

ART. III.—*Roman finds from "Contrebis"*. By  
B. J. N. EDWARDS, F.S.A.

*Read at Hexham, July 16th, 1971.*

IN his paper on the excavations on the site of the Roman fort at Lancaster in 1950<sup>1</sup> Richmond pointed out that the occurrence of the word *Contrebis* in the dative case on an altar from Burrow in Lonsdale (RIB 610) implied the existence of a nominative form *Contrebis*. This, he suggested, was the Roman name for the region comprising the lower Lune valley from Burrow in Lonsdale to its mouth, an idea supported by the epithet *Contre-* which is applied to the god *Ialonus* on an altar found near Lancaster (RIB 600). The purpose of this paper is to record information relating to discoveries of Roman sculptured stones at three places all falling within the putative area of *Contrebis*, and made at dates ranging from the late 17th century to 1967.

### I. Burrow in Lonsdale (RIB 612).

The discovery was made by Mr J. W. Shepherd, tenant of Yew Tree Farm<sup>2</sup>, Burrow-with-Burrow, in May 1967. He noticed a fragment of stone with lettering on it in a hedge bottom at SD 612757 (see Fig. 1), and recovered it. It was brought to my notice through the good offices of Mr R. Lawrence and Mr G. M. Leather.

The newly-discovered fragment (Plate I, a) — hereafter referred to as stone 'B' — is the bottom right corner of a funerary inscription, apparently triangular, and commemorating at least two people. It bears the ends of four lines of text and a cable-moulded border

<sup>1</sup> Richmond, 1954: 22.

<sup>2</sup> Formerly High Burrow Farm.

to the right at an angle of *c.*  $50^\circ$  to the base. Below the text are the remains of four small diagonal lines surviving from a lower border. These are of importance as they showed that the lowest line of the text on 'B' was the last line of the inscription, or at least of that part of it.

The discovery of this fragment made intelligible

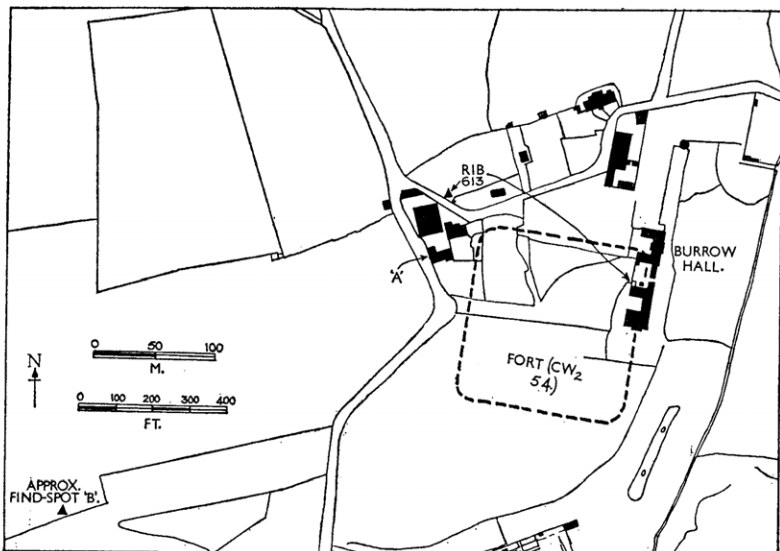


FIG. 1.

another fragment (Plate I, b) built into the roadside face of a nearby barn (see Fig. 1). This — referred to as stone 'A' — could now be seen to be the bottom left corner of a similar inscription or of the same one.<sup>3</sup> It had been rotated clockwise through *c.*  $135^\circ$  before being used as a building stone. It bears portions of the cable-moulded border, and of a lower border consisting of alternate hatched triangles, and in addition a small segment of a curved cable-moulding. The only portion of the text on this stone consists of two apparently alphabetic characters.

<sup>3</sup> See Appendix.

The published records of inscriptions from the vicinity of Burrow include parts of two triangular inscriptions,<sup>4</sup> and of these, one (RIB 612) lacked its lower right and left corners, and it seemed probable that both the stones so far described belonged to it to form a single inscription. Experimental restoration showed beyond reasonable doubt that this was the case.

The restoration had to be done entirely by drawing, since RIB 612 is lost, and both the available stones were then fixed. RIB 612 was recorded by Thomas Machell,<sup>5</sup> and his drawing of it was included among the notes on the history of Cumberland and Westmorland which he left, at his death in 1698, in the care of Bishop Nicolson, in the hope that they could be published for the benefit of his widow and children. Nicolson had these notes bound and placed in the Chapter Library at Carlisle, where they remain.

