

NOTES.

1.—AN EARTHWORK AT SMALESMOUTH, NORTHUMBERLAND.

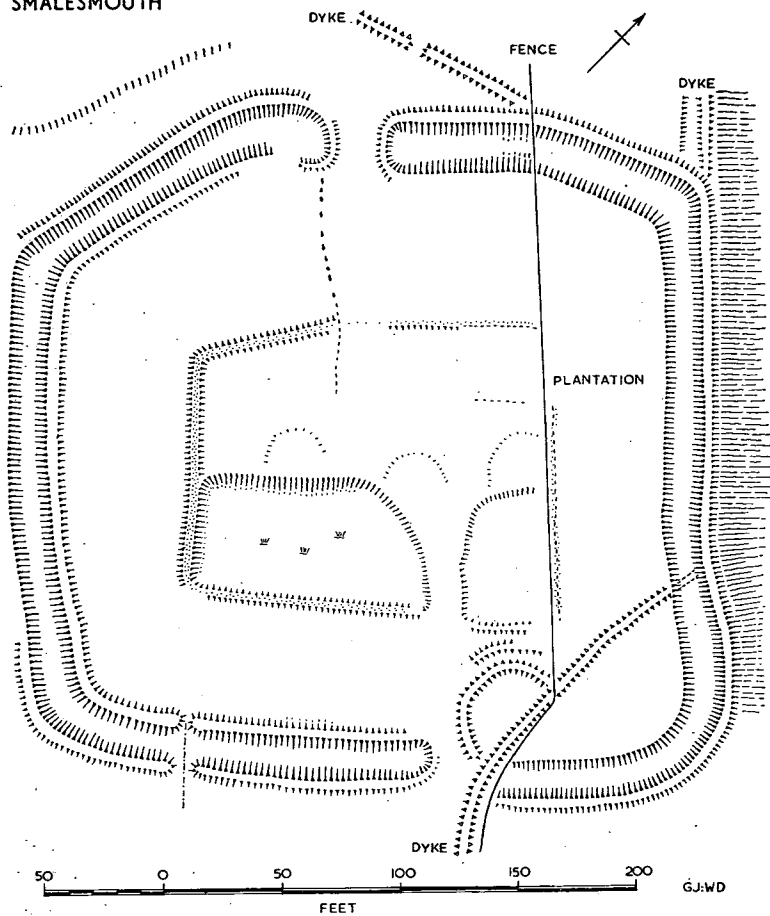
The sub-rectangular shaped earthwork, lying at 500 feet O.D. above the haughs at Smalesmouth (Y/734855), was left unclassified in the list of rectilinear native settlements given in *Arch. Ael.*, ser. 4, vol. XXXVIII (p. 36 no. 57 and fig. 9). A subsequent resurvey of the site, made at a time when the overgrowth was at a minimum, shows that it is now a possible candidate for inclusion in the list of type A rectilinear sites, and consequently could have been occupied at some stage during the Roman period.

Whatever may be the purpose and sequence of the enclosing ditch and mounds, the internal features are reminiscent of the layout of such sites. In this instance they consist of a rectangular shaped area enclosed by the remains of what seems to have been originally a substantial stone wall, the entrance into which has been in the south-east. An overgrown, stone surfaced causeway can be traced between the two flanking depressions or yards, that to the west being particularly prominent. Although no stone circular huts are now visible in the rear portion of this enclosure, there are three slightly hollowed areas which could be the sites of such.

These internal features have been crossed by a track leading between the two entrances through the ditched enclosure. This track could be comparatively late in date, since there is a roughly corresponding break through the late field dyke in the north. Slight remains of a stone wall running from the west side of the northernmost entrance again appear to be later than the internal features.

A stone enclosure at the entrance in the south-east, once

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SMALESMOUTH



EARTHWORK AT SMALESMOUTH, NORTHUMBERLAND.

put out as a possible guardchamber,¹ is clearly later than the ditch, and appears to have been constructed against the late field dyke. It need be no more than the remains of an old lambing pen or the like.

