

PROCEEDINGS.

I. SPRING MEETING, 1959.

THE Spring meeting was held in Tullie House, Carlisle, on the afternoon of Saturday, 11 April 1959, with the President, Professor Eric Birley, F.S.A., in the chair. Council had met during the morning to transact routine business. The minutes having been confirmed, the President referred, with regret, to the death of Sir Matthew Fell, K.C.B., C.M.G., F.R.C.S. (Obituary: p. 178 f., below). Fifteen candidates were elected members of the Society. It was reported that Council had made the following grants: £25 for work on Romano-British farm sites, £25 for further work at Ainstable, and £10 for research at the Public Record Office. The President announced that the Roman Wall Pilgrimage would be held on 7-10 September. A service would be held in Stanwix Church on Sunday, 6 September.

The appointment of Mr R. G. Plint as Honorary Treasurer was announced. The President congratulated Dr Moorman on his elevation to the See of Ripon, and Mrs Bagot, Mr J. L. Hobbs and Mr F. Barnes on their election as Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries.

A donation of £50 from the Kendal Regional Group was announced and it was agreed that this sum should be devoted to research in the Kendal area.

The following papers were communicated: "The system of cultivation and evidence of enclosure in the Cumberland open fields in the 16th century" by Mr G. Elliott (Art. VII, above); "Odard vicecomes" by Mr W. P. Hedley (Art. IV, above); "Uldale church" by the Rev. F. B. Swift and Mr C. G. Bulman (Art. V, above); "Cumberland rescusants of 1723/24" by Mr C. R. Hudleston (Art. IX, above).

Mr Robert Hogg and Mr R. L. Bellhouse exhibited recent archaeological discoveries.

II. SUMMER MEETING, 1959.

The Summer meeting was held in the Furness district on 3 and 4 July 1959, the headquarters being the Grange Hotel, Grange-over-Sands. Arrangements for the meeting were made by a committee consisting of the President, the Rev. J. C. Dickinson, Miss C. Fell, Mr J. Melville, Mr J. L. Hobbs and Major R. Scott-Little (Excursions Secretary).

Friday, 3 July.

The meeting began with a visit to ALDINGHAM CHURCH, where we were welcomed by the rector, the Rev. John H. Kidd, member of a well-known Penrith family. Here Mr J. Melville was guide, giving an admirably clear account of the history and main features of the building. From Aldingham there was a long drive to PIEL ISLAND, the last part involving a crossing by ferry. The weather greatly improved and a picnic lunch was taken in warm sunshine near the ruined CASTLE, which we visited by kind permission of the Corporation of Barrow-in-Furness. The Rev. J. C. Dickinson described the architecture and history of the castle, and spoke of its connection with FURNESS ABBEY. The abbey was now visited, Mr Dickinson again acting as guide and giving members the benefit of his recent researches, and describing the discoveries revealed by modern excavation.

At TOTTLEBANK CHAPEL we were received by the incumbent, the Rev. E. Parker, who gave a brief account of the history of this interesting building.

Tea was taken at the Swan Inn, Newby Bridge, and in the early evening a meeting of Council was held at the Grange Hotel, Miss K. S. Hodgson presiding. The General Meeting followed at 8 p.m. at which the President presided. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, the President referred to the deaths of two members of the Society — Mrs H. D. Rawnsley and Mr C. H. Roberts — to whom he paid tribute. Eleven new members were elected. The President reported that Dr J. R. K. Thomson had resigned from Council and from the chairmanship of Penrith Regional Group. He was elected a vice-president as was Mr John Charlton, and their places on Council were filled by the election of Dr R. L. Storey and Mr Norman Ward. The President referred to the publication in the Society's record series of Volume IX — "Naworth estate and household accounts." A new volume had also been added to the Tract Series — Mr G. H. L. Washington's "Early Westmorland M.P.s." The following papers were communicated: "A Philipson family prayer book" by Mr G. S. Darlow (Art. VIII, above); "Carlisle in 1688" by Mr C. Roy Hudleston; "Blencowe family notes" by Mr C. Roy Hudleston.