The drawing of the inscription with which we are concerned<sup>6</sup> was brought to light by Chancellor Ferguson, who sent a copy to W. T. Watkin. Watkin published it in two places,<sup>7</sup> one with a not very accurate engraving of Machell's drawing. Watkin's engraver did, however, reproduce the fact that in Machell's drawing the missing parts of the triangle are supplied in what appears to be coursed masonry. Watkin quotes the note by Machell, on the page of the MS. *opposite* to the drawing (p. 263), that the stone was "at the Vicaridge House in Tunstall". Birley, in his summary of the information on the Roman site at Burrow,<sup>8</sup> reproduced Watkin's engraving and quoted the same note. RIB, on the other hand, omits the masonry as being outside its scope. However, the significance of

<sup>4</sup> RIB 612, 614.

<sup>5</sup> For whom see Rogan and Birley, 1956.

<sup>6</sup> Machell MSS., vi: 262.

<sup>7</sup> Watkin, 1882: 365, 1883: 194.

<sup>8</sup> Birley, 1947.

this is seen when the note *immediately* accompanying Machell's drawing (p. 262) is taken into account. This note reads "These 2 fragments of Romane Inscriptions are on [*sic*] the Vacaridge House in Tunsdal. Being found at Barrow upon Leun in the said Parish." Taking the word "on" together with the representation of masonry, it seems probable that the stones were actually fixed to the building — a point to be borne in mind in the search — so far fruitless — for them.<sup>9</sup>

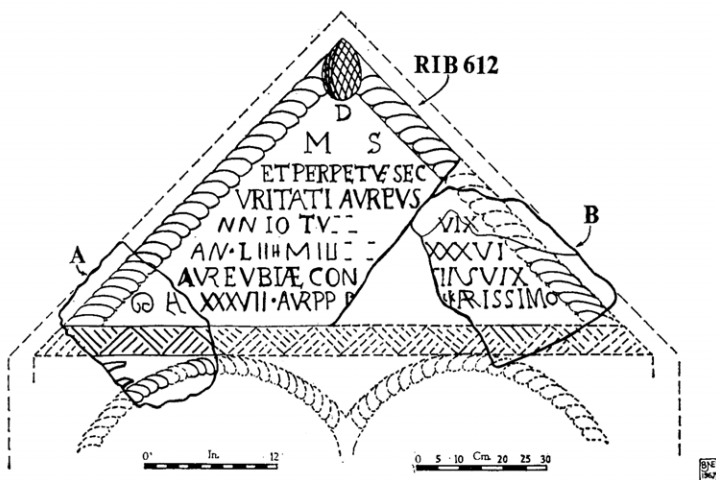


FIG. 2.

The process of restoration was carried out at full scale, starting with the assumption that the lettering on Machell's drawing (which has neither scale nor dimensions) was the same size as that on fragment 'B'. The result is seen in Fig. 2.

The evidence produced by the discoveries of 1967 has not materially altered the sense of the inscription as deduced by Birley.<sup>10</sup> There is, however, a number

<sup>9</sup> There exists a house at Tunstall known as the Old Vicarage. It bears a date-stone of 1746 on the front, but parts of it are earlier. The present inhabitants have no knowledge of any inscribed stones.

<sup>10</sup> Birley, 1947: 138.



of points on which some light has been thrown. In particular the fact that the man commemorated was apparently a soldier is interesting in view of the previous lack of evidence that any of the persons mentioned on inscriptions from Burrow was other than a civilian.

Lines 1-5 are unaffected by the new stones.

Stone 'B' shows that line 6 ended with the number XXXVI, thus removing the possibility that the age of the deceased man was given in a "years, months and days" formula. Even if the number were not too great for the number of days in a month, this type of formula would still require *diebus* to be written in full while *an(nis)* and *m(ensibus)* were abbreviated, in order to fit the available space.

It seems likely, therefore, that the letter M followed by three vertical strokes represents the beginning of *militavit*, thus recording a length of service of 36 years, which, when subtracted from the age at death of 54 gives 18 — a not unreasonable age for commencement of service.

