

## ADDENDA ANTIQUARIA.

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### THE NEOLITHIC OCCUPATION OF THE WEST AND SOUTH CUMBERLAND CORN BELT.

Examination of finds recorded from time to time of implements of Neolithic overlapping into Bronze Age eras of the coast-belt of West and South Cumberland, has long led me to hold the opinion that the occupation of these cultures was more intensive than has been fully realised. There are, all along the coast-belt from the Duddon to the Solway groups of tarns, of which some still remain as at Braystones (in a district where many implements have been recorded), Sellafeld, and Barfield near Bootle. Others, as at Ehenside, Hall Senna, etc., have been drained to enable their sites to be used for cultivation. It is worthy of remark that implements are recorded from the vicinity of Hall Senna Tarn and also from the neighbourhood of Barfield Tarn at Bootle, and from Warborough Nook, Braystones, near which a couple of these pools still remain. I may add that Mr. Frank Warriner of Millom also holds that there must have been a considerable occupation of this coast-belt, and is at the present time amassing evidence germane thereto; in the course of his enquiries he is trying to trace exact find-spots and (where possible), present whereabouts of stone implements whose find is noted in Mr. W. G. Collingwood's *Inventory of the Ancient Monuments of Cumberland*. Thus it may be possible to put together an adequate chart of these implements, classified into their various types, with their find-spots.

MARY C. FAIR.

### A GREEK COIN FROM HARDKNOTT.

Mr. John Simpson, Chief Librarian of the Whitehaven Borough Library and Museum has kindly forwarded to me for examination a coin recently acquired by gift of finder. This coin was found at Hardknott. Miss M. V. Taylor, M.A., F.S.A., kindly gives details of this coin.

"The coin is Greek, of late 3rd century, Billon of Aurelianus Augustus and Vaballathus Imperator, A.D. 270, minted in Alexandria.

*Obv.* ΑΚΛΔΟΜΑΨΦ ΑΙΑΝΟCCEB\*

Bust of Aurelianus, laur., r., wears palamentum and cuirass. In front LA

*Rev.* ΙΑCΟVABAMAΘOS ΑΘΗNVACP†

Bust of Vaballathus r., laur., with diadem beneath wreath, wears paladamentum and curiass. In field LΔ

Vaballathus was the son of Queen Zenobia of Palmyra and this coin belongs to the brief period of union between Rome and Palmyra. A.D. 270.

Alexandrian coins of the late 3rd century are fairly common in Britain especially in the South; they had no currency value and Dr. Milne suggests that they were brought by troops part of whose pay they had been, and lost or foisted on the Roman-Britons."

MARY C. FAIR.

#### ROMAN MILITARY ROADS IN NORTH-WEST BRITAIN.

##### *Addendum to Iter X.*

##### High Street.

When my paper (not yet published) presenting certain data relating to Iter X was written, I had not been able to find any record of examination of the Roman Road known as High Street which runs over the mountains from Troutbeck near Windermere to Brougham near Penrith. As this road is part of the series linking up with what must very probably be the route taken by this Iter X it is of importance, and I am pleased therefore to have acquired Volume, xv (Old Series), of our Society's *Transactions* (1899), in which, a section of Professor Haverfield's *Report of the Cumberland Excavation Committee for 1898*, is a note dealing with High Street, describing its course and the examination of two sectors by Messrs. Grundy and W. H. Parkin of Ravencrag, who trenched sections at Loadpot Hill and the Elder Beck. As in Eskdale‡ "the line is somewhat complicated by packhorse tracks which seem now strictly to follow the road, now to diverge somewhat slightly from it while pursuing always the same general direction . . . Two sets of trenches were dug. One was across a straight embankment, 40 yards long, by which the road traverses a slight depression, a little to the north of Loadpot Hill. This embankment is about

\* *Obv.* Imperator Caesar L. Domitius Aurelianus Augustus. Followed by date.

† *Rev.* Iulius Aurelius Septimius Vaballathus Athenodorus Imperator Dux Romanorum. Followed by date.

‡ C. & W. A. S. *Transactions*, o.s. xv, pp. 360, 361, 362.

32 inches above the depression and is just on a level with the surrounding surface; it is about 10 feet wide at the top, 15 to 16 feet wide at base. When trenched it was found to consist of four layers, first the surface and a layer of vegetable matter such as often occurs under old thick grass; then a layer of gravel, like river gravel save that the stones were not rounded, 9 inches thick on the crown of the road but tapering off at the side; thirdly a layer of peat 8 inches thick, and lastly a layer of larger stones, rough but obviously quarried and more than 2 feet thick. Apparently this was the foundation, which was coated with peat and then received the actual gravel of the road. No trace of curbstones was detected anywhere at this spot.

The other spot trenched was 2 miles further north, very nearly 1200 yards south of the point where the Ordnance Map takes the road over the Elder Beck. Here curbs were visible on the surface, stones roughly square on top and sides but not below, measuring on an average 9 inches by 9 inches by 5 inches. The curbs were 10 to 11 feet apart on each side of the road; the road itself had been much worn unfortunately by packhorses and its exact construction could not be determined. The stones which lay about were mostly flakes 6 or 7 inches long and 1 or 2 inches thick; these are the natural cleavages of the rock. I have never noticed them on Roman roads in the North of England, but they correspond very closely to stones found by Mr. Grundy and myself last October in the lowest stratum of a Roman road in Blenheim Park near Oxford.

The quarried stones visible at both spots correspond exactly in character with the stone in a quarry called Loadpot Hole, on the north face of Loadpot Hill as one descends to Swarth Fell. This quarry, 1800 feet above the sea and far removed from any house of work of men except High Street seems almost inevitably to be the quarry from which at some time or other, metalling was taken for this mountain road.

"High Street attains in two places, the astonishing altitude of 2,600 feet."

MARY C. FAIR.