

escaped record until now, and no other finds of Roman date have been made in this neighbourhood north of the Trent. The only known Roman road in the near vicinity, running from Little Chester almost to the bank of the Trent, passes the Sawley site about half a mile to the north-east. Discovery of the earthwork adds a monument of considerable interest to Derbyshire's visible antiquities, even before excavation enables us to place it in its appropriate historical context.

A PIG OF LEAD FROM BROOMFLEET, EAST YORKSHIRE

By J. E. BARTLETT

A PIG of lead, with lettering moulded in relief, was found in 1967 in a quarry dug for the Yorkshire Ouse and Hull River Authority near Weighton Lock on the north bank of the Humber (SE 874257). Its dimensions were: face $17\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$ in., base $23\frac{1}{4} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$ in., height $4\frac{1}{2}$ in., and weight 175 lb. The pig was sold by the workmen on the site and recovered three weeks later by Hull Museum from a scrap metal merchant. It has since been presented to the Museum by the owner of the land, Mr. F. D. Dennis. It reads SOCIOR LVT BR EX ARG. Socior(um) Lut(udarensium) Br(itannicum) ex arg(entariis), "product of the Lutudarensian partners: British lead from the lead-silver works".

A pig, with the same legend, was found in 1966 at Churchover, Warwickshire (*J.R.S.*, LVII (1967), 206) and another, now lost, is recorded from Belby, near Howden (*J.R.S.*, XXXI (1941), 146).

Due to the circumstances of the discovery it was not possible to establish either the depth at which the pig was found or whether it was directly associated with Romano-British pottery and other material. Very large quantities of samian pottery, colour-coated wares, mortaria and Dales wares, as well as fragments of glass, querns and building stone, were found by the Museum in the sides of the quarry and on the adjacent dumps. No structures, other than ditches and rubbish pits, have yet been identified, but it is clear from the pottery that occupation of the site was extensive and lasted from A.D. *c.* 150 to *c.* 370.

Eleven Roman pigs of lead have now been recorded from north Humber-side and nine of these, with the abbreviation LVT, are certainly products of the Derbyshire lead-mining region. Six¹ were found buried in a group outside the north walls of Roman Brough on Humber; one comes from South Cave, 3 miles to the north; one from Ellerker, 2 miles to the north; one from Broomfleet, 4 miles to the west, and one from Belby, $10\frac{1}{2}$ miles

¹ P. Corder records a further pig found at Brough in the 18th century (*Jnl. Brit. Arch. Soc.*, 3rd series, II, 1942).

to the west. How is it that eleven pigs of lead all probably from Derbyshire were lost or buried in five separate caches, within a few miles of each other, near the north bank of the Humber? This is an intriguing problem to which, in the absence of dating evidence for any of the pigs, we have as yet no convincing answer. It seems probable that lead from the Roman mining region in Derbyshire was normally conveyed by water as far as the Humber and, after transshipment at Brough, may have been either exported to the continent or shipped by the east coast route to northern Britain. The pigs which have been found represent lead which was never used and which, it is likely, never reached the destination to which it was consigned. Were all these pigs the proceeds of a single great lead robbery? Alternatively, we may have to deal with evidence of prolonged but persistently ill-fated pilfering.