Line 7 now reads Aur(eliae) Eubiae con[iugis] eīiūs vix(it).<sup>11</sup>

Line 8 starts with what is presumably a leaf-stop, followed by an(nos) XXXVII. The remainder of the line is taken up by a statement of the name of the erector of the monument, together with his or her relationship to the deceased couple. There are a number of possibilities as to how this ran, but the most likely seems to be Aur(elius) Pr[o]p[inquus f]il(ius) karissim(us) followed by a leaf-stop similar to that at the beginning of the line.<sup>12</sup>

The whole inscription as now restored, will read as follows: D(is) / M(anibus) S(acrum) / et perpetūe sec / uritati Aur(eli) Pus[i] / nni cīv[is . . .] vix(it) / an(nos) LIIII mili[tavit an(nos)] XXXVI / Aur(eliae) Eubiāe con[iugis] eīiūs vix(it) / an(nos) XXXVII Aur(elius) Pr[o]p[inquus f]il(ius) karissim(us).

Two points about the monument itself deserve attention. First, it will be noticed in the restoration drawing that the curved cable-moulding on stone 'A' when projected suggests a double niche, under which were presumably reliefs of Pusinnus and his wife. The shape and size of this curve also provided an independent check of the general correctness of the restoration. Secondly, stone 'B', which is the only part of the monument which is at present available for measurement, is six inches thick. Presumably, therefore, the monument, which must have been more than five feet across, was more in the nature of a house-shaped tomb than a free-standing tombstone.

## Appendix.

### *Published references to stone 'A'.*

Stone 'A' has had a chequered career in the literature. No reference is known to me which can be said with certainty to refer to it, but the following almost certainly do.

- (a) Rauthmell 1746, 111 and pl. V, fig. 15. "A fragment of an altar dedicated to a Roman god in a wall at Overborough, but as it has no letters inscribed on it, it puts a stop to our further enquiry, only a centurial mark seems to be carved on it." Rauthmell's figure shows a parallelogram inclining to the right with a diagonal line from bottom right to top left.
- (b) Rauthmell 1824, 118 and pl. V, fig. 15. Same text and figure as 1746 ed.
- (c) ———, 137. Appendix II (presumably the work of Arthur Foster, the publisher of this edition) includes "... and a fragment of an elegantly figured stone without any inscription thereon, in the wall of a barn at the road side."
- (d) Watkin 1883, 199. "A few yards to the north of the entrance to Burrow Hall, built up into a barn on the roadside, there still exists a sculptured stone, which is

<sup>11</sup> For the spelling EIIVS cf. RIB 601 from Lancaster.

<sup>12</sup> I am indebted to Mr R. P. Wright, F.S.A., for the name Propinquus. He writes (*in litt.*) "PROPINQVVS is quite frequent. I. Kajanto, *The Latin Cognomina*, Helsinki (1965), p. 313, cites 31 men and 4 women from CIL for this name." See now JRS lix (1969): 236-237.

probably the one alluded to [he has just quoted the foregoing]. It is about 2 feet in length and 18 inches in height and is evidently part of an ansated tablet, which has had a cable moulding around it, part of the latter being visible on the right hand side, with a portion of one of the *ansae*. It is possible it may have borne an inscription, but, if so, it is entirely defaced."

- (e) Birley 1946, 142, regarded the stone as part of an elaborate door or window-head, and suggested (fn. 34) that the triangular recess was secondary cutting.

It is puzzling that although all of these references seem to be to the same stone, none of the authors quoted seems to have seen the lettering on it, unless Rauthmell's "centurial mark" refers to this. Watkin at least does not appear to have examined it very closely, the inaccuracy of his dimensions being presumably due to estimation from ground level. The stone is in fact 14½ in. x 10 in.

Stone 'B' is now in the charge of the City of Lancaster Museum, and it is hoped to construct a mock-up using an enlargement of Machell's drawing, a cast of 'A' and the original of 'B'.

## II. Lancaster (RIB 606 and 608).

Information on these two inscriptions has been recovered in the course of sorting a collection of papers now in the Lancashire Record Office, Preston, and formerly at Hornby Presbytery.<sup>13</sup> Included among these papers are a large number relating to Father Thomas West, S.J. (1717-1779), the author of *Antiquities of Furness* (1774) and *Guide to the Lakes* (1778). The papers include letters, drafts of replies, notes, and occasional sketches and drawings.

