

ART. IX.—*Roman objects from Stanwix.* By R. G. COLLINGWOOD.

Read at Carlisle, April 23rd, 1930.

EARLY in 1930, workmen making a deep trench for a sewer through King's Meadow, Stanwix, came upon a stratum of black soil containing Roman objects. The site is a level meadow between the river Eden and the steep hill on which lies the Roman fort of Stanwix; this meadow has no doubt been swept over by the river time after time, and the deposit, which was found 15-16 feet below its surface, contained no structural remains but was in the nature of silt. It was several yards long from NE. to SW., and thinned out at either end; its width from NW. to SE. was not explored. The importance of the discovery was promptly recognised by the workmen, the contractor, and the City authorities; the finds were carefully collected, handed over to Tullie House, and sent to the writer for examination and description.

The appended catalogue deals only with the metal objects, together with a glass bead and two teeth, which form the most interesting part of the collection. There are also a number of potsherds, all of standard second-century types, and of tiles, both *tegulae* and *imbrices*, as well as a boot-sole of the ordinary military pattern. The Samian ware includes the base of a large coarse cup, form 27, with the stamp SEDATI.M of a second-century Lezoux potter. The coarse pottery includes a fragment of a large grey jar with the graffito CII (*ce*).

The deposit appears to consist of material deposited by water and derived from a house or group of houses,

suburban buildings of Stanwix fort. These buildings appear to have stood in the King's Meadow, and to have been ultimately destroyed by the river washing over them in time of exceptional flood. That they originally dated from the reign of Hadrian and the time of the building of the Wall is highly probable, although the evidence of the finds is consistent with a date as much as a generation later; but certainly they had no long life. The coins end with Hadrian; the brooches include nothing that need date from after A.D. 150. Although accurate dating is impossible, the finds convey the impression that the site is coeval with the Wall, and that its history came to an end in destruction by an exceptionally violent flood about the middle of the century.

As to the nature of the occupation, it is typical of the suburban *vicus* of a fort. Many of the objects belong to military equipment; others are feminine in character; and a considerable number—over a dozen—are either flawed castings, unfinished castings, scraps of waste metal, or other evidences of a metal-worker's shop. We have long known that there were Romano-British bronze-working industries at Brough-under-Stainmore and Kirkby Thore; we can now add a third in the Eden valley, at Stanwix.

One other point emerges. Of the three inscribed objects, all identity-plates belonging to soldiers, two explicitly state that their owners were cavalymen, and the third is in this respect imperfect. This suggests that the fort in whose *vicus* these objects were found was garrisoned by an *ala* of auxiliary cavalry. In this connexion it may be remembered that a cavalryman's tombstone (now at Netherhall; CIL. vii, 919; L.S., 481) was found long ago at Stanwix.

CATALOGUE.

This catalogue omits the pottery, tiles, and leather, as not deserving detailed description. The objects reached me, and

