

ON THE "ROMAN MILIARIES" FOUND IN BRITAIN.

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Professor Hübner, in his collection of "*Inscriptiones Britanniae Latinae*," has stated "Tituli Miliarii Britannici plus minus quadraginti," and has arranged these forty mile stones under different heads, according to the districts in which they were found; and he has also classed them according to date, allotting them to the several emperors whose name or titles they bear. This arrangement is very convenient, and he has thus called attention to their importance, and afforded an opportunity of comparing them, and eliciting any information which can be gathered as to the date of construction of the several Roman roads which traversed this island. He has also given an opportunity for rectifying any mis-reading of each stone, and of adding to his collection any stones that may be wanting to make the list perfect.

Something has already been done towards making his list more complete. Mr. T. Watkin, in two papers printed in the *Archaeological Journal*, has noticed eight omissions, which he has supplied, and more correct readings have been obtained of others, as for instance of the first recorded, viz., that found at S. Hilary in Cornwall, the reading of which Professor Hübner has amended in his *Additamenta*, in consequence of a correct impression of the stone having been procured. Attention having been thus called to these monuments, it is not beyond hope that others may be rescued from oblivion, and that any more which may come to light in the future will be at once read and recorded. It is not improbable that by means of such monuments a correct, or at least an approximate date, might be assigned to the formation of the several Roman military roads in Britain.

The earliest Miliaries that have yet been found, or at least recorded, are two of the date of Hadrian; (see

C. I. L., vol. vii Nos. 1169, 1175); two of Caracalla, (Nos. 1164, 1186); and a third of uncertain reading (No. 1191), but probably of the date of Elagabalus. There are also four of the Emperor Gordian (Nos. 1149, 1159, 1183, 1184); four of Philip, father and son (Nos. 1172, 1173, 1178, 1179); four of the Emperor Decius (Nos. 1163, 1171, 1174, 1180); two of Gallus and Volusianus (Nos. 1148, 1182); one or two of Postumus (1161, 1162); one of Victorinus (1160); two of Tetricus (1150, 1151); one of Aurelian (1152), one of Florianus (1156), one of Numerianus (1165), one of Diocletian and Maximian (1190), one of Maximinus Daza (1158); four of Constantine (1157, 1170, 1176, 1177); one of Crispus (1153); three of Constantine Junior (1147, 1154, 1188). Add to these the eight supplied by Mr. Watkin, viz.,—Tetricus, Tacitus; three which are undoubted miliary stones, but which are illegible, found in Shropshire; one at Uriconium, and two found in a pool when drained near Rowton (Rutunium); one lately found near Bakewell, in Derbyshire (see *Archæological Journal*, vol. xxxiii, p. 53); one found at Segshill, fifteen miles from Leicester, on the line of the Foss road (see *Arch. J.*, xxxi, 353), both of which unfortunately have the imperial titles effaced; and another dug up at Middleton, three miles from Kirkby Lonsdale (see *Arch. J.*, xxxi, 354).

We have them extending from the time of Hadrian, A.D. 120, to Constantine Junior, A.D. 336, embracing a period of above two hundred years. There is little doubt, however, that the Roman roads in this island must have been begun before the time of Hadrian, and kept in order to a later period than that of Constantine Junior. We have evidence in Somersetshire of a Roman road traversing the Mendip mineral district, on the line of which pigs of Roman lead are found, bearing the stamp of the Emperor Vespasian, A.D. 70, or still earlier that of Britannicus, A.D. 49. Along the line of this road, which extended from Old Sarum (Sorbiodunum) in Wilts to the Bristol Channel at Brean Down in Somerset, no Miliaries are recorded to have been found; neither have any been found or recorded in the neighbourhood of Bath, and only one in Kent.