One such drawing relates to RIB 606, a tombstone found in Cheapside, Lancaster, in 1772. There is no indication of the name of the artist, and West, who considered the stone to be an altar, has added letters in his characteristic brown ink, including VSLM. The only letter in the collection relating to the discovery shows that West's description of the find-spot in *Guide*

<sup>13</sup> Reference RCHy.

to the *Lakes*<sup>14</sup> was the correct one, and that that in the letter of West's which Watkin possessed was inaccurate.<sup>15</sup> The relevant portion of the letter, from J. Collinson, and dated "Lancaster Octr. 16. 1772", reads as follows: "One day last month, in digging a Cellar where an old House had stood, almost in the Centre of this Town, a Stone of the dimensions within-mentioned was discovered by the Workmen, with the Face or Letters downwards, on a Bed of fine Sand, about a yard and a half under Ground . . ." The importance of the drawing (Plate II, a), apart from showing that the transcript quoted by Gough and Watkin<sup>16</sup> was generally correct except for the omission of a stop at the end of l.2, lies in the fact that enough of l.7 survived to show that its fourth letter was almost certainly V, and thus that the unit recorded was an *Ala Augusta*. This, according to Watkin, was what West implied but did not state.<sup>17</sup> The drawing also shows that the eighth line began with a letter with two vertical strokes, and H(ic) S(itus) E(st) seems to be the obvious suggestion.

If this is correct, taken with the use of *Dis Manibus* in full, it is possible that this inscription recorded the name of a unit in garrison at Lancaster not long after its foundation, which, on the evidence of RIB 604, is generally taken to be Trajanic. I am indebted to Mrs Margaret Roxan for the information that both the *Alae Augustae* whose names are attested in full from Britain were Gallic regiments, and thus would fit in with the fact that Apollinaris came from the neighbourhood of Trier. It is tempting to suggest that the unit concerned is that which is attested from Old Carlisle in a series of inscriptions apparently beginning in the late second century. This is the unit mentioned by

<sup>14</sup> West, 1778: 24.

<sup>15</sup> Watkin, 1883: 184.

<sup>16</sup> See RIB for detailed references.

<sup>17</sup> Watkin, 1883: 184.

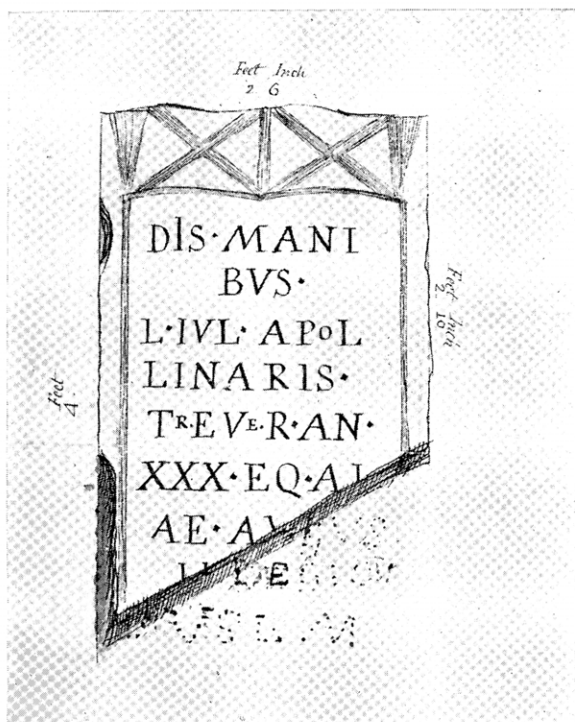


a.

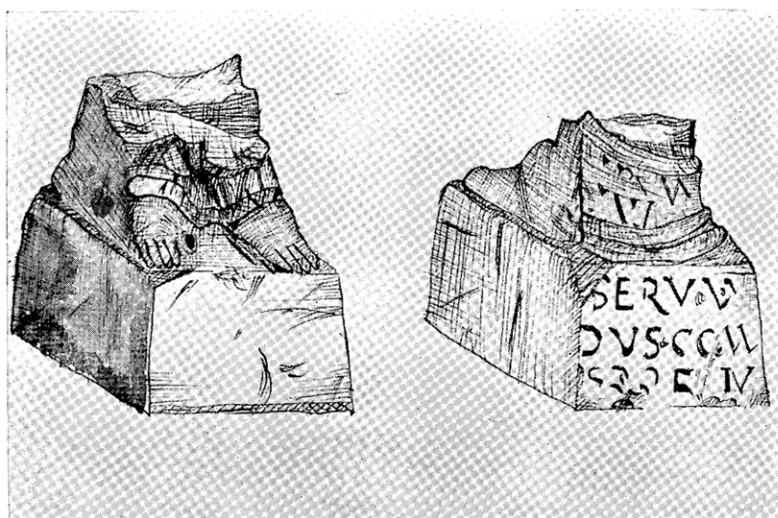


b.

PLATE I.—Parts of RIB 612 from Burrow in Lonsdale.



a.



b.

PLATE II.—Roman tombstone and pipeclay figurine base from Lancaster.