III. THE EIGHTH PILGRIMAGE OF HADRIAN'S WALL.

Ten years had passed by since the Centenary Pilgrimage of Hadrian's Wall (for which, see CW2 xlix 196-202), and Council therefore agreed that the normal Autumn Meeting should be merged in another Pilgrimage, arranged according to custom in

conjunction with the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne. Several reasons combined to make September rather than July and movement from west to east, rather than east to west, desirable: an international congress of Classical studies was held in London at the end of August, and it was known that several distinguished foreign archaeologists would be glad if they could attend that and take part in the Pilgrimage in the course of a single visit; moreover, the fourth congress of Roman frontier studies was to be held immediately after the Pilgrimage, in Durham; and the new joint museum of the University of Durham and the Newcastle Society, though not ready for its official opening until April 1960, could be opened with a special exhibition for the pilgrims to see, provided that they were content to wait until September. In the event, the choice of that month and that direction proved a very great success. The weather was of unexampled brilliance (though one or two pilgrims found the heat of the sun too much for them on occasions); there was by far the largest attendance of archaeologists from abroad that the Societies have ever had the pleasure of welcoming, the countries represented including Belgium, France, Germany, Holland, Israel, Italy, Switzerland and the United States; and many of the pilgrims found it most stimulating to approach the Wall from an unaccustomed direction, and to round off the experience by getting a foretaste of the splendid new museum in Newcastle which will be devoted so largely to the Wall and its antiquities.

Full details of the programme, with chapters on the history of mural studies, on the previous Pilgrimages and on the present position of Wall research, will be found in a special handbook written by Professor Birley, "Research on Hadrian's Wall", copies of which may be obtained from the General Secretary; here it must suffice to give a brief account of the main features of interest during the five days of the meeting. Our representatives on the joint committee which planned it were: Professor Eric Birley (President of both Societies), Miss K. S. Hodgson (Chairman of Council), Mr R. L. Bellhouse, Mr Brian Blake, Mr Robert Hogg, Mr Kenneth Smith and Major R. Scott-Little (Secretary for Excursions); Major Scott-Little and his opposite number in the Newcastle Society, Mr A. Howard Hall, necessarily had the main administrative burden to shoulder, and it was to their credit that everything went with such a swing. Only two things were felt to mar the occasion: it was found necessary, as in 1949, to confine attendance to pilgrims prepared to travel in the special coaches, and many of the older members of both Societies, who would have been glad to join the Pilgrimage for

limited periods, travelling by private car, could not manage to undertake so strenuous a programme; and an unfortunate accident, a week before the start of the Pilgrimage, prevented the President from taking part in it except for half an hour on the last day.

The doyen of the foreign visitors was M. André Piganiol (Paris), the eminent Roman historian and archaeologist. Other distinguished authorities on Roman frontiers and frontier policy included Colonel Jean Baradez (Algiers), Dr Harald von Petrikovits (Bonn), M. H.-G. Pflaum (Paris) and Dr Wilhelm Schleiermacher (Frankfurt) from abroad, Miss Anne Robertson (Glasgow) and Dr K. A. Steer (Edinburgh) from Scotland, and our member Mr C. E. Stevens from Oxford. It was a matter for general regret that Professor I. A. Richmond was prevented by his commitments to the British Association, then meeting in York, from taking part in the Pilgrimage except in the spirit.

Sunday, 6 September.

In the morning a good many of the pilgrims attended a special service in St Michael's church, Stanwix, which stands within the area of the Roman fort whose commander was senior officer of the Wall's garrison. The official beginning of the Pilgrimage, however, was in the afternoon, when the coaches drove westwards from Carlisle, past Bowness on Solway to Biglands, the site of MILE-FORTLET 1, where Mr R. L. Bellhouse gave an account of the system of fortlets and watch-towers, regularly spaced like the milecastles and turrets on the Wall, which continued its system of control down the Cumberland coast as far, it seems, as St Bees Head (cf. R. G. Collingwood's pioneer study, CW2 xxix 138-165, and the excavation-reports in CW2 xlvii 78-127, liv 28-55 and lvii 18-26). Back in BOWNESS, Miss K. S. Hodgson, deputising at very short notice for the President, described the terminal fort on the Wall and some of the problems of the Wall's final length; Professor C. M. Girdlestone kindly gave a summary of her address in French, for the benefit of those pilgrims who had not yet had time to accustom themselves to spoken English; and Mr Robert Hogg and Dr Dietrich Hafemann (Mainz) discussed the geological and geographical factors responsible for the partial erosion of the fort and the disappearance of the actual end of the Wall. No stop could be made at Drumburgh, but at BURGH BY SANDS Miss Hodgson gave a brief account of that fort, for knowledge of which we depend in the main on R. G. Collingwood's trial excavations of 1922 (CW2 xxiii 2-12), and on finds made during the digging of the canal

in 1821, and again in 1855. From Burgh we returned to Carlisle, where at Tullie House in the evening Mr Brian Blake gave a lecture, illustrated by lantern-slides, on the recent investigations which have been made into the native farmsteads of the Roman period in Cumberland (see Art. I, above); a vote of thanks was moved, in a stimulating speech, by Dr K. A. Steer, Secretary of the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments (Scotland). After the lecture, pilgrims were able to examine some of the archaeological treasures of the museum, which was specially open for their benefit by the kindness of Mr Kenneth Smith, Director, and Mr Robert Hogg, Keeper of Archaeology, our honorary Librarian and Curator respectively.