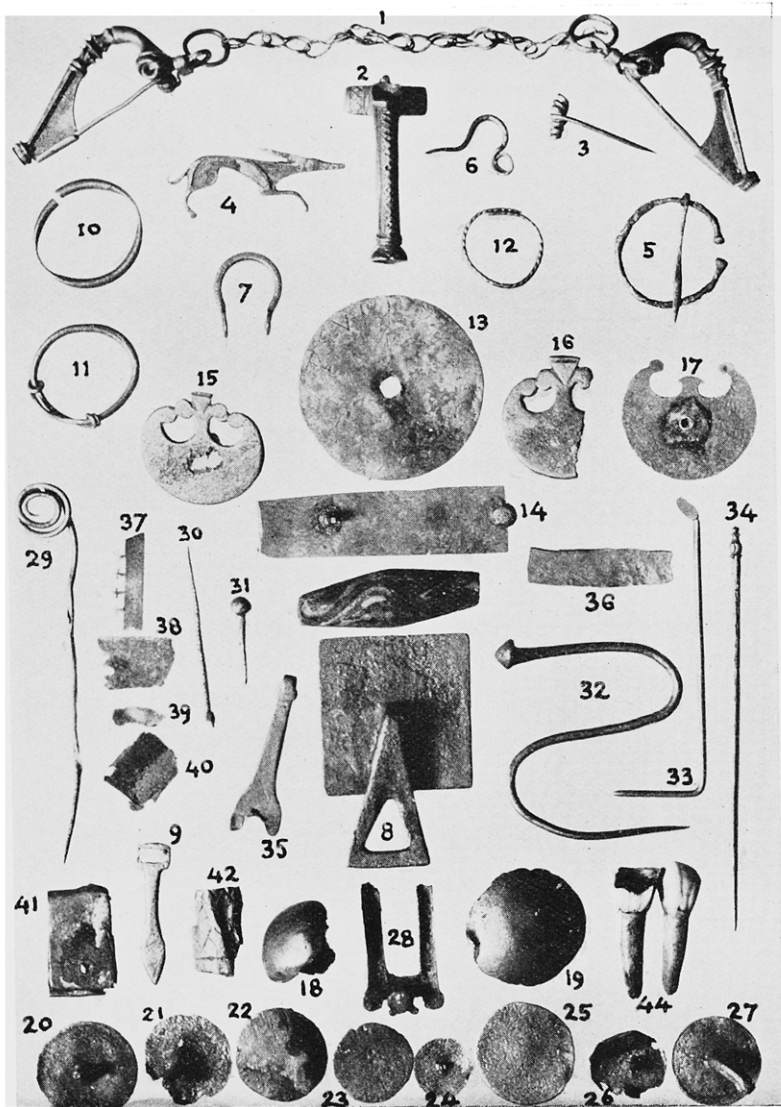


FIG. 1.—OBJECTS FROM STANWIX, 1—44.

TO FACE P. 71.

were accordingly photographed and listed, in two parcels separated by a considerable interval of time: the first contained nos. 1-44, the second nos. 45-79. Hence the arrangement of the catalogue is not quite logical; nos. 55-57 ought to be grouped with nos. 20-27, and so forth.

1. Chained pair of brooches of the so-called "trumpet" or "harp" pattern, group R(ii), practically identical with type 52, a brooch found at Newstead. The group and type are as given in the writer's *Archæology of Roman Britain*. Spring pin, wire head-loop, collar made of a strip of metal bent round the neck of the head-loop. The brooches are cast in the same mould; each is 1.9 in. long and is connected by a ring 0.5 in. diameter with a chain 3.9 in. long.

The group to which this type belongs can be traced back to the late first century; but at that time it lacked the acanthus patterns round the waist of the bow. This early variety, sub-group R(i), appears in northern Britain and Wales at Flavian sites. Not long after the beginning of the second century, the acanthus patterns were added to the waist-moulding, and thus was produced sub-group R(ii), of which the present brooches are examples. To this sub-group belong the famous Backworth brooches, the ornate Risingham brooch in the Black Gate, the enamelled Newstead brooches, and a large number of other well-known specimens. A considerable number have been found in Germany, and are thought, probably rightly, to have been taken there by the Britons deported by Antoninus Pius after the conquest of the Lowlands *c.* A.D. 143. Most of these German examples are richly enamelled: the plain variety, as we find it here, is probably in the main slightly later than the enamelled, and may be due to "mass-production" by the northern British workshops when a large demand sprang up for brooches of this kind. The evidence for this last suggestion is that the plain variety exists in very large numbers, and is fairly often found in the south of England, whither it has probably gone in the way of trade.*

* The above summarises the view stated at greater length in the author's *Archæology of Roman Britain*, pp. 251-254, and in a forthcoming article in *Archæologia* on "Romano-Celtic Art in Northumbria." Short of consulting the references given in these places, the reader may refer to Mr. Brewis's article in *Arch. Aeliana*, ser. 3, xxi; Haverfield's observations in these *Trans.*, n.s., xix, p. 4; and Mr. James Curle's *Roman Frontier Post*, nos. 8-16 (plates 85, 86) and pp. 322-323. The well-known Brough find is published in these *Trans.*, n.s., iii, p. 70.