PLATE III.  
Sculptures a-d from Burrow Heights near Lancaster.



PLATE IV.  
Sculptures e-f from Burrow Heights near Lancaster.  
tcwaas\_002\_1971\_vol71\_0006





PLATE V.—Sculpture g from Burrow Heights near Lancaster.

Watkin under the title *Ala Augusta ob virtutem appellata*<sup>18</sup> which Birley has already suggested may have been the *Ala Augusta Gallorum Proculeiana*.<sup>19</sup>

It is possible to deduce from the West papers a probable find-spot for this stone, for on the back of a letter addressed to West is noted, in a hand which is not that of West or of his correspondent, the address of Dr Milles, dean of Exeter. Below this, in West's hand, is "found in Gilbert Batty's House in pudding lane on the west side near midway down on the west side [of] the Lane. 37 paces down puding Lane the Lane is 97 paces". If West's paces were fairly constant at just over 2 ft. 6 in., this would make the spot c. 95 ft. down Pudding Lane. In view of the slope, this presumably means north, so the Grid Reference would be SD 4772 6176. As proof that the note refers to this stone it should be noted that West mentions something found *in* a house, which would be true of a find made in digging a cellar. Also, another letter (9 March 1773) from Collinson to West mentions his having received a letter from "Dr Milles . . . relating to the Roman Stone". It was Collinson who first appraised West of the discovery.

In the case of RIB 608 there are four drawings in the collection, but only one letter refers to the discovery. Again West's informant was J. Collinson, and he writes as follows: "Lancaster 21st Novr. 1775. Dear Sir, . . . I have procured a Drawing of Capt: Tomlinson's Penate, which I inclose for your observations. The front, back & both sides appear in this drawing & the whole, I think, is most accurately done . . ."

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.* This honorific title is that which members of the unit use on the Old Carlisle inscriptions. If a number of fragments of samian vessels of Dragendorff's form 29 now in Lancaster Museum came from Lancaster, it may be that the foundation of the fort will have to be ascribed to the Governorship of Agricola.

<sup>19</sup> Birley, 1952: 30. The unit at Lancaster cannot have been *Ala Afrorum* (Birley, 1947: 136 fn.). See now JRS lix (1969): 236.

Collinson's letter, as usual, is fairly short, and the whole of the rest of the sheet is taken up with West's handwriting. Collinson had added a P.S. in which he suggested that he should "transmit it to Mr Ashby of St John's, for whom you kindly procured me a couple of Franks". West follows this with his own thoughts on the object, whether as a draft for a reply to Collinson or not there is no indication. On the back of the sheet West copies a letter from Ashby, which was presumably his reply to Collinson. The letter is of no great assistance to us now in interpreting the find, but it is perhaps worth quoting a sentence which shows how well Ashby understood the principles of what he was trying to do. "Any antiquar[ia]n will readily make out the figure & inscription for we know very little of these matters but by comparing them with similar ones, and reasoning from analogy: a mode of discovery that so totally fails us in the present case, that I should think myself as Safe if I wagered on its impenetrability as on uniting the gordian knot, was I to throw both down to the antiq Society."

In the following year West was in correspondence with the Rev. J. Whitaker, the historian of Manchester, on the subject,<sup>20</sup> and it is tempting to think that the four drawings in the collection represent the original sent by Collinson to West, on a full sheet of paper, and three remaining of four copies on half sheets, the other half sheet having been sent by West to Whitaker. (See Plate II, b, for one of the drawings.)

The evidence for the find-spot and nature of this object was published in 1779.<sup>21</sup> The discoveries described were made "in sinking cellars for a large house at the upper part of Church-street in [Lancaster], now building by Daniel Wilson, esq.; . . . in digging a drain on the opposite side of Church-street, and to

<sup>20</sup> Watkin, 1883: 172.

<sup>21</sup> West, 1779: 98-99.

the Westward of Mr Wilson's house . . . was found . . . the pedestal and feet part of a small image, thought to have been a Car [*sic.* ?Lar], with an inscription, (it seems to be made of plaister of Paris, or some such matter) . . . "Mr Wilson's house" is the large bow-fronted house next to the corner of Church Street and Bridge Lane, and thus close to the find-spot of RIB 605. The house is shown on Stephen Mackreth's map of Lancaster of 1778, and the garden behind it is labelled "Dr Wilson's Garden". The object itself is thus shown to be a pipeclay statuette.