Monday, 7 September.

The coaches drove via the military road and Irthington to CASTLESTEADS, which we visited by kind permission of Major-General Sir George Johnson, and where Sir George and Lady Johnson welcomed us most kindly. Here Miss Hodgson described the fort, as recorded by the early antiquaries and further elucidated in a short trial excavation which she conducted jointly with Professor Richmond in April 1934 (CW2 xxxiv 159-165); and the pilgrims were able to inspect the important collection of Roman inscribed and sculptured stones, mainly from Castlesteads itself but including a few from Birdoswald, and others from the line of the Wall (see Collingwood's critical list, CW2 xxii 205-219). Next we drove past Lanercost to Banks, where at TURRET 52a we came upon the first Wall structure to come into the custody of the Ancient Monuments Department, and one of the turrets which in 1927 set the late F. G. Simpson on the trail which led, in a few years of intensive progression, to elucidating the successive changes in the programme of building Hadrian's Wall and all its works; here Mr J. P. Gillam described the turret and gave a first brief account of the structural sequence in the Turf Wall sector. Most of the pilgrims proceeded on foot over Pike Hill to TURRET 51b (Lea Hill), first located in 1927, excavated for the Ministry of Works in 1958 by Miss Charmian Phillips, who was there to report on her findings, and now also consolidated for permanent display. Next most of us drove, but a few continued on foot, to APPLE-TREE, where Dr Brenda Heywood showed us the section of the Turf Wall, specially re-cut in honour of the occasion, and described its problems in more detail, besides referring to the results of her excavations near by, in 1951 (CW2 lii 46-54). Thence we moved to BIRDOSWALD, more of us on foot, for an al fresco lunch, after which Mr Gillam described the fort

and reported on the long series of excavations there; the pilgrims were greatly impressed by the magnificence of the fort walls and gateways, further opened out and consolidated by the Ministry of Works since the Centenary Pilgrimage, and by the splendid length of the Wall eastwards to Milecastle 49 (Harrow's Scar), likewise revealed and consolidated in recent years. Despite the almost tropical heat, almost all the party followed Mr Gillam eastwards along the Wall, down the steep slope to the Irthing (across which a special footbridge had been provided by the Ministry of Works), to inspect WILLOWFORD BRIDGE and the length of Wall between Willowford farm and the former vicarage garden at Gilsland; in this length, Miss Phillips spoke at TURRET 48a, excavated by Mr R. C. Shaw in 1923 and recently uncovered and consolidated by the Ministry. Tea was taken in Gilsland village, after which we returned to Carlisle.

In the evening the Council met at Tullie House. At the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING which followed, Miss K. S. Hodgson, Chairman of Council, presided owing to the President's enforced absence. She read the following message from him:

"I had often heard the shifting of books described as a back-breaking job, but it was only last Sunday that I realised how dangerously near the truth that phrase was. The upshot was a slipped disc which has kept me on my back for the past week, and threatens to prevent me from taking any part, except in the spirit, in the Pilgrimage. You will all understand, I hope, how great a disappointment it is to me, not merely to miss the Pilgrimage and to fail in my duties to the two Societies, but particularly because the accident has deprived me of the opportunity of meeting so many old friends again.

"But our chain is strong enough to draw you *per lineam valli* even though one of its links has been removed for repairs. I hope that you will have an enjoyable journey, and I am sure that your participation in this Pilgrimage will give us encouragement and lasting stimulus to continue the programme of active research on the Wall to which both our Societies and the University of Durham are committed.

"One last point. In 1949 we took part in the Centenary Pilgrimage of Hadrian's Wall; since then, death has taken from us Frank Gerald Simpson, the man to whose devoted labours we owe the right to claim the Wall and all its works as Hadrian's. I hope that we may be able to join in making this Pilgrimage a special tribute to Simpson's memory."