Sub-group R(ii) dates from Trajan or early Hadrian to some time in the second half of the second century, and is characteristic of northern Britain. Imitations were made in the south, but these need not be considered here. The sub-group does not appear to last into the third century. This particular type probably belongs to about the middle of the century, or a little later.

The specimens found at Stanwix are good average examples of the type, but are peculiarly interesting in view of their condition. They are in perfect order, the metal bright, the pins and springs working unimpaired, and the chain complete, although one link has been broken and mended. It is well known that such brooches were worn in chained pairs, but although a pair was found at Backworth and another at Chorley this is, so far as I know, the only pair found actually on its chain.

2. Brooch (1.86 in. long) of the "head-stud" pattern (group Q), with lozenges of blue enamel on the arms and the fore-edge of the bow. The head-stud and foot-stud have gone, leaving cavities. The pin, which was hinged, is gone; so is the head-loop, which was of wire. The combination of a wire head-loop (an early feature) with a hinged pin (a late feature) suggests that this brooch, like one from Brough-under-Stainmore published in this volume, should be dated definitely later than the early example of Q from Lamberton Moor, which is thought to belong to the beginning of the second century (Curle, *Rom. Frontier Post*, p. 320, fig. 46b) but earlier than the Antonine specimens from Newstead (*ibid.*, plate 86, nos. 19-23), where the collar of the head-loop is cast solid with the brooch. I should be disposed to date this example to about A.D. 150, perhaps earlier rather than later. This pattern can be traced back into the first century. The prototype is a pre-Roman Brigantian brooch found at Honley near Huddersfield with a hoard deposited about A.D. 75, but the Honley brooch lacks the head-stud and is not enamelled; these features may have been added about the beginning of the second century.*

3. Spring pin, 1.17 in. long, from a brooch not unlike the previous ones in general form but somewhat smaller.

4. Plate-brooch, 1.8 in. long, in the form of a running dog

* Honley hoard: Richmond, *Huddersfield in Roman Times*. Lamberton Moor: *Proc. Soc. Ant.*, xxii, 57. For the type in general see the author's *Archæology of Roman Britain*, 250-251, and "Romano-Celtic Art in Northumbria" in *Archæologia*, forthcoming.

