

ART. XIX.—*Inscriptions preserved at Birdoswald.* BY F. HAVERFIELD M.A., F.S.A.

DURING the excavations of the last two years, I have carefully examined the Roman inscriptions now at Birdoswald, either in Mr. Norman's collection, or built up into the walls of the farm buildings. It has occurred to me that a brief list of them might be convenient. The readings below are my own, and, in some cases, new. I have added references to the principal epigraphic collections, the 'Corpus,' the 'Lapidarium,' and the 'Ephemeris Epigraphica.'

1. A large and well-preserved altar, 50 inches high by 21 inches broad, found in 1886, to the east of the fort on the cliff above Underheugh : now in the 'Altar-house.' Inscribed—

I(ovi) O(ptimo) M(aximo) coh(ors) i Ael(ia) Dacor(um) c(uius) c(uram) a(git) Iul(ius) Marcellinus c(enturio) leg(ionis) ii Aug(ustae).

'Dedicated to Juppiter Optimus Maximus by the First Aelian cohort of Dacians, under command of Julius Marcellinus, centurion of the Second Legion.'

The sign for *centurio* before *leg(ionis)* is not certain, but probable. See these *Transactions*, ix, 294; *Ephemeris Epigraphica*, vii. 1071.

2. Top of an altar 17 inches wide, formerly lying at Underheugh farm : now in the Altarhouse. Inscribed—

I. O. M. coh. i Aelia Dac(orum) c(ui) p(raeest)....

See *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*, vii. 817; *Lapidarium*, 364.

3. Badly preserved altar, 36 inches high by 13 inches wide, formerly built up into the farm-buildings at Birdoswald : now in the Altarhouse. Inscribed rudely—

I. O. M. coh. i Ael. Dac. Tetricianorum c. p.P....

The

The lettering is badly preserved. The name of the tribune of the cohort is now wholly illegible. 'Pomponius Designatus,' suggested by some archæologists, is not very probable. The first line seems to have been cut twice, and to have had first DEO and then IOM. See *Corpus*, 823; *Lapidarium*, 353.

4. Badly preserved altar, 19 inches high by 11 inches wide, now in the Altarhouse. Inscribed rudely, with the Svastika or Gammadion at the head—

I. O. M. coh Ael[ia] Dac[or]um Aug...PAVR.

The lettering is hardly legible beyond IOM, but what I have given seems probable and makes sense. See *Corpus* 825; *Lapidarium*, 366.

5. Altar, 31 inches high by 14 inches wide, formerly built up in the farmhouse but taken out in 1849; now in the Altarhouse. The letters are rather coarsely cut but certain—

Deae Fortunae.

See *Corpus*, 805; *Lapidarium*, 371.

6. Small and rude altar, 9 inches high by 4 inches wide; now in the Altarhouse. The inscription is rude and barely legible—

D(e)ae Rati Votum in perpetuo.

The goddess's name is not at all clear and is otherwise unknown. The letter E in this inscription is formed by two strokes, | |. See *Corpus*, 828; *Lapidarium*, 378.

7. Small and rude altar, resembling No. 6. On the back is a sacrificial jug and bowl, carved rudely; the sides are plain. The lettering is indistinct and uncertain; it seems to be D · III | LAT.

The stone is now in the Altarhouse. See *Corpus*, 1348 (p. 310); *Lapidarium*, 379.

8. Fragment, probably of a dedication, found at Birdoswald in 1860; now in the Altarhouse. Some letters forming the third and fourth lines have been lost by the flaking of the stone since its discovery. The first line
seems

seems to be part of *sub cura*, the second commences with the symbol (twice repeated) for a centurion or century.



See *Corpus*, 833; *Lapidarium*, 386.

9. Fragment, 7 inches wide, of the top of (probably) a slab in honour of an emperor. Inscribed *Im]p Ca[es.* Now in the Altarhouse.



Apparently unpublished.

10. Stone, 11 inches high by 22 inches wide, commemorative of the work of the Sixth legion as builders of a part of the Wall. It is in two parts, of which the larger was found about 1850 in the milecastle west of Birdoswald fort, and the smaller in the garden wall of Birdoswald farm (Bruce): both are now in the Altarhouse. It is inscribed—

Leg(io) vi vic(trix) [pia] fidelis f(ecit).

See *Corpus*, 842; *Ephemeris*, vii. 1073; *Lapidarium*, 394.

11. Centurial stone, that is a building stone inscribed with the name of the officer commanding a century employed to build at any particular point, 10 inches high by 15 inches long: now in the Altarhouse. Inscribed—

C(enturia) Concaoni Candid(i) p(edes) xxx.

See *Corpus*, 857; *Lapidarium*, 403.

12. Fragment of a dedication, built into the north side of the outer (northern) yard of Birdoswald farm. The lettering is imperfect on all four sides. It is—

AELI

AELI

P • OC

ONOR

TRI

which may be completed :—*I.O.M. ? cohors i] Aeli[a Dac. c(ui)] p(raeest) Oc[tavius H]onor[at]us] trib[unus].*

Apparently unpublished.

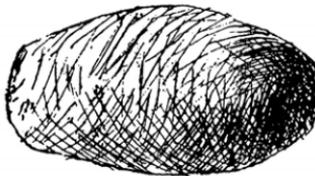
13. Imperfectly preserved stone, $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches long by $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, built in near the back door of the farmhouse. Probably part of a centurial stone.

) DEC... *c(enturia) Dec. .*

Apparently unpublished.

14. Small building stone, 5 inches high by 11 inches wide, built into the north end of a shed in the north-east part of the farm-buildings near the carriage entrance. Incised DADA, possibly the name of the soldier who put it up in some original Roman wall.

Corpus, 858 ; *Lapidarium*, 404 (where it is misdescribed as 'lost').



LEADEN BULLET (ORIGINAL SIZE) FOUND IN
TRENCHING TO THE EAST OF BIRDOSWALD.