The general siting of the earthwork is similar to that of other settlements of this order in North Tynedale; despite the slope down to the river on the north-east it does not lie in a position of strong natural defence.

It is impossible to be certain of the precise relationship between the ditch and the internal features. At Quarry House, Throckrington, there is a somewhat similar situation, but there the divorce between the two is by no means so complete.² There is no parallel known on this type of site for two entrances through the perimeter, if indeed they are both original, or for the "return" of the mounds at these points. The latter feature does occur however in a more prominent form on some medieval earthworks (see Article IV).

G. JOBEY.

2.—A FOOD VESSEL BURIAL AT WEST LILBURN.

I. THE DISCOVERY.

The grave was discovered during ploughing in May 1954 by Mr. John Robertson of Lilburn Tower Farm, West Lilburn, Northumberland. It lay in the field immediately to the west of the farmhouse of Lilburn Tower Farm, on a shoulder of a ridge, looking across low ground to the south (O.S.6" (1925), XXI NE., 53° 31' 0" N., 1° 58' 14" W.). A large stone slab exposed by the plough was removed and found to be the cover of a cist of horizontal dimensions 2' 9" by 2' 5" and approximately 2' 5" in depth. It was lined with four roughly rectangular slabs of the local red sandstone.

¹ MacLauchlan, *Additional Notes on Camps in Northumberland*, p. 69.

² *A.A.*, XXXVIII, p. 4.

The cover, a heavy slab of yellow sandstone, rather irregular in shape, was not a close fit, and the cist was practically full of soil when discovered.

The contents were passed through a riddle. Dispersed throughout were small fragments of burnt bone, charcoal and pottery. The floor of the cist was sandy.

A day or two later Mr. Robertson made a further discovery. Thinking that there might be other cists in the neighbourhood he took soundings along the ridge with a pick. No cover stone was found, but at a point forty-five yards along the ridge from the cist to the east, the point of the pick brought up soil blackened as though with charcoal at a depth of about eighteen inches. The area was then systematically cleared and the soil riddled. There were no signs of any cist wall, but in an area of approximately the same dimensions as the neighbouring cist were found numerous fragments of pottery and charcoal, some burnt pieces of hazel shell, and a number of flints. At various times after the discovery Mr. Robertson picked up surface flints in the field where the cist was found.

E. F. COLLINGWOOD.

II. THE FINDS.

a. Food Vessel from Cist.

The seventy-six fragments of pottery from the cist belong to a single Food Vessel (fig. 1). The neck of the vessel is short and slightly concave. It stands 13.7 cms. high and is 16.8 cms. in diameter at the lips. Surfaces are grey in colour and the core, which contains large grits, is brick red. Decoration has been applied with a whipped cord and by light oblique stabbing with a blunt rounded point, as illustrated. The small impressions on the inside of the lip have been made with a finer cord. Such a combination in design occurs on a number of Food Vessels from a wide area,¹ but the chief interest in this instance lies in the closely comparable vessel

¹ Abercromby, *Bronze Age Pottery*, I, p. 132, and plate XLVI 341.

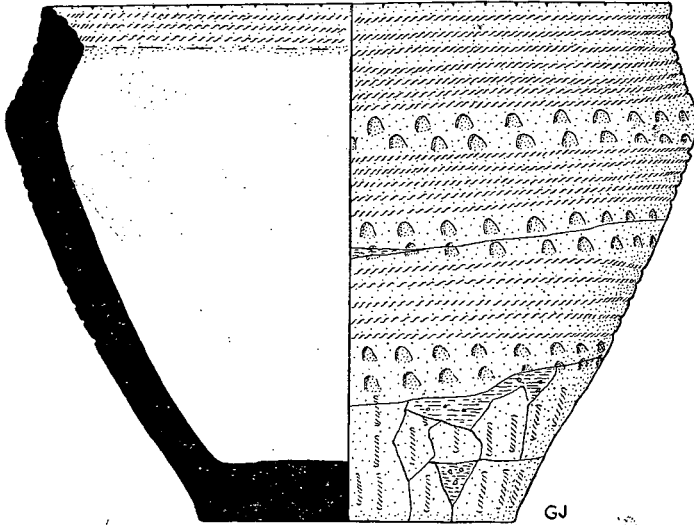


FIG. 1. FOOD VESSEL, WEST LILBURN. ($\frac{1}{2}$).

found at Beanley West Farm,² only five and a half miles to the south-east.

