli, n. 4807, and Henzen, nn. 6843, 7347, 7402, 7407. Should the conjecture be correct, that this stone is the memorial to a soldier of the fourteenth legion, it is the second found in this cemetery, and adds one to the few memorials that remain in this island of the legion which bore the title *Domitores Britanniae*; the only other record being the funereal stone found at Lincoln.<sup>9</sup>

The stone was found about seventy feet from the hedge which divides the field from the old road known by the name of the Watling Street; and about sixty feet west from this place the foundations of a building were met with, on October 28, 1861. They consisted of a few feet of rectangular walls, 18 in. thick. A description of the work

<sup>7</sup> Published by Henry Rowsell, Toronto, and Longmans, London, 1863.

<sup>8</sup> The faint marks on the stone seem to favor this reading; though somewhat rugged, it is not, however, more so than other military inscriptions, or those epitaphs in our own time. See Dr. McCaul's

Britanno-Roman Inscip., p. 206. I should, however, have preferred reading ALBA or ATRA, instead of JUTA, which is very unusual.

<sup>9</sup> See Archaeol. Journal, 1860, vol. xvii. p. 19.

carried out in excavating in the cemetery, is given in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, with a plan and drawings.<sup>1</sup> Dr. Johnson, under whose zealous direction the excavations have been conducted, in that account describes this building as having been cut through by a modern drain; the foundations were not deeply laid. It is considered to have been a tomb, but had been entirely denuded of every mark by which its former purpose could be recognised. It is conjectured that the inscribed stone above noticed may have been taken from it.<sup>2</sup> We can only regret the entire destruction of Roman tombs in this country; many of them must have been interesting illustrations of the funereal customs and modes of honoring the dead common among the Roman population of this island. Some years ago a well-preserved tomb was discovered in Suffolk, in a tumulus at Eastlow Hill, near Rougham, and described by the late Professor Henslow,<sup>3</sup> who published a drawing of its construction, with a ground-plan and section. This may serve as a guide whereby we may reconstruct the ruined tomb at Uriconium.

Wood-ashes were found in the cemetery in many places. These are marked in the plan,<sup>4</sup> and were probably the vestiges of funereal rites. About eighteen cinerary urns were obtained from the cemetery. They are now placed in the Museum in Shrewsbury, and form a very instructive and interesting collection.<sup>5</sup> Burnt human bones were found in several of the urns, and sometimes incinerated bones were found deposited by themselves, without being enclosed in any vessel, the urns which contained them having possibly perished. Many small glass unguentaries were also found; of these some had undergone the action of heat, and were partially melted. Their contents having been chemically analysed, they were found to contain sand, carbonaceous and oily matter. Two lamps were also found, one of elegant

<sup>1</sup> *Gent. Mag.*, vol. ccxii. April, 1862, p. 398. This account was read at a meeting of the Society of Antiquaries, 6 March, 1862, and was drawn up by the Hon. Sec. of the Excavation Committee, Henry Johnson, Esq., M.D., of Shrewsbury.

<sup>2</sup> Coins of the Emperors Hadrian and Trajan were found at the same time.

<sup>3</sup> An Account of the Roman Antiquities found at Rougham, September 15, 1843, was published at Bury St. Edmunds in

that year, by Professor Henslow, with a lithograph representing the interior of the tomb, the urns, glass vessels, &c. He addressed also a letter on the subject of the discovery to the *Bury Post*, dated July 4, 1844. An account by Mr. A. J. Kempe was given in *Gent. Mag.*, Nov. 1843, p. 524.

<sup>4</sup> *Gent. Mag.*, vol. ccxii. p. 399.

<sup>5</sup> Figured *ibid.*, p. 402, with several other relics.

shape, and almost entire, having the maker's name—MODES—stamped on the bottom.<sup>6</sup> Two large colored glass bowls or drinking-cups were also obtained; these show considerable skill in the working of glass. One of the cinerary urns contained not only burnt bones, but also an unguentary, and a single copper coin. Dr. Johnson states that the field called the cemetery was thoroughly investigated, and that the whole side next the Watling Street road was trenched. Most of the articles discovered were in one particular part of the field.

In December, 1861, the workmen were directed to dig in the glebe land, in order to ascertain if any remains of the wall which surrounded the city could be discovered: an embankment with a deep depression marks the boundary of the city on all sides, and is clearly and well defined.

On December 26 they had uncovered in the glebe 34 ft. of a wall 6 ft. wide. It had been built upon a foundation of rough boulder stones laid in clay; this foundation alone remained, from 6 in. to 18 in. deep in the ground.<sup>7</sup> Besides the part exposed, the wall could be traced for above 100 yards. A coin was found under the foundations, but could not be deciphered. The workmen were afterwards employed upon another spot, where the lane leading from Wroxeter enters the Shrewsbury road, and where the embankment is well shown. Here also the wall was discovered in every trench made by the workmen. A coin of Tetricus, and a few fragments of bronze and pottery, were all the relics found in excavating for the walls. It was, however, proved by these excavations that a stone wall, and not merely an earthen embankment and ditch, had surrounded the Roman city. In February, 1862, an ancient trowel made of iron, an object comparatively of rare occurrence, was found. It is preserved in the Museum at Shrewsbury.