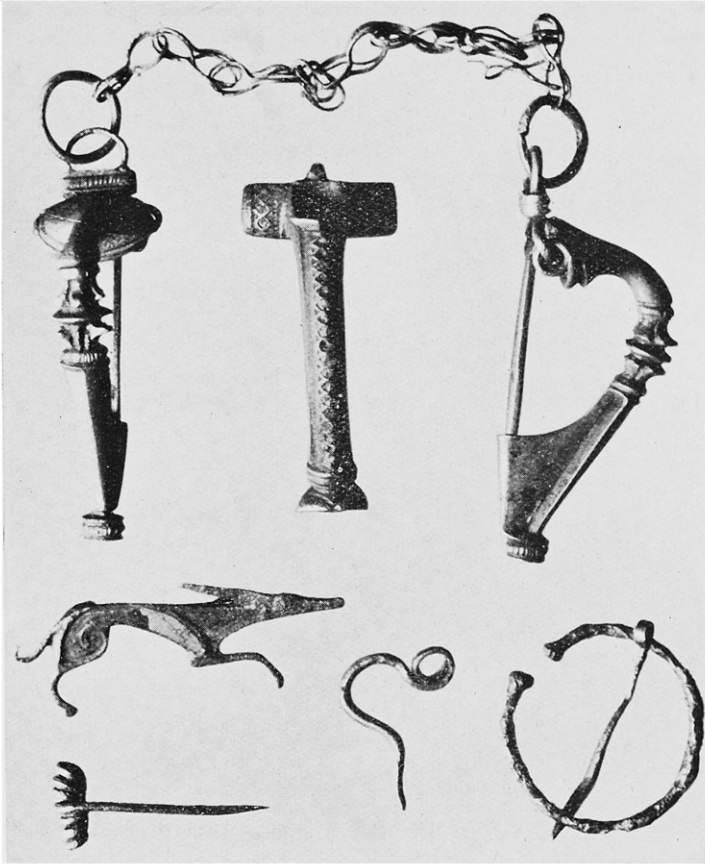


FIG. 3.—BROOCHES FROM STANWIX,
Actual Size.

TO FACE P. 72.

resembling a whippet; the body of the dog inlaid with blue enamel. Apart from the loss of some enamel the brooch is complete and the pin still works perfectly.

Plate-brooches in the shape of animals are common; the most usual are the dog and the fish. They were made both in Britain and on the continent; this example is probably of British manufacture, though very similar specimens are found abroad, e.g. *O.R.L. Faimingen* Tafel viii., no. 15.

5. Penannular brooch, 1.1 in. diam., a good deal corroded, but the terminals appear to have been writhen knobs. The pin is somewhat spatulate towards the point. This type of brooch was common throughout the Roman period.

6. Pin of a penannular brooch, strongly bowed up in the middle, as often happens.

7. Part of a buckle. It consisted of three parts: a bowed member with a hole in each end, a straight rod passing through the holes, and a tongue working on the rod. This is the first only. Such objects are fairly common: cf. *O.R.L. Zugmantel*, Tafel xii, no. 50, for the complete buckle.

8. Dress-fastener consisting of a plate 1.6 in. square, having a shank attached in the middle of the back, bent to one side, and pierced with a triangular opening. The shank was sewn to one edge of the garment, and the plate could be passed through a button-hole made in the opposite edge. The type is common; cf. the author's *Archæology of Rom. Brit.*, fig. 67, g, h. This example is interesting because it is an unfinished casting, never touched with any kind of tool. The square plate was no doubt intended to be polished, engraved, and enamelled, but this process has not even been begun.

9. Strap-end, consisting of a tongue-like object 1.5 in. long, with a rectangular loop, 0.28 by 0.13 in., at one end. It has been cast in an open mould and never tooled in any way. For similar strap-ends cf. *O.R.L. Zugmantel*, Tafel X, nos. 76, 78.

10. Broken chain-link, much worn at both ends; 1.15 in. long externally, 1.05 in. broad.

11. Ring, average external diam. 1.1 in., made of a piece of wire 0.1 in. thick in the middle and tapering to the ends, which are wrapped round the standing part. Rings of this kind could not be worn on the finger, nor would they stand any strain; but they were used for holding toilet instruments such as tweezers, ear-picks, nail-cleaners, etc.; cf. *O.R.L. Zugmantel*, Tafel xi, no. 45.

12. Ring, average external diam. 0.8 in., made of a piece of twisted wire of triangular section, the ends not secured. Used no doubt as a finger-ring.

13. Thin disk, 1.9 in. diameter, with a hole 0.2 in. diam. in the centre. This hole has served to rivet the disk to something, perhaps a cuirass. Round its edge runs a punctured inscription

T SVPIIRI GIICI

i.e. t(urma) Superi, Geci "the property of Gecus, of the squadron of Super." Gecus was evidently a trooper in an *ala* of auxiliary cavalry.