The inscription, for the interpretation of which I am indebted to Mr R. P. Wright, F.S.A., is a stamp of the maker of pipeclay statuettes, Servandus of Cologne. The reading was probably *Servān / dus C(olonaie) C(laudiae) A(ugustae) A(grippinensium) / [A]d for[u]m*.<sup>22</sup>

### III. Burrow Heights, Ashton-with-Stodday.

The group of sculptured stones which forms the subject of this note was discovered in 1794 in the course of the excavation of the Lancaster Canal. It consists of four over-life-size human heads, two quadrupeds and a small full-length human figure.

These sculptures were first described in print by Clark,<sup>23</sup> and subsequently by Gregson,<sup>24</sup> Whitaker<sup>25</sup> and Watkin.<sup>26</sup> Clark has an engraving in his second edition of one of the heads and the small figure; Gregson of all the stones; Whitaker of all, except one of the heads; Watkin reproduced Whitaker's engrav-

<sup>22</sup> See EE ix 1356 and CMR 1905-1906: 16 for a Servandus stamp on the detached head of a pipeclay statuette from Colchester. See also CIL xiii 10015, 108, and, for a catalogue of Servandus's work, *Saalburg Jahrb.* ix (1939): 7. I am indebted to Mr R. P. Wright, F.S.A., for these references.

<sup>23</sup> Clark, 1807. 2nd ed., 1811.

<sup>24</sup> Gregson, 1817. 3rd ed., 1869.

<sup>25</sup> Whitaker, 1823.

<sup>26</sup> Watkin, 1876. *Ibid.*, 1883: 180-181.

ings together with Clark's for the head omitted by Whitaker.

There is some doubt as to the exact site from which the sculptures came. Clark describes the find in these terms<sup>27</sup>:

In 1794 when the Lancaster Canal was digging near Ashton, in a field the property of his grace the Duke of Hamilton, several figures &c. cut in freestone were found, evidently of great antiquity viz. a figure of Ceres, about two feet in height; several sculptured heads of men; and two figures of lions. These may be seen in the carpenter's yard, near the canal basin, Lancaster.

Gregson gives a longer and more circumstantial description of the find<sup>28</sup>:

The old stone figures were found in the spring of 1794, in digging the canal in the township of *Ashton*. The place is retired; about two or three hundred yards to the eastward of the highway from Lancaster to Cockerham, and nearly one mile north-east from Ashton-hall. It appeared that the spot had been selected for depositing these figures; the field was in pasture at the time the canal was cut, a small hillock rose on the lower parts of it, more fresh and green than the other parts of the land. Upon digging this part, a considerable depth of soil was removed; the spades at length began to touch upon stones, and the workmen then used their picks; by this operation several parts of the figures were damaged. The whole of them were within the compass of about six yards square, and laid carefully in the hole (about three feet deep) which had been made for them: they were all entire until the workmen accidentally broke them with their tools. The mutilated parts, particularly the head of the figure representing Ceres, was sought for in vain among the earth which the diggers had been throwing up for some days. There were no walls or appearance of any buildings near to this spot; none of the figures stood upright or touched each other; but from all appearance great care had been taken in concealing them; for what purpose it is in vain, at this remote period, to conjecture.

A footnote states that the above is from Samuel Gregson, Lancaster. The captions to the engravings<sup>29</sup> add the following:

<sup>27</sup> Clark, 1811: 78.

<sup>28</sup> Gregson, 1869: 269-270.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*, 238.

Roman Antiquities discovered a few years ago, a great depth from the surface, near Ashton Hall, the seat of the Duke of Hamilton, near Lancaster. The centre figure of *Plenty* is 2 feet 4 inches high from the bottom of the base; so much of it as is seen is 24 inches high. The remain [*sic*] is now in the possession of Alderman S. Gregson, Esq. of Lancaster.

Whitaker's evidence on the find-spot is suspect. He says<sup>30</sup>:

Southward from [Lancaster], and in cutting the bed of the present canal through Borough, (a place which carries antiquity in its name), was found another milliary stone<sup>31</sup> . . . At the same place, and on the same occasion, were discovered several sculptures indisputably Roman but without any inscription.

Clark, however,<sup>32</sup> makes it clear that RIB 2270 was found in 1811, the year of publication of his second edition. This is, therefore, unlikely to be wrong. Error might have crept in by 1823, when Whitaker's book was published, but hardly in the same year as the second discovery. Clark's description of the find-spot of RIB 2270 is "in ploughing a field adjoining the canal within the township of Ashton".

Further confusion was added by the fact that another milestone, RIB 2271, evidently came from the same area in 1834, but Huebner ascribed it<sup>33</sup> to Castle Hill, Lancaster.

