A NOTE ON LONG MEG, SALKELD

By John H. Harvey

Subsequent to the publication of the report on the Institute's Meeting at Carlisle, in Arch. J. CXV, we have received the following note from Mr. J. H. Harvey. He recorded the cup-and-ring markings of Long Meg under unusually favourable conditions, and we are grateful to him for sending us his observations.

He writes 'Twenty years ago I happened to visit Long Meg at a most favourable moment when lighting on the surface of the stone showed up the markings very clearly. This was on 13th June, 1940. I traced round all the visible markings with chalk at once, and made an elevation on squared paper with the markings shown, on a scale of 1 in. to the foot.'

So far as I could discover in the literature then published, the three marks had not been correctly described, and this seems still to be the position. The uppermost has a central cup, three concentric circles, the upper quadrant of a fourth, and a slanting line running out from '9 o'clock' towards '10 o'clock', tangential to the middle one of the three complete circles. The second mark consists not of circles at all, but of a continuous spiral running anticlockwise from a central cup and forming four complete turns. The lowest marking has no central cup, but consists of two small concentric circles, with the upper two-thirds of two outer circles.

The 'central cup' of the spiral is a very slight cup indeed; in the case of the broken circles of the upper and lower markings, there was no sign at all of any continuation, though it is of course possible that weathering was responsible. I ought to mention that the light shifted so as to obscure the markings almost at once; it was only the fortunate chance of arriving at exactly the right moment, and having a piece of chalk, that enabled a complete record to be made'.

Fig. 1. 'Long Meg', near Little Salkeld, Cumberland.
Elevation of eastern face