

## NOTES.

---

1. *Excavations at Burrow in Lonsdale.* By T. W. POTTER.

In 1973, Countess Temple of Stowe decided to build a bungalow in the grounds of Burrow Hall. The site lay to the north-east of the Roman Fort (*cf.* E. J. W. Hildyard in CW2 liv (1954) 66-101) in the area some 40 m. to the east of the point where North and Hildyard had found a road surface and a ditch (CW2 xlvi (1948) 29-31; SD 61737615). The area requiring investigation was thoroughly machine-trenched by the writer on behalf of the Department of the Environment in January 1974. No archaeological features or deposits were found. The boulder clay and alluvium which forms the subsoil in this area was covered with a thin layer of hillwash, which yielded two abraded pieces of 2nd century samian and a very worn scrap of Roman coarse ware. Three dressed masonry fragments were also found, but there were no other objects of obvious antiquity. Clearly, this area lay beyond the limits of the *vicus*.

2. *A Roman Site at Hincaster, Westmorland.* By T. W. POTTER.

The place-name "Hincaster", today a small village 5 miles south of Kendal, has given rise to much speculation that there may have been a Roman fort at or near the modern village. The obvious situation for such a fort is on the extensive area of level ground to the south of the modern village, near Hincaster House. But, as historians have repeatedly noted (e.g. R. S. Ferguson, *History of Westmorland* (1894) 34-35), no conclusive evidence for Roman occupation has ever been found in the vicinity of Hincaster.

It was due to the vigilance of workmen constructing the new motorway north-east of Hincaster that new evidence has come to light. A collection of Roman pottery, including a high proportion of second century samian, was found in topsoil dumps derived from the motorway construction in the area north-east of Tunnel Hill. The find was promptly reported to Mr Tony Turner of the Kendal Museum. Subsequently Mr Marsh located further sherds, including a fragment of samian, on the slopes of the motorway cutting at SD 512854, 750 m. north of Hincaster village.

The quality and quantity of the finds is such that they are unlikely to derive from a Romano-British homestead; a military context is much more probable. However, a careful search of the area, which is covered entirely by pasture, failed to reveal any obvious trace of appropriate earthworks. Nor did aerial photography reveal any trace of a fort. This could have been obliterated by medieval agriculture, evidence for which is ubiquitous in this area, but no Roman pottery could be found on the hills to the west of the motorway cutting. Thus, in the absence of other evidence, it should probably be assumed that the site lay in the trough of low ground between Tunnel Hill and Sellet Hill. This represents the most obvious line for a north-south communication route, linking Lancaster with Watercrock, the existence of which is presumed although not proven (cf. D. C. A. Shotton, *Romans in Lancashire* (1973) 63). Moreover, it is a perfectly feasible notion that it was thought necessary to found a small fort or fortlet in what appears to have been a fairly densely settled region in pre-Roman times, as Dr Sturdy's excavations at Levens Park have shown.

Unfortunately the samian ware (*vide infra*) recovered from the surface does not form in chronological terms a coherent group. The sherds range in date from the reign of Trajan to c. A.D. 200. Thus, if they do derive from a military context, then it is probable that it was occupied over a relatively long period of time.

### THE SAMIAN WARE.

By FELICITY WILD.

The group comprises twelve sherds, spanning the second century A.D. in date. The earliest sherds are in the fabric of Les Martres-de-Veyre, dating to the first quarter of the second century. There is no South Gaulish ware present. The latest sherd, a fragment of barbotine-decorated mortarium in East Gaulish fabric, dates to the very end of the second century, or possibly to the early years of the third century. The group, however, is probably too small to be regarded as truly representative in assessing the dates of occupation of the site.

1. Form 15/17, Central Gaulish, in the fabric of Les Martres-de-Veyre. Trajanic or Hadrianic.
2. Form 37 rim, Central Gaulish, in the fabric of Les Martres-de-Veyre. c. A.D. 100-125.
3. Form 18/31, probably Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or early Antonine.

4. Form 18R or 18/31R, Central Gaulish, probably in the fabric of Les Martres-de-Veyre. Trajanic to early Antonine.
5. Form 18/31R, Central Gaulish, with the fabric slightly burnt. Hadrianic or early Antonine.
6. Form 33, Central Gaulish. Antonine.
7. Form 38, Central Gaulish. Antonine.
- 8, 9. Form 31, Central Gaulish. Two fragments, from different bowls, both Antonine, and probably from the second half of the second century A.D.
10. Form 37, Central Gaulish, showing scroll decoration with the edge of a leaf and figure type (O.13). The type and similar scrolls were used by SACER and later by CINNAMVS and his associates. *c.* A.D. 130-175.
11. Form 37, Central Gaulish, showing the lower edge of panel decoration. The bead rows end in small circles, and there is a roped ornament and a circle and astragalus beneath the types in the panels. All these decorative motifs were used by the potter CINNAMVS (*c.f.* CGP, pl. 158, 22). *c.* A.D. 150-175.
12. Form 43, East Gaulish. Fragment of vertically downturned flange from a samian mortarium, decorated with leaves *en barbotine*. A close parallel is illustrated by Oswald and Pryce (*O & P*, pl. LXXIII, 8) from Neiderbieber, where it dates to the end of the second century A.D.