Bronze disks inscribed with the owner's name and pierced with holes for attachment to a cuirass were found at Newstead (Curle, *Rom. Frontier Post*, pp. 174-177 and plate 31) but they were larger than this and had a number of holes round the edge instead of one in the centre. Moreover, most of them appear to have been inscribed on the back, so that the inscription was concealed from view, whereas in our example the inscription was on the exposed face, as is clear both from the finished state of the inscribed face as compared with the unfinished state of the other, and from certain signs of strain on the rivet-hole. In spite of these differences, the purpose of the Stanwix disk can hardly be different from that of the Newstead specimens, of which Mr. Curle writes "all the evidence available seems to indicate that [they] were worn on the breast, like the phalerae of the monuments" (*op. cit.*, p. 176). It may be worth while here to refer to a similar disk found in 1923 at Chester, inscribed LEG XX, 3 IVLI CANDIDI "Twentieth Legion, century of Julius Candidus," and almost exactly the same size as the Stanwix disk.

14. Plate of thin metal, 2.55 by 0.7 in., with two shanks brazed on to the back (shown in the plate) for attachment to something, perhaps a cuirass or shield. One shank retains a washer held in place by its bushed-out head; in the other this has been forced off. On the front is the inscription, punctured,

T.G.SABINI.PRISCI

i.e. t(urma) G(aii) Sabini, Prisci "the property of Priscus, of the squadron of Gaius Sabinus."

Such identity-plates are not very common, but two have lately turned up in England: one, with a single shank at the back, at Wall near Lichfield, inscribed 3 VITALIS, PRIMF . . . (*Journal of Rom. Studies* xv, p. 248, no. 6), and one, with two holes for sewing on, at Tullie House, among objects from Kirkby Thore, inscribed 3 PRISCI, ITOSI (*ibid.*, vol. xvii, p. 216, no.

22). In these cases the owner was an infantryman, identified by his name and century: at Stanwix he was a cavalryman, and gave his *turma* for purposes of identification.

15. Pelta-shaped ornament, 1.3 in. long. A flawed and unfinished casting; the hole in the middle is due to bad casting, and the shank (for attachment to some leather object) in the middle of the back has never been used. The piece is in fact

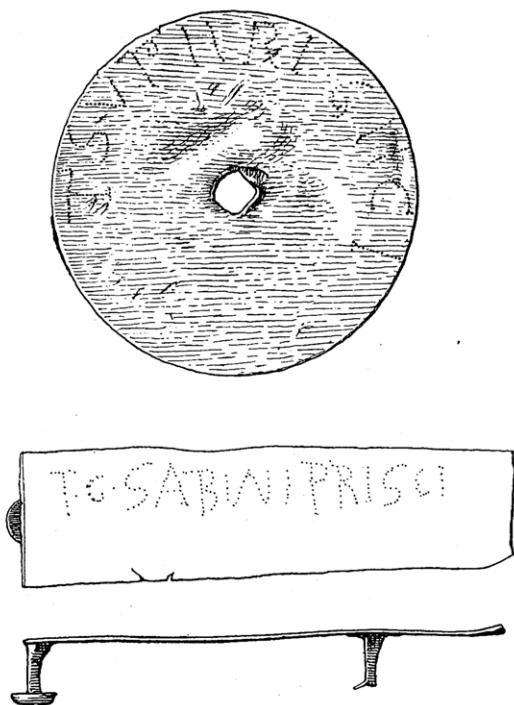


FIG. 4.—INSCRIBED BRONZE DISC AND PLATE FROM STANWIX.

a "waster" from a bronze-worker's foundry. Similar ornaments are found *e.g.* on the German *limes* at the Saalburg and Zugmantel. This and the two following may be harness-ornaments.

16. Another like the foregoing, and, like it, a badly-cast "waster."

17. Another, but finished, and has had a shank soldered into the middle of its back. The photograph shows the back.

18. Ornamental boss, 0.94 in. diam., with shank at the back. A similar object is figured in *O.R.L. Stockstadt*, plate vii, no. 58

and others were found there (*ibid.*, p. 51), as at Weissenburg (*O.R.L. Weissenburg*, plate vii, nos. 1-9) and elsewhere. The complete looped shank of no. 58, below, shows that these bosses were used as buttons.

