

Gold Ligula from Bowness-on-Solway.

To face p. 327.

ADDENDA ANTIQUARIA.

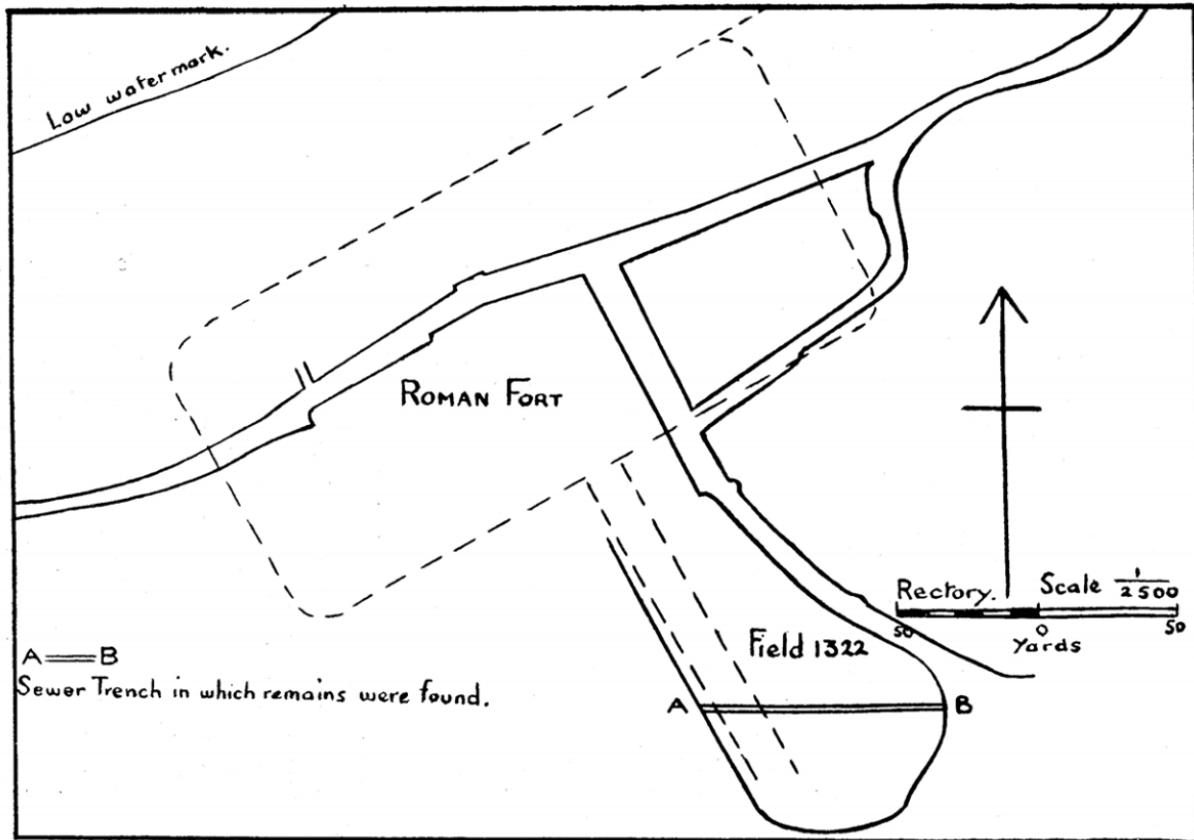
ROMAN REMAINS AT BOWNESS-ON-SOLWAY.

In the late autumn of 1938 workmen employed by the Wigton Rural District Council were engaged in laying a sewer across field No. 1322, O.S. which lies on the west side of the road opposite the village Rectory. The accompanying map shows the outline of the Roman fort in relation to the village streets; the houses are distributed about these streets and cover the greater part of the fort. It will be seen that the field in question is in rear and slightly to the east of the south gate of the Bowness-on-Solway fort. The trench was dug across the widest part of this field, running due east and west and cutting across the line of the road which probably issued from the south gate of the fort; there was no trace however of pavé or kerbs which have probably been removed in the course of centuries of cultivation.

In this trench was found a curious medley of Roman objects including many fragments of Samian ware, a wide range of coarse ware types, two leather sandals, a larger piece of leather and a 'ligula' of gold in fine preservation. The remains were collected by the foreman and handed to Mr. D. Easton, Clerk to the Rural District Council, who has now forwarded them to the Tullie House Museum.

I am indebted to Mr. E. B. Birley for the following report on the Samian pottery:—

- i. Stamp SACRM. on Dr 27. Sacer of Lezoux.
- ii. Stamp VENICAR (V) on Dr 33. Venicarus of Rheinzabern.
- iii. Piece of Dr 30 certainly attributable to Divixtus of Lezoux.
- iv. Piece of Dr 37 also by Divixtus.
- v and vi. Pieces from two bowls Dr 37 attributable to Paternus of Lezoux.
- vii. Scraps of Lezoux decorated Dr 37.
- viii. Scraps of Dr. 18/31 and 33; one piece of 18/31 might but need not, be earlier than Hadrian. (Otherwise the whole collection could be later than circa 140).
- ix. Rim-fragment of small bowl similar to Dr 30 but with rouletting in place of moulded decoration.



BOWNESS-ON-SOLWAY.

Based upon the Ordnance Survey Map with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office. Printed and Published by Titus Wilson & Son, Ltd., 28 Highgate, Kendal.

The coarser kitchen ware of native manufacture is characteristic in type and date range of that found in the Cumbrian forts. It includes several large fragments of amphora in drab-yellowish ware, a complete rim and part of the neck of a large flagon whose rim is six inches outside diameter, everted rims of cooking pots in blue clay and "black lead" ware with trellis, a fragment of a flat pie dish with perpendicular sides two and a half inches high in a hard gray ware, and a rim fragment of a mortarium, hammer headed in section of a white pipe-clay mortarium.

Leathern objects include the following:—a left foot sandal, nine inches long, thong-holed round the edge of the sole, with three loops of thong on the inside edge; another left foot sandal, eleven inches long, thong holes as in the former but without the thong and with two bronze round studs in the sole; a piece of leather eighteen inches by four with a pleat like that of a kilt, which suggests that it may have been part of the leathern apron hanging from a legionary's belt.

The above objects were found scattered about the trench at depths of from three to four feet, and would appear to indicate a rubbish dump well clear of the fort.

The "ligula" is of gold, tapered solid at one end and flattened and bent over at an angle of forty-five degrees at the other. It has been suggested that the small flattened spoon thus formed was used either to extract the ointment from the flattened out base of the test-tube like bottle which contained the unguents necessary to the Roman toilet, or to erase an error on the surface of the waxen slab when the instrument was used as a pen. Its presence in the midst of the broken kitchen pots is difficult to explain.

HAROLD DUFF.