The number of Food Vessels with cremations in cists recorded in the county is only nine, from a total of seventy-eight ascertainable Food Vessels of normal size; but detailed records are lacking in many instances.³

b. The pottery from the cleared area beyond the cist consists of the following.

1. Sixteen small fragments of a Beaker, of which it has been possible to reconstruct no more than the lower part of a rather bulbous body (fig. 2, no. 1). The surfaces of the vessel are brown in colour and the core grey. Decoration is crude and consists of a series of vertical chevrons scored rather irregularly by a blunt point. This seems to have given

² *Alnwick Castle Museum Catalogue*, 10, pl. XIVa, 2; no. 9.

³ Mr. J. Tait has compiled the following figures: 9 with cremations in cists, 21 with inhumations in cists, 25 in cists with no remains recorded, 23 surface or no record. Cf., for example, Childe, *Scotland Before the Scots*, p. 105,

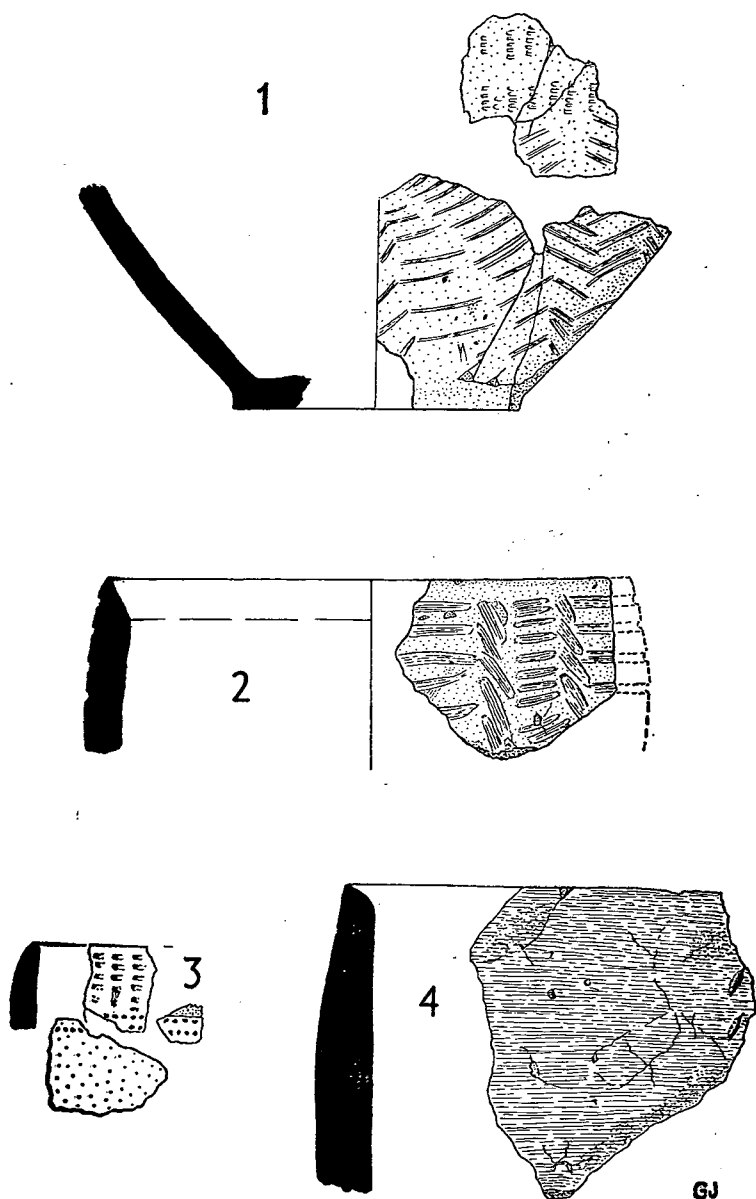


FIG 2. POTTERY, WEST LILBURN. (4).

way to a series of vertical notched lines at some stage higher up the body. There does not appear to be any part of the neck present, but the fragments are too small to be certain.