19. Another, 1.2 in. diam., with shank (now lost) soldered into the back.

20-27. Eight disks, varying in diameter from 0.65 to 1.05 in., with shanks either cast on solid or attached in the middle of the back. These are ornaments for the harness of horses; examples were found among the set of bridle-fittings discovered at Zugmantel (*O.R.L. Zugmantel*, Tafel xii, 83).

28. Part of a guard-plate for a key-hole. The photograph shows the back, with a shank for attachment in the centre of the complete end: the other end, broken off and lost, would be somewhat similar. A complete example is figured in Curle, *Rom. Frontier Post*, plate 78, no. 14, where (p. 306) this explanation is adopted with some reserve; another, without explanation, in the Corbridge report for 1910 (fig. 31). In certain cases (*e.g.* *O.R.L. Küsching*, plate iv, no. 11) the object is merely called an ornamental plate. The rectangular hole is to permit the use of a sliding (not turning) key.

29. Pin, 3.9 in. long, with coiled head. The wire of which it is made has a flaw running along the greater part of its length and is a faulty casting.

30. Ribbed pin, 1.85 in. long. The head has been made of a separate piece of yellower bronze, but has mostly disappeared through corrosion.

31. Part, 0.9 in. long, of a pin with a knob head. The casting has been unsuccessful, and the metal has not penetrated to the point-end of the mould.

32. Pin, about 4.8 in. long, with a knob head, bent into an S as if to be put back into the crucible for re-melting. There are no flaws in it serious enough to necessitate this treatment.

33. Ear-pick, consisting of a disk 0.3 in. diam., set at an angle of 45° at the end of a rod 4 in. long, which is bent at right angles 1 in. from its other end.

34. Pin, 4.1 in. long, with moulded head. Untouched casting.

35. Strip of metal 2 in. long, expanding at the larger end into a Y-shape, and having the smaller end folded over into a hook. It is incomplete at the larger end; a complete specimen is figured in *O.R.L. Pfünz*, plate xiii, no. 3, and explained (*ibid.*, p. 21) as probably part of a belt-clasp.



FIG. 2.—OBJECTS FROM STANWIX, Nos. 45—79.

TO FACE P. 77.

36-42. Scraps of waste bronze. 36 is a hammered piece of sheet metal. 37 is a scrap of an ornamental plate pierced with very fine filigree work and used as a belt-ornament: cf. *O.R.L. Osterburken*, plate vi, no. 33; *O.R.L. Stockstadt*, p. 50, fig. 5, no. 5. 41 is a piece of strip metal that has been used as an edging to something perhaps of leather. 42 has a lattice-pattern on the outside and is coated with lead on the inside, as if it had been part of the ornamental covering of a handle or the like.

43. Biconical glass bead, 1.85 in. long and 0.6 in. greatest diameter. The glass is yellow, red, brown and white in streaks.

44. Two incisor teeth.

45. Penannular brooch, 1.1 in. diam., with writhen knob terminals, like no. 5 but wanting the pin.

46. Bow of a buckle, like no. 7.

47. Plate, 2.3 by 1.0 in., with rivet-hole in each corner and pierced ornament in centre, for attachment to a belt. For similar objects cf. *O.R.L. Osterburken*, plate vi, nos. 27-36, and especially no. 28, which has the same bridge-like attachment on its face. They are described as fastenings and ornaments for belts, and, coming from Osterburken, belong to the second half of the second century or the first half of the third. Similar objects appear elsewhere, e.g. *O.R.L. Pfünz*, pl. xiii, no. 54; Jacobi, *Saalburg*, pl. liii, no. 14. This specimen has been used; one rivet is still in position.