It seems impossible to believe that the roads here

named were without the measured distances or imperial titles recorded on stone. It must have been that the stones once standing by the Roman roads have been found so valuable for mere stones or for building, that they have been used for such objects. Miliaries are chiefly found in unfrequented districts in Cornwall, in Wales, in Cumberland, and in Northumberland. The formation of macadamised roads since the commencement of the present century has doubtless caused many to be broken up for material. The fact of a cylindrical column with a few letters upon it, hardly readable, would provoke no great curiosity to enquire further into their meaning, and the stone would at once be consigned to the wayside heap, there to undergo a speedy process of demolition, and so a historical record would perish for ever.

The first Roman roads constructed in Britain were doubtless those three which run from the Kentish coast, at Lymne, Dover, and Richboro', to Canterbury, and from thence to London. But one solitary uninscribed and obliterated "Miliary" at Southfleet¹ denotes the lines of these important roads, the courses of which are ascertained beyond a doubt.

The campaign of Aulus Plautius began A.D. 43, and the capture of Caractacus took place A.D. 50. This war opened out all the south-west portion of Britain to the Roman arms, and to this period we must look for the first formation of Roman roads, but the only spot in this region where Miliaries have as yet been noted is at Bittern, near Southampton. Here four are recorded in Hübner's collection, and two more added by Mr. Thompson Watkin, but all are of a late date.

Gordianus	-	A.D. 238-244
Gallus and Volusianus	-	251-253
Tetricus	-	267-273
L. Domitius Aurelian	-	270-275

and another Tetricus, and the one containing an inscription not yet properly decyphered, but supposed to have the station LANDINIS or LINDINIS recorded on it, probably *Lyme Regis*.

¹ See Hübner's *Insc. Brit. Lat.* p. 20, after No. 1152.

The Itinerary of Antoninus does not go beyond Exeter, but that Roman roads extended into Cornwall is clear from the traces of them, and the stations that remain, and from the "Miliary" found at S. Hilary, which is given in Hübner's work (No. 1147), but which has only been correctly read very recently. (See *Additamenta ad Corporis*, vol. vii, p. 1147, and a paper lately read to the Cornwall Royal Institution of Truro, by Dr. Barham, in which he has pointed out the direction of these roads). The date of this "Miliary" is of the time of Constantine the Great, A.D. 308-437, and is very similar to one found in the high road between Cambridge and Huntingdon, about three miles from Cambridge (see No. 1154).

In Devonshire and Wilts we have the Foss Road and the Icknield Street, and also lesser Roman roads, but no Miliaries are found, nor yet in Dorset, where we have the Acling Street, Portway, the Street, and Romansleigh Ridge. Nor are any recorded to have been found in Sussex.

The "London Stone" in Cannon Street, in the city, has been supposed to be a Roman "Miliary," and the centre from which the Roman roads were measured, as was intended to be the case with the famous "Miliarium Aureum" at Rome,¹ but this is very doubtful, and there is no further proof of it, than that many of the Itineraries terminate in London.² It is doubtful if this stone was ever inscribed.

Throughout the eastern portion of Britain Roman Miliaries are equally rare. In Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire four have been found (1153, 1154, 1155, 1156), and one in Worcestershire (No. 1157). All these, except the last, belong to the Roman road between Lincoln and London.

One is preserved in Trinity College, Cambridge, but the exact point at which it was found is not known. It is inscribed to the Emperor Crispus, and is of the date A.D. 317-326; and the lettering rude. We gather from

¹ See Parker's *Forum Romanum*. "It was the intention of Augustus, when he erected this milestone (B.C. 28), to have had all the milestones on the carriage roads measured from this point, but the design was never carried out."

² The Itinera which begin or terminate at Londinium are seven in number, viz., iii, iv, v, vi, vii, viii, ix. This is sufficient to show the importance of the city in Roman times, although it does not seem to have been the capital city of Britain.

it no name of a place or distance, but simply imperial titles. And this is the case with that found three miles from Cambridge, on the road to Huntingdon, which seems to be of the same date as that found at St. Hilary in Cornwall, some time between A.D. 308-337.

Another was found at Casterton, near Stamford. It is inscribed to M. ANNIO . FLORIANO . A.D. 276.