After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, Miss Hodgson spoke of the heavy loss the Society

had sustained by the death of Canon Murray Lowther Bouch (see Obituary: pp. 175 ff., below). The death of Lt-Col. Piers William North was also reported. Professor Birley was re-elected President, and the other officers of the Society were also re-elected. Tribute was paid by the Chairman to the work of Miss G. Ainsley, General and Financial Secretary of the Society since 1927. In recognition of her long and faithful service the honorary membership of the Society was conferred upon her. Mr. H. Clegg of Grange-over-Sands was appointed General and Financial Secretary from 31 December 1959. The resignation of Mr Brian Blake, Joint Editor of *Transactions* since 1957, and the resignation of Mr J. B. Macalpine as a member of Council were also received. The accounts for the year ending 30 June 1959 were approved. Two new members were elected.

Tuesday, 8 September.

From Carlisle we drove along the military road past Greenhead to CARVORAN, where Dr Heywood described her excavations of 1951 (AA4 xxxi 82-94), and Mr R. P. Wright gave an account of the epigraphic evidence for the building of the stone fort in the last years of Hadrian's reign. Thence, under a burning sun, the pilgrims moved in a straggling line, led by Mr Gillam, along WALLTOWN CRAGS — where a magnificent length of the Wall had recently been exhumed and was in process of consolidation by the Ministry — past TURRET 44b (Mucklebank) and through COCKMOUNT WOOD, where the Broad Foundation remains exposed immediately north of the Narrow Wall, to the fort at GREATCHESTERS: here Mr C. E. Stevens described the excavations of 1894-1897, 1925 and 1939, and offered new light on the site's most remarkable antiquities, the objects found in 1894 in one of the guard-chambers of the south gate. The mobile canteen was awaiting us in Cawfields quarry, now no longer working; a few of the pilgrims made a slight detour to inspect the Stanegate fortlet at the Haltwhistle Burn, close to the Common House, but most of them felt it prudent to rest after the morning's march, reserving their energies for the next sector. After lunch, most of the party continued their eastward march, past Milecastle 42 (Cawfields) — just placed in the Ministry's custody by its owner, Mr Oliver of Cawfields, over the summit of Winshields and along the crags overlooking Crag Lough to MILKING GAP, where Dr Heywood described the native settlement, excavated by Mr Kilbride-Jones in 1937 (AA4 xv 303-350), to the small party of energetic pilgrims who were able to keep up with her with time in hand before rejoining the coaches. Thence we drove past Grandy's Knowe, the

programme calling for tea at the point where the Stanegate branches eastwards; but the mobile canteen had taken the law into its own wheels, and in the event tea was taken at Codley Gate, close to CHESTERHOLM fort and Roman milestone, before we drove along the Stanegate, past the fort-site at Newbrough, to Newcastle.

Wednesday, 9 September.

From Newcastle we drove along the military road to HOUSE-STEADS, now in the custody of the Ministry of Works, which is in process of consolidating the masonry exposed at various times in the past century and a half. During the two months before the Pilgrimage Mr John Wilkes had been excavating one of the barracks inside the fort, on behalf of the Durham University Excavation Committee, and he described the results of the excavation to the pilgrims; the fort itself, the museum, and the other features of interest near by, were described to the pilgrims in groups led respectively by Mr Gillam, Miss Dorothy Charlesworth and Dr John Mann. Most of the pilgrims made the short journey westwards to examine Milecastle 37; after another al fresco lunch the more energetic of them marched eastwards past King's Hill, Busy Gap and Sewingshields Crag, where TURRET 35a has recently been excavated and consolidated, together with two or three unexpectedly well preserved lengths of the Wall, by the Ministry of Works. The walking party joined the coaches at Grindon School whence we drove on to CARRAWBURGH: here Mr R. Du Cane, the owner of the fort, and a member of the Newcastle Society, welcomed us in a brief address, expressing his hope that before the next Pilgrimage there might be an opportunity for further excavation in it; then Mr Noel Shaw described how he came to discover the MITHRAEUM, thirty yards from the south-west angle of the fort, in 1949, a few weeks after the Centenary Pilgrimage, and Mr Gillam gave an account of its excavation in 1950 (see the full report, AA4 xxix 1-92). The pilgrims were greatly impressed by the way in which the Ministry of Works has arranged the site for permanent display, not only consolidating the masonry of the temple but also providing cast-stone replicas of its altars and sculptures, and reproducing in cement the oak uprights which supported its roof or partitioned off its antechapel, and the wattle-work which defined the edges of the low benches on either side of its nave. From Carrawburgh we moved to LIMESTONE CORNER, where Dr Heywood gave an account of her investigation of the Vallum, and demonstrated the sequence of work on the unfinished ditch of the Wall; then we

drove past Walwick to CHESTERS where, after tea at the mobile canteen, Mr C. E. Stevens spoke on some of the problems raised by the relationship between Wall-ditch, foundation and superstructure to the fort, and by Haverfield's inconclusive examination of the course of the Vallum in relation to the fort's ditch-system. Mr Gillam gave a brief report on his recent study of the fine external bath-house, during the period of its consolidation by the Ministry; and Dr Mann expounded some of the points of epigraphic interest in the Clayton Memorial Museum; but there was less time available than most of us could have wished for examining all the features of interest at Chesters before the time came for the coaches to return to Newcastle.