48. Ring, 1.7 in. external diameter, 0.17 in. thick.

49. Ring, 0.45 in. diameter, made of a piece of wire 0.05 in. thick, closed with a rivet.

50. Another, opened out.

51-54. Four rings, from 0.35 to 0.4 in. diameter, made of very fine wire (about 0.02 in. thick).

These are units from a piece of chain-mail; for illustrations, cf. Cagnat-Chapot, *Manuel d'archéologie romaine*, II, p. 318; Curle, *Newstead*, plate xxxviii, figs. 8, 10. The Newstead find consisted of several pieces of chain mail made of iron rings, some closed by rivets as here, others welded. "In one small fragment a single ring of brass was noted; perhaps it was employed decoratively" . . . elsewhere "two fragments of extremely fine chain mail were picked up . . . They were composed of bronze rings of two different sizes . . . The wire composing the larger rings appeared to have been flattened at the ends and riveted together." (Curle, *op. cit.*, p. 161). These rings appear to come from a similar piece of bronze chain-mail, but they are a good deal larger than the Newstead examples.

55. Disk, 1.3 in. diameter, with shank attached to the middle of the back and punctured inscription:—

..... TI HILARIO

Part of the disk has been lost by corrosion; the inscription was doubtless similar to those on nos. 13 and 14, i.e. it contained the name of a soldier (private or trooper; the latter, if, as suggested under no. 20, above, the object is a harness-ornament) preceded by the name of his unit (century or *turma*), identified by the name of its commanding officer in the genitive). The soldier's name is usually in the genitive; here it is in the nominative, as in one of the Osterburken examples (*O.R.L. Osterburken*, p. 32: *C(enturia) Messoris, Saciro*). The soldier's name is written in a different style from that of the unit, as if the unit had a stock of such disks, to which the names of individuals were added when they were issued.



Fig. 5.
Inscribed Bronze Disc
from Stanwix (†).

- 56. Similar disk, 1.1 in. diam., with shank; uninscribed.
- 57. Disk, 1.45 in. diam., without shank.
- 58. Ornamental boss, with looped shank leaded into its back, showing that these bosses are buttons.
- 59. Another, wanting the shank.
- 60. Small ornamental nail, imperfectly cast, resembling a drawing-pin.
- 61. Another.
- 62. Part of a dolphin-shaped scabbard-fitting like those shown in the writer's *Arch. of R.B.*, fig. 66, b—d. Flawed casting.
- 63. Surgical instrument: spatula at one end, probe at the other. Much corroded, and broken in two. A common type; an example almost exactly like this is figured in Wheeler, *London in Roman Times*, pl. xxxvii., no. 1.
- 64. Thin plate, 1.0 by 0.6 in., with an embossed rib down the middle. Plates of this kind were attached to the piece of bronze chain-mail found at Newstead (Curle, *op. cit.*, pl. xxxviii, fig. 8), and this doubtless belongs to the same piece of chain-mail as nos. 49-54.
- 65. Broken ring or chain-link, original diameter about 1.2 in.
- 66. Piece of square-section rod bent into a hook; waste from a workshop.
- 67. Another, smaller, bent as if intended for a chain-link.
- 68. Piece of sheet metal bent into a pointed tube, like a bootlace-tag.