2. One rim fragment from a Food Vessel of Childe's type A with a probable diameter of 14 cms. at the lips (fig. 2, no. 2). This fragment has been heavily decorated with deep scorings as illustrated.

3. A few fragments from an Incense Cup in self coloured pink fabric decorated with vertical and horizontal lines of deep impressions made with a toothed comb. The vertical stabbing has been made obliquely to the surface of the pot, presumably in a right handed action.

4. A single, rim sherd of coarse undecorated pottery, possibly part of a Cinerary Urn. The surfaces are buff in colour and the core which contains large grits is dark grey. In texture this fragment is also similar to some of the Iron Age pottery of the area.

c. The Flints.

The majority are small flakes from working. The only tools, all surface finds, are four scrapers as illustrated (fig. 3, nos. 1-4) and one very thin and irregular flake with some

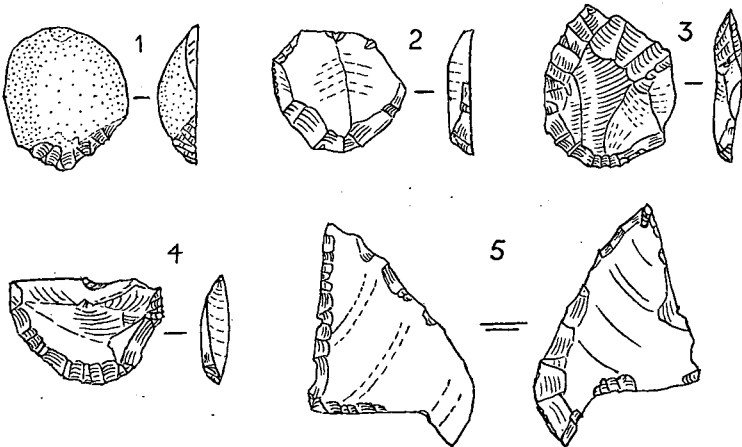


FIG. 3. FLINTS, WEST LILBURN. (3).

pressure trimming (no. 5). The latter has broken in such a fashion as to give a general but no more than superficial resemblance in shape to a single barbed arrow head.

In the absence of further information the nature of the cleared area must remain uncertain. These latest finds once again emphasize the importance of the Till valley and the attractive and well drained hills of the Fell Sandstone series in early settlement. In particular, the enclave formed by the Till between Wooler Water and Lilburn Burn has produced an amount of material probably in excess of that which could be expected normally, even as a result of interested and observant landowners and farmers. The area might well repay a detailed ground survey.

It is perhaps worth noting that the site of these recent finds is but a very short distance removed from that of the interesting multiple cremation grave containing an inscribed stone, discovered in 1883.⁴ From the large collection of inscribed stones in the county this stone is listed as one of two which show spiral ornament.⁵ The possibility of conventionalized representation of human form or "eye-motif" on one of the faces of the stone can now be seen to better advantage in the new Museum of Antiquities.

G. JOBEY.

3.—THREE POLISHED STONE AXE-HEADS FROM NORTHUMBERLAND.

Three additional polished stone axe-heads have been noted recently in the county of Northumberland (fig. 1, nos. 1, 2, 3).

The first, now housed in Branton County Primary School, was found as long ago as 1951 in the back garden of the third cottage from the east end of the row known as Brandon Farm Cottages, in the parish of Brandon, some three hundred

⁴ *A.A.*², X, 220-222.

⁵ MacWhite, *Royal Soc. Ant. Ireland*, LXXVI (1946), p. 79.