In October, 1862, the ground where the old north gate of Urioconium is alleged to have stood was opened, for the purpose of ascertaining whether any remains could be found.

<sup>6</sup> It is figured in *Gent. Mag.*, vol. ccxii. p. 403. On Samian ware the potter's name Modestus occurs repeatedly. See Mr. T. Wright's valuable list of *Potters' Marks*, in *App. to the Celt, the Roman, and the Saxon*, p. 478. Fictile lamps bearing potters' names are comparatively

rare in England. See Mr. Roach Smith's *Illustr. of Roman London*, p. 110.

<sup>7</sup> See some remarks on the construction of the city wall, in a lecture delivered by the author of this memoir, at a meeting of the Shropshire Nat. Hist. and Antiqu. Soc., *Gent. Mag.*, vol. ccxiv. 1863, p. 306.

The foundations of the city wall were traced running towards Norton, but nothing serving to indicate a gateway was discovered, and only some Samian ware and Upchurch pottery. A few days were spent in resuming excavations in the cemetery, in Mr. Jukes' land beyond the field formerly examined, when sufficient evidence was obtained that the ancient burial-ground had extended thus far from the gate. These diggings were undertaken at the suggestion of Mr. Wright.

Among the additional discoveries made, were the vestiges of a square building, similar to what was found before in the other part of the cemetery; there was no floor, nor any remains of a body. About a dozen entire sepulchral urns were found, of various forms and sizes, containing burnt bones, chiefly human. Some of the urns contained unguentaries, in one of which Dr. Johnson also detected traces of oil. One of the cinerary urns has a cover. A beautiful urn of clear glass, about 8 in. high, was disinterred, and another glass vessel of the form of a cinerary urn; also one entire speculum of circular form, and another in fragments.<sup>8</sup> These Roman mirrors are of copper, with a large mixture of tin so as to appear white; they are brittle, and present a brilliant surface. A silver buckle of elegant fashion was also found. Two nearly perfect lamps, which Dr. Johnson supposes to be made of foreign clay; one of them has the head of Hercules figured upon it, the other has a kneeling figure well executed. An article of bronze much resembling a surgeon's lancet, and which had been enclosed in a case of wood, apparently of cedar. This rare implement is fashioned very ingeniously; the point for penetrating the flesh, as supposed, is of steel, not unlike that now in use. It is furnished with a guard, to prevent its cutting too deeply; the handle is of bronze and bow-shaped.

I have omitted to mention a small gem, the only one that the late examination of the site of the city has brought to light. A few other antique intagli are recorded to have been found and drawings of them are preserved, and some are still to be traced in private hands. Mr. Wright has given representations of those that can be authenticated as found at Wroxeter, in the Journal of the Archæological Association,

<sup>8</sup> A portion of a Roman mirror, of rectangular form, comparatively of rare oc-

currence, has been found at Wroxeter in the recent researches.



accompanied by an interesting memoir, thus adding to the obligation which antiquaries owe to him for the efforts he has made to disinter the vestiges of the buried city.<sup>9</sup> The number of gems known to have been found at various times amounts to seven, and these indicate different periods of glyptic art. The intaglio last discovered is of small dimensions, but not ill executed, and the subject, as Mr. Wright observes, "full of fancy and imagination;" it represents a fawn springing out of a nautilus shell.<sup>1</sup> The stone is set in a small iron ring. The intaglio with the ring, as it was found, is now in the Shrewsbury Museum. For a particular account of the gems found at Wroxeter I must refer to Mr. Wright's interesting paper.

I ought not to conclude this account of excavations at Uriconium during the three last years, without mentioning that the fragments of tessellated floors which were laid bare in uncovering the foundations of the Basilica, have with much care been reproduced, and an accurate plan made of them by Mr. Maw of Broseley. From actual measurement of the portions remaining, and by carefully collecting such traces as were distinguishable, he has reconstructed the floor in the eastern half of the north corridor of that building. His plan is accompanied by a description of the pavements, in which he shows his authority for every pattern. The paper was read at the Congress of the Archæological Association at Shrewsbury, August 10th, 1860;<sup>2</sup> and it shows to what practical purposes the pursuits of archæology may be applied, since these mosaic floors exhibit patterns well worthy of the imitation of our artists of the present day. The glass also and examples of earthenware collected in the course of the excavations, and now so well placed in the Museum of Roman Antiquities in Shrewsbury, may furnish suggestions to modern workers in glass and pottery. These remains of the old world may often indeed become valuable lessons for improvements in the arts and manufactures of our own times.

<sup>9</sup> Journal Brit. Arch. Assoc., 1863, p. 106.

<sup>1</sup> This pretty device is not uncommon on antique gems. Several intagli thus engraved were sent to the exhibition of Glyptic Art in the apartments of the Institute, June, 1861. On a remarkable

intaglio in possession of the Rev. C. W. King the animal issuing from the shell is an elephant. These devices, as Mr. King observes, were probably regarded as charms against the evil eye.

<sup>2</sup> See Journal of British Arch. Assoc., June, 1861.