*Abbreviations.*

- O. F. Oswald, *Index of Figure Types on Terra Sigillata*.  
 O & P F. Oswald and T. Davies Pryce, *An Introduction to the study of Terra Sigillata*.  
 CGP J. A. Stanfield and Grace Simpson, *Central Gaulish Potters*.

3. *James Thompson*. By A. HARRIS.

The business activities of James Thompson (1794-1851), the first of his name to lease coal and lime works from the earls of Carlisle in east Cumberland and the founder of the Thompson fortunes in the nineteenth century, are mentioned in CW2 lxxii 227 ff. and lxxiv 118 ff. Among pictures of the family in the possession of Mr and Mrs C. R. Lacy Thompson, of Walton-on-Thames, is a portrait of James. The artist is unknown, but

a companion (and stylistically similar) portrait of Maria, James' wife, is signed "Reay" and dated 1847.

The third child of Thomas and Isabella Thompson, of Farlam Hall, James entered the service of the earls of Carlisle in 1808 by way of the colliery office at Kirkhouse, where he became assistant to Thomas Lawson, the mineral agent for the Cumberland estates. On Lawson's retirement in 1819, Thompson became agent and thereafter, until 1838, he was committed to an almost ceaseless round of activities on behalf of his employer. Surviving records show him travelling constantly, to Brampton, Carlisle, Newcastle, Penrith and elsewhere, and busily engaged in opening out new workings and developing markets for coal and lime. During the 1820s and 1830s he became deeply involved in plans for new lines of communication in east Cumberland. A brief note links his name in 1819 with an unfulfilled scheme (for which Thomas Telford made a survey) to join Brampton and Carlisle by canal (C. 604, 1820). Not long afterwards he was working on extensions to the Tindale Fell waggonway. Thompson's railway interests were never purely parochial however. He was for many years a director of the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway Company and as the local railway network developed he sought to exploit its potential to his own ends. His letters reveal a shrewd, thrusting and at times obstinate personality. His technical reports, a model of their kind, show a sound knowledge of geology and a keen eye for significant detail. His neatly executed drawings, of which several survive in the offices of the Old Brewery in Brampton, may well reflect skills that were developed during a long apprenticeship at Kirkhouse. By the mid 1820s, Thompson's success as agent was assured. "I have never seen any coal works apparently better conducted than those under his care," George Stephenson wrote in 1824 (C. 590/15).

Thompson's health declined after 1838, when he became lessee of Carlisle's mines and limeworks. "He has suffered considerably in health, in consequence of anxiety" [it was noted in 1838] "& he suffers much from violent spasms in his face which alters his appearance a good deal" (C. 591/55). A history of the family compiled in 1865 records that Thompson "was attacked by paralysis" in 1847, recovered partially, and was then "laid prostrate" by a second attack. A visitor found him in 1849 without the use of his right arm, but still "alive to what he is about" (C. 591/83). He became thereafter increasingly "unfit for continuous application to business" (C. 591/94) and died 14 July 1851. He is buried at Farlam. The curiously stiff attitude of the sitter in the portrait may owe something to

Thompson's afflictions during the 1840s. By his will Thompson left his entire estate to his wife, who subsequently carried on the family business as Maria Thompson and Sons. The will is in the Borthwick Institute of Historical Research, York, 4 August 1851.

I am indebted to Mr and Mrs C. R. Lacy Thompson for permission to secure a photograph of Thompson's portrait and to inspect various documents in their possession. The staff of Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal, furnished helpful information about the picture. The references in the text are to papers among the Howard of Naworth MSS. at the University of Durham.

4. *The Lowther Mausoleum.* By B. L. THOMPSON.

During the Society's Spring Walk at Lowther, 18 May 1974, considerable interest was shown in the mausoleum near the entrance to the churchyard. Several members enquired as to the identity of the lone figure seated therein. I ventured to suggest that it was our first President, William, second Earl of Lonsdale (born 1787, died 1872) and Mr Derek Pattinson, Lord Lonsdale's Agent, has kindly confirmed that this is so. See CW<sub>2</sub> lxvi (frontispiece).

According to Pevsner the sculpture is by E. B. Stephens, 1863, so it was done three years before the Earl became President of the Society and nine years before he died.



JAMES THOMPSON.

*Photo: Wey Studio*