Watkin in 1876<sup>34</sup> followed Gregson and Whitaker in general, but added one or two embellishments of his own, such as the opinion that the heads were "apparently of statues", which they clearly are not. He did, however, add one new and very interesting fact.

In 1872, another head, carved in stone and apparently of Jupiter Ammon, was found at the same spot, and is now in the possession of my friend, T. H. Dalzell, Esq., Mawdale Villa, Lancaster.

<sup>30</sup> Whitaker, 1823: 215.

<sup>31</sup> RIB 2270.

<sup>32</sup> Clark, 1811: 122.

<sup>33</sup> CIL vii, 1174.

<sup>34</sup> Watkin, 1876: 107-108.

By 1883, Watkin had new information on this eighth sculpture.<sup>35</sup>

In 1872, another human head, at first supposed to be Roman, and of Jupiter Ammon, was found close to the same spot. From a drawing sent to me, I however concluded it was a mediaeval corbel, but loth to be satisfied simply with my own opinion, I sent the drawing to Mr C. Roach-Smith, who confirmed my views in every point. The head is now preserved at Clifton Hall, by Mr Dalzell.

A footnote to the 1876 article tells us that this Clifton Hall was near Workington. It would, of course, be extremely interesting to see this head. The improbability of a mediaeval corbel turning up in a rural field which had previously yielded seven Roman sculptures is considerable.

Attempts to identify the find-spots of these stones are difficult. The general area of "Borough" is presumably to be equated with Burrow, which name is associated with at least ten features on the current Ordnance Survey 1 : 25,000 map.<sup>36</sup> Most of these are in Scotforth, rather than Ashton-with-Stodday, and indeed only a very small portion of the township of Ashton lay to the east of the canal. This land was certainly in the possession of the Duke of Hamilton in 1833,<sup>37</sup> but the only field-name available for part of it is Horse Pasture. However, Gregson's points of "nearly one mile north-east from Ashton-hall" and "two or three hundred yards to the eastward of the highway from Lancaster to Cockerham" coincide in the same area, and it seems a very reasonable surmise that the find of 1794 was made about SD 473584. At least one of the milestones of 1811 and 1834 probably came from the small field named "Milestone Parrock" in the Tithe Commutation Award for Scotforth.<sup>38</sup> This is about SD 478582.

<sup>35</sup> Watkin, 1883: 180.

<sup>36</sup> SD 4757 and SD 4758.

<sup>37</sup> LRO AT/2 and DRB/1/9.

<sup>38</sup> LRO DRB/1/173.

Some confirmation for these ideas is found in two further facts. First there is little doubt that the Roman road south from the fort at Lancaster ran in the area of Burrow.<sup>39</sup> Its exact line has not been determined, but aerial observation by Mr G. M. Leather has shown the probable line. This is usefully supported by the presence of part of a Roman milestone still in or near its original position near Forton Hall (SD 478504)<sup>40</sup> Another interesting point is provided by the existence of two earthworks on Burrow Heights, of which the one on the north slopes has the regularity of a Roman work.

The sculptures themselves are all carved from the same yellowish, rather coarse-grained sandstone, and as Whitaker puts it, "will be better described by the pencil and graver than by the pen". If we substitute "camera" for "pencil and graver", this remains true today. The illustrations (Plates III-V) have been lettered a-g, and there is little which can be said by way of description which adds significantly to what can be seen from the photographs. The four heads and the small figure are all intended to be seen from the front only, while the two animals are in the round. All the heads are approximately two feet high from the bottom of the base. The small figure now stands to approximately the same height, but the engravings of Whitaker and Gregson show a base which does not survive.

The only close published parallel from Britain for the heads seems to be that from Towcester, Northamptonshire, in the British Museum.<sup>41</sup> The associations of this, as Toynbee has shown in discussing a fragmentary

<sup>39</sup> Margary, 1967: 376.

<sup>40</sup> Edwards, 1970: 106-107.

<sup>41</sup> Brailsford, 1951: 54, IV, b. 1.

<sup>42</sup> Toynbee, 1955: 13-15. See also Toynbee, 1964: 112 for a full discussion of the Towcester and Colchester heads with references to continental parallels.



head from Colchester,<sup>42</sup> are funerary. So, too, are the associations of Roman sculptured lions.<sup>43</sup>

It seems likely, therefore, that the whole group of sculptures represents a fair proportion of the statuary from a mausoleum, and the position of the find, near to the line of the main road leading south from the fort accords well with this suggestion.<sup>44</sup> Assuming, therefore, that the group represents four personifications (e.g., winds,<sup>45</sup> seasons) from the corners of a structure similar to that at Shorden Brae, Northumberland,<sup>46</sup> and that the lions derive, like the lion and stag groups from the same site, from the corners of the *temenos* wall, we are left only with the small (?female) figure. This, Professor Toynbee suggests,<sup>47</sup> may well represent the deceased, and the broken object held in the hands a scroll, either the will or the scroll of destiny. Presumably the smaller scale of the figure means that it was situated closer to the ground, possibly in a niche in the central structure.