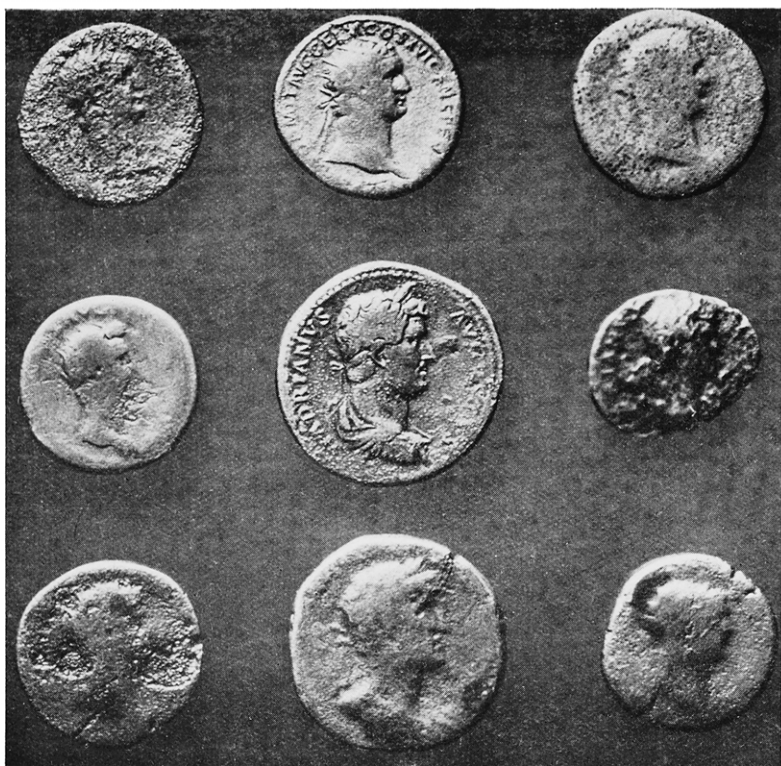


FIG. 6.—ROMAN COINS FROM STANWIX.

TO FACE P. 79.

69. Another, bent almost into a tube.

70. Another, with four nail-holes.

71. Another, with two nail-holes.

72-74. Scraps of sheet-metal.

Nos. 75-79 are lead.

75. Leaden miniature amphora, 2.75 in. high. It has been cast hollow in a two-piece mould, and has been flattened purposely, no doubt because the casting was unsatisfactory; for flaws are visible which seem not due to damage. The shape of amphora imitated is a tall one, with a bulbous point below, and handles lying close to the neck, like no. 92 in the writer's *Arch. of R.B.* (fig. 59) but with a more conical body. This type lasts into the reign of Hadrian, but one would hardly expect a toy amphora of this shape to be made later than that, unless Roman toy-makers copied obsolete models, as is sometimes done nowadays.

76. Piece, 0.9 in. long, of lead pipe about 0.3 in. diameter.

77-79. Three pieces of sheet lead.

COINS.

[I am indebted to Mr. H. Mattingly for help in identification. Mr. Mattingly, without information as to the circumstances of the find, remarked to me that the coins showed evident traces of having been water-worn by lying in a river.]

1. Domitian; dupondius.

Obv. IMP CAES DOMIT AVG GERM COS XVI CENS
PERP P P. Head, radiate, r.

Rev. VIRTUTI AVGVSTI S.C. Virtus standing r. holding
spear and parazonium.

Date, A.D. 92-94. Mattingly & Sydenham 406.

2. Domitian; dupondius.

Head recognisable; reverse uncertain.

3. Domitian; quadrans.

Head recognisable; reverse uncertain.

4. Nerva; dupondius.

Obv. Head recognisable, radiate.

Rev FORT. . . . S.C. Figure of Fortune standing l. with
cornucopia and rudder.

5. Trajan; dupondius.

6. Trajan (nearly certain); dupondius.

Nos. 5 and 6 are much water-worn, and nothing is visible
except the head.

7. Hadrian; sestertius.

Obv. Bust laureate, draped, cuirassed, r.

Rev. Libertas seated l., holding branch and sceptre.

Date: A.D. 119-121. Mattingly & Sydenham 583(c).

8. Hadrian; sestertius.

Obv. HADRIANVS AVGVSTVS. Bust draped, cuirassed, laureate, r.

Rev. IVSTITIA AVG P P COS III S C. Justitia seated l. holding patera and sceptre.

Date: A.D. 132-134. Mattingly & Sydenham 711 (g).

9. Hadrian; quadrans.

Obv. [HAD]RIANVS [AVGVSTVS].

Rev. Standing figure with S C in field. Much corroded.