Worcestershire has yielded one, found at Kempsey, inscribed—

VAL. CONSTANTINO
P. FE. INVICTO. AVG.

And Herefordshire one, found at Kenchester, on the line of Roman road from Caer Leon to Chester, inscribed to the Emperor Numerianus (A.D. 282), and apparently ending with uncertain letters, which may probably be read "Bono rei-publicæ nato."

A "Miliary" with this inscription, found at Uriconium (Wroxeter), is preserved in the museum at Shrewsbury, and the fragment of another, which I made a sketch of in 1854, used to lie in the rectory garden. The letters remaining were apparently

CORN
NLLIAN

very badly formed, and evidently of a late period of the empire.

Two other fragments, one given by Professor Hubner (No. 1167), and another bearing the letters T. G., which used to be at Donnington, about two miles east from Wroxeter on the Roman road, called the Watling Street, leading to London, are probably also relics of "Miliaries."

Uriconium was the centre of five lines of Roman road, viz. :—The Watling Street coming from London; the Roman road coming from Gloster and Worcester up the Severn Valley; the Roman road from Caerleon through Kenchester, which passed on through Uriconium to Deva (Chester); and the Roman road which continued on into Wales to Caer Leon and beyond. Here, therefore, we might naturally expect to find some remains of Miliaries.

Buxton, celebrated like Bath for its mineral waters, and the Roman "Aquæ" of Ravennas, has not been so prolific in Roman remains as its rival "Aquæ Solis," but

a Miliary of some importance was discovered in 1862 at Higher Buxton. This has been read by Mr. Thompson Watkin from a cast made of the stone, unhappily now lost, or not to be traced at present.¹ Drawings of the stone are given in the *Archæological Journal*, vol. xxxiii, p. 49. The inscription is important, as fixing the site of another station mentioned by Ravennas, *Navio*. This was probably at Brough near Buxton.

Few of the Miliaries like this have the name of a station, or the distance marked; the lettering is either erased, or the portion of the stone wanting. Where the lettering is perfect the value of the stone in enabling the student to trace the lines of the itinerary, and identify the stations, is very great. The most perfect "Miliary" is that found near Leicester, and it is the earliest inscribed stone yet found. The inscription is as follows:—

IMP. CAES.
DIV. TRAIANI PARTH. F. DIV. NER. NEP.
TRAIAN. HADRIAN. AVG. P.P. TRIB.
POT. IV. COS. III. A. RATIS
II

The date is fixed by the imperial titles to A.D. 120-21, and the name of the nearest principal station, Ratae or Leicester, is given. Another stone has been dug up also at Segshill, fifteen miles from Leicester (1855) on the line of the Foss Road, which is now in the Leicester Museum, but the only letters that can be traced are IMP (see *Archæological Journal*, vol. xxxi, p. 353).

We might naturally expect to find Roman Miliaries more plentiful in Wales than in the south, west, east, or midland parts of Britain, because the Roman roads in that country pass over mountainous tracks, where stone is abundant, and the lines of Roman road have been in many places left untouched. Those, however, recorded by Prof. Hübner number only seven, and another given in the *Archæological Journal*, vol. xxxi, p. 353, may be added to these, making eight in all. They are all of the third century, except one, which is of the fourth.

The earliest is that found near Ty Coch, parish of Bangor, and of the date of M. Aur. Antoninus, or between

¹ This stone is stated to have been in the possession of a bookseller in Buxton eight years ago.

A.D. 211-217. The latest of the date of the Emperor Maximin, A.D. 308-313. These stones, therefore, embrace a period of nearly 100 years.

They are, however, valuable testimonies to the courses of the Roman roads in Wales, which have been very inadequately described, except by Sir R. C. Hoare, in his introduction to *Geraldus Cambrensis*. Horsley and Burton, in their maps of the Roman roads in Britain, only give the roads indicated in the Itinera of Antonine, and the latest published maps, as that of Roman Britain in the *Monumenta Historica*, and that in Professor Hubner's *I. B. L.*, only indicate some of the roads.