Thursday, 10 September.

We drove back to Chollerford first, the day's programme beginning at the east abutment of the ROMAN BRIDGE over North Tyne, just across the river from Chesters; here Mr Noel Shaw described the visible remains and the probable appearance of the successive Roman bridges. Then we walked across the railway (now disused) and past the site of Milecastle 27, examined by Mr Gillam in 1952 (AA4 xxxi 165-174) but of necessity filled in again, to TURRET 26b (Brunton), described to us by Miss Charlesworth. Motor traffic on the military road has grown so considerable in recent years that it was not found practicable for the pilgrims to stop anywhere between the Brunton cross-roads and Heddon-on-the-Wall, but from the coaches we had a brief glimpse, passing St Oswald's, of TURRET 25b, which Miss Phillips had been excavating for the Durham University Committee; and we drove slowly past HALTONCHESTERS, guides in each coach pointing out the scene of Dr Jarrett's excavations for the same committee in 1956-1958 (see now his report, AA4 xxxvii 177-190). At Heddon we found the President awaiting us: his doctor had reluctantly given him leave to rise from his bed and be driven to meet us, on condition that he walked no more than twenty yards from the car, to the west end of THE LENGTH OF BROAD WALL presented to the Newcastle Society by the late Sir James Knott in 1924; here he had an opportunity of expressing his deep regret that he had been unable to take any other part in the meeting, and of welcoming so many distinguished visitors from other Roman frontiers: he was particularly glad to see Miss Anne Robertson, a Past President of the Glasgow Society and for long one of the leaders in research on the Antonine Wall, for it reminded him how greatly we were indebted to the acumen and direct inspiration of one of her predecessors in that Society, Dr George Neilson, whose

experience on the Antonine Turf Wall led him to write the little book, *Per Lineam Valli*, which did more than anything else to spark off active digging on Hadrian's Wall by both our Societies. He took the opportunity of giving his views on the problems raised by the conversion from Broad to Narrow Wall, for which he had a paper ready for printing in an early volume of *Archaeologia Aeliana* (cf. AA4 xxxviii, forthcoming), and reminded us of the debt which we owe, in the sector which the pilgrims had just reached, not only to Simpson but to all the active members of the committee which in 1928 and 1929 investigated that sector in preparation for the Roman section of the Northumberland County History, volume xiii. After saying farewell to the President we drove on to BENWELL, where Mr Gillam described the Vallum causeway and gave a brief account of the fort, now completely built over; thence, through the crowded streets of Newcastle, to the eastern end of the Wall at WALLSEND, where Mr Stevens told us how the anatomy of the fort and much of its history came to be known largely as a result of the devoted services of two men — Walter S. Corder, who watched and recorded the discoveries made during building operations from 1895 to 1912, and F. G. Simpson, whose excavations for the North of England Committee in 1929, with the enlightened support of Wallsend Corporation, included tunnelling below the surface of Buddle Street which proved that the fort was contemporary with and of one build with the Narrow Wall, and thus an addition to the original Hadrianic design. From Wallsend, finally, we drove to King's College, Newcastle, where the closing session of the Pilgrimage was held in the new JOINT MUSEUM OF ANTIQUITIES; its Keeper, Dr D. J. Smith, had prepared a special exhibition in honour of the occasion, the central feature of interest being the splendid model of the Wall, on a scale of 6 in. to the mile, which had been made by Mr William Bulmer. Tea was provided for us, by the kindness of the Rector of King's College; Dr C. I. C. Bosanquet, son of our former Vice-President, the late R. C. Bosanquet; his academic duties prevented Dr Bosanquet from meeting us, but he sent us a warm message of greeting. Thus ended an occasion which will long be remembered by all who took part in it, not merely for its brilliant weather and for the varied interest of the Roman remains which were inspected in the course of the five days, but particularly for the great stimulus provided by the distinguished visitors from other Roman frontiers; to many of us, friendships made or renewed on this occasion will remain the most delightful memories of it.