If this interpretation of this group is correct, the mausoleum takes its place, along with the altar to *Ialonus* mentioned at the beginning of this paper, its dedicatory's presumed villa-like establishment, and the seemingly rather grandiose tomb of Pusinnus, as evidence of some considerable prosperity in the 3rd-century *Contrebis*.

<sup>43</sup> Gillam and Daniels, 1961: 55 with references.

<sup>44</sup> This suggestion of a group of statuary from a mausoleum was originally made to me by Mrs E. Tyson, F.M.A., Curator of Lancaster City Museums, who was also responsible for re-assembling the collection from its dispersal in various parts of the Museum.

<sup>45</sup> Pobé and Roubier, 1961: 61-62, pls. 104-106.

<sup>46</sup> Gillam and Daniels, 1961.

<sup>47</sup> *In litt.*

## References.

- BIRLEY, 1947. E. B. Birley, "The Roman site at Burrow in Lonsdale", CW2 xlvi 126-156.
- BIRLEY, 1952. E. B. Birley, "The Roman fort and settlement at Old Carlisle", CW2 li 16-39.
- BRAILS福德, 1951. British Museum. *Antiquities of Roman Britain*.
- CLARK, 1807, 1811. *An historical and descriptive account of the town of Lancaster . . .*
- EDWARDS, 1970. B. J. N. Edwards, "Archaeological Notes, Prehistoric and Roman", HSLC 121 (1970) 99-108.
- GILLAM and DANIELS, 1961. J. P. Gillam and C. M. Daniels, "The Roman Mausoleum on Shorden Brae, Beaufront, Corbridge, Northumberland", AA4 39 37-61.
- GREGSON, 1817, 1869. M. Gregson, *Portfolio of Fragments relative to the history . . . of the county . . . of Lancaster*.
- MARGARY, 1967. I. D. Margary, *Roman Roads in Britain* (revised edition).
- POBÉ and ROUBIER, 1961. M. Pobé and J. Roubier, *Art in Roman Gaul*.
- RICHMOND, 1954. I. A. Richmond, "Excavations on the site of the Roman fort at Lancaster, 1950", HSLC 105 (1954) 1-24.
- ROGAN and BIRLEY, 1956. J. Rogan and E. B. Birley, "Thomas Machell, the Antiquary", CW2 lv 132-153.
- TOYNBEE, 1955. J. M. C. Toynbee, "Some Notes on Roman Art at Colchester", TEAS2 25, part 1, 9-23.
- TOYNBEE, 1964. J. M. C. Toynbee, *Art in Britain under the Romans*.
- WATKIN, 1876. W. T. Watkin, "Roman Lancaster", LCAS 28 (1876) 95-120.
- WATKIN, 1882. W. T. Watkin, "Roman inscriptions discovered in Britain in 1881, with notes on another found at Binchester", *Arch. J.* 39 (1882) 355-371.
- WATKIN, 1883. W. T. Watkin, *Roman Lancashire* (Liverpool).
- WEST, 1778. T. West, *A guide to the Lakes in Cumberland, Westmorland and Lancashire* (Kendal).
- WEST, 1779. [T.] West, "Antiquities discovered in Lancaster, 1776. By Mr West, author of the "Antiquities of Furness". Communicated by Mr Lort." *Arch.* 5 (1779) 98-100.
- WHITAKER, 1823. T. D. Whitaker, *A History of Richmondshire . . .*

### Abbreviations.

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <i>Arch.</i>    | Archaeologia.  |
| <i>Arch. J.</i> | Archaeological Journal.  |
| CIL             | Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum.  |
| CMR             | Colchester Museum Report.  |
| EE              | Ephemeris Epigraphica.   |
| HSLC            | Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire.                     |
| JRS             | Journal of Roman Studies.  |
| LCAS            | Transactions of the Antiquarian Society of Lancashire and Cheshire.                  |
| LRO             | Lancashire Record Office.  |
| RIB             | R. G. Collingwood and R. P. Wright, <i>The Roman Inscriptions of Britain</i> , 1965. |
| TEAS2           | Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society, New Series.                        |