Five of the Itinera of Antonine relate to the Roman roads of Wales,¹ but these do not extend into the middle portion of the country, being confined to the eastern and the maritime parts, but Sir R. C. Hoare enumerated seven distinct lines of road, all of which are verified by Roman remains or by stations along their course.

Having just touched upon the Miliaries of Wales, I must pass on to those of the west and north of England. Following the lines of Roman road which passed from Chester through Lancashire into Westmoreland and Cumberland, we have only ten Miliaries recorded, nine by Professor Hubner, and one added since by Mr. T. Watkin. The earliest is of the date of Hadrian (A.D. 119-138), and was found in the bed of the Arkle beck,

¹ The Itinera relating to the Roman roads in Wales are the xi, part of ii, part of xii, part of xiii, and a small portion of No. xiv.

The Miliaries found in Wales are—

1 at Port Talbot, near Neath, Gordian, A.D. 308-313.

1 at Aberavon, A.D. 238-244.

1 at Pyle, near Neath, Victorinus, A.D. 267

2 at Trecastle, Postumus, unreadable, probably date, A.D. 258-268.

1 at Llandiniolen, Decius, A.D. 249-251.

1 at Dynevor, Caermarthenshire, Tacitus, A.D. 275-6.

1 at Ty Coch, Parish of Bangor, Carnarvonshire, Antoninus, A.D. 211-217.

Another stone, (although its purpose is not yet clearly ascertained), was found at Caermarthen, and has the letters BONO . R P . NATO. It is an altar shaped stone, and may have been a "Miliary." See *Archæological Journal*, vol. xxxi, p. 344,

and Hübner's *Additamenta*, No. 116, p. 139.

The Roman road over the Trecastle Mountain is not included in the Itinera of Antoninus. It is called by Sir R. C. Hoare, the Via Julia Montana, or Superior.

Antiquaries are much indebted to Mr. W. Rees, of Tonn Llandovery, for elucidating the Roman remains of this neighbourhood, and for giving a plan of the Roman camp, and the direction of the Roman roads on Trecastle Mountain. See *Archæologia Cambrensis*, new series, 1854, which says, "Near Trecastle two Roman roads branched off, one direct to Llandovery, and the other through Talsarn, in Llanddensant, towards Llangadoc, and the Garn Coch."

We have also the same conjunction of Roman roads at Luentinum or Loventium, Llandovery, where four Roman roads appear to meet. See *Archæologia Cambrensis*, April, 1873.

near Caton, Lancaster. There is some doubt of the reading of the last line (see Hubner, No. 1175). Of the remainder, five belong to the date of the Emperor Philip, A.D. 244-248; two to Decius, A.D. 249-251; two to Constantine the Great, A.D. 306-337; and the one dug up in 1836 at Middleton, three or four miles from Kirkby Lonsdale, on the Roman road from Overborough to Borrow Bridge, on which the letters MP and numeral LIII only can be read. (See *Archæological Journal*, vol. xxxi, p. 354.)

Taking the line of the military way which led from York to the Vallum of Hadrian, we have two Miliaries found at or near Aldborough, the ancient *Isurium*. The one is a mere fragment found at Alborough, but the one found at Duel Cross, three miles from it, has been clearly read—(see Hubner, No. 1180). It was erected in the time of Decius, and is of the usual kind, the date A.D. 249-251. Going further north another has been found at Greta Bridge, inscribed to Gallus and Volusianus, A.D. 251-253; and another at Spital on Stanmore, but the lettering has almost perished. These two are on the line of road which crosses the island obliquely between Cataric Bridge (Cataractonium) and Carlisle (Luguvallium), and seem to point out that this road was made somewhat later (two years) than the direct northern road from York. Thus at Lanchester and at Ford, on the direct north road, we have two more Miliaries of the date of the Emperor Gordian, A.D. 238-244, some years earlier than those on the cross road.

The military way which accompanied the Vallum of Hadrian has yielded at least six found along its course. The most important one is that which is inscribed to the Emperor Caracalla, and which is of the date A.D. 213. It is conjecturally restored by Hubner (No. 1186), but the ending seems a doubtful reading, as on the Miliaries found in Britain the name of the Legate never appears joined with that of the Emperor.

A Miliary found near Old Walker, and containing only a few letters, cannot be assigned to any emperor, and it is doubtful if it was found *per lineam valli*, but probably in the neighbourhood. The last stone mentioned in Hubner's collection (1191) appears to be of very doubtful

reading, and has most certainly been tampered with and corrupted, if not a forgery.

It is much to be regretted that the Imperial Titles alone are to be gathered from most of these records, by which we can only fix the date of their erection; the names of places, and the distances which ought to appear on the lower portion of the column, are for the most part wanting.

The Miliary found near Leicester, and that lately found near Buxton, can alone be said to have preserved this important part of the lettering; all may have had originally the distance from some important station, as well as the date of their erection. But from the date of the erection we may probably infer the completion of the roads in Britain. None have been found as yet earlier than the time of Hadrian (A.D. 120), but from that time they occur consecutively to the date of Constantine the younger, so that road making went forward without intermission for more than 200 years. May we not hope that by calling attention to these memorials fresh information may be gleaned about the Roman roads in Britain.

List of Miliaries.

FOUND IN BRITAIN, EASTERN PORTION:

Cornwall, Kent, Hants, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire, Huntingdonshire,
Worcestershire.

- 1 St. Hilary, Cornwall.
- 6 or 7 Bittern, near Southampton, Hants.
- 1 Southfleet, Kent.
- 1 Preserved in the Trin. Coll., Cambridge, formerly at Conington, not known where found.
- 2 One found between Cambridge and Huntingdon, the other, exact spot not known, but preserved at Cambridge.
- 1 Casterton, near Stamford.
- 1 Kempsey, Worcestershire.

13 or 14

FOUND IN WALES :

Glamorganshire, Carmarthenshire, Carnarvonshire.

- 2 Port Talbot, near Neath, Glamorganshire.
- 1 Pyle, " "
- 2 Trecastle Hill, near Brecon, Caermarthenshire
- 1 Dynevor, Caermarthenshire.
- 1 Llandiolin, Caernarvonshire.
- 1 Bangor, Ty Coch " "

8

MIDLAND :

Hereford, Salop, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire.

- 1 Kenchester, Herefordshire.
- 3 or 4 fragments, Wroxeter, Salop.
- 2 Near Hawkstone, " "
- 2 Buxton, Derbyshire.
- 1 Thurmaston, near Leicester, Leicestershire.
- 1 Segs Hill " "
- 1 Ancaster, Lincolnshire.

11 or 12

WEST :

Lancashire, Cumberland.

- 1 Ribbleschester, Lancashire.
- 1 Ribchester, Township of Ashton, Lancashire
- 1 South from Lancaster, Lancashire.
- 1 Castle Hill " "
- 1 Arkle Beck, near Caton " "
- 1 At confluence of Loder and Eimote, Lancashire.
- 2 At Old Carlisle.
- 1 Hangingshaw, near Old Carlisle.

9

GREAT NORTH ROAD :

Yorkshire, Durham.

- 1 Duel Cross, three miles from Aldborough, Yorkshire.
- 1 Aldborough, Yorkshire.
- 1 Greta Bridge, Yorkshire
- 1 Spital on Stanemore, Yorkshire
- 1 Lanchester, Durham.
- 1 Ford, near Bishop Wearmouth, Durham.

6

LINE OF ROMAN WALL:

Northumberland and Cumberland.

- 1 Old Walker, Northumberland.
1 Welton, near Harlow Hill, Northumberland.
1 Little Chesters, Northumberland.
1 Thirlwall. ”
1 Lanercost. ”
1 Old Wall, near Carlisle, Northumberland.
1 Boulness, doubtful, but probably authentic.

7

Total, 54 or 56 (2 being doubtful.)