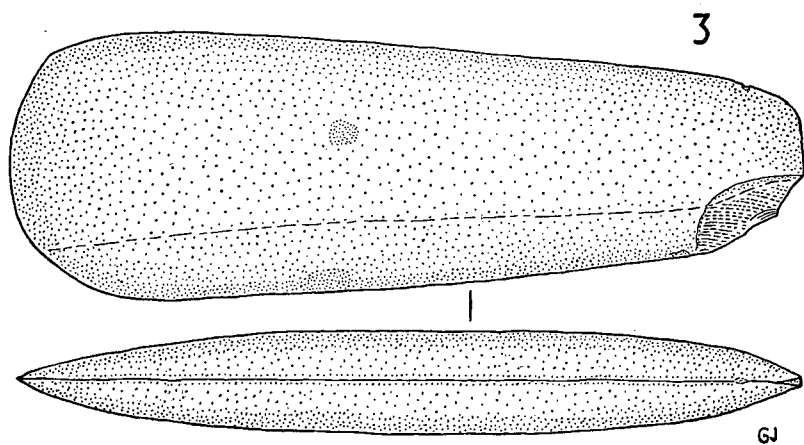
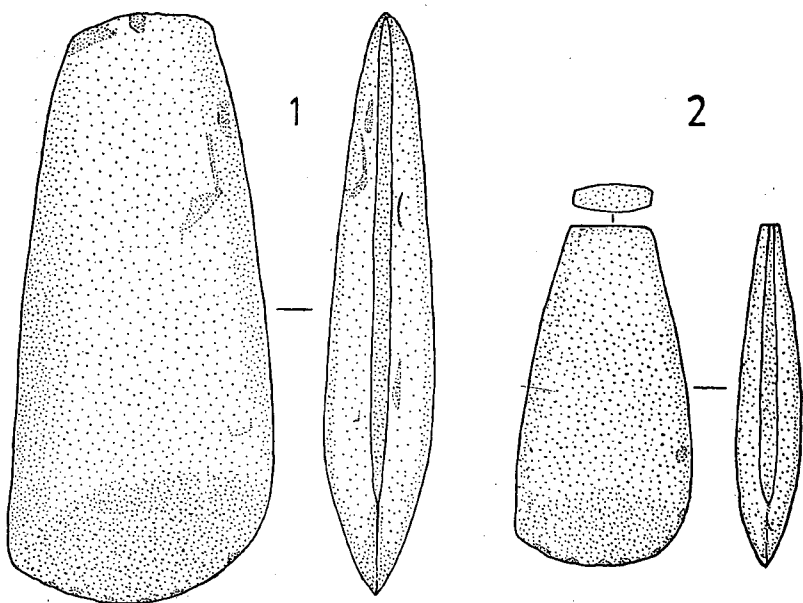


FIG. 1. AXE-HEADS. ($\frac{1}{2}$).

yards north of the present course of the River Breamish (NU/042172). Macroscopic examination suggests that it is of Great Langdale origin¹ and it possesses the squared sides often found with axes of this group.² There is a distinct droop in the cutting edge. Its length is 15.5 cms.

The present length of the second axe-head is only 9 cms. The butt-end has been broken in antiquity, but otherwise it possesses the same characteristics as the first and possibly belongs to the same group. It was found by Mr. W. Sampson whilst double digging an allotment garden at Loansdean, Morpeth, about one hundred yards to the east of the present police headquarters building, which is situated on the higher ground a half mile to the south of the River Wansbeck (NZ/200848). The axe-head has been donated to the Museum of Antiquities, Newcastle upon Tyne (1960.7).

The third specimen was retrieved through the observance of our member Mr. Thomas Hepple. It was turned up by a mechanical excavator engaged in the process of laying a new water main, one quarter of a mile to the east of Westwood Cottages, Thorngrafton, by the side of the road. The site lies about half a mile north of the River South Tyne at Bardon Mill (NY/778653). The axe-head is 21 cms. in length. Although the polished surface is covered with a thick crust, a fracture can be seen to run the whole length of the implement. A recent break at the butt-end shows a stone very similar to the previous specimens, though the sides are fairly sharp and the only squaring is that on the butt-end. Mr. R. W. Harding of Westend Town has presented the find to the Museum of Antiquities (1960.39).

Attention has already been drawn to the apparent coastal and riverine distribution of the finished products of the type VI Langdale axe-heads.³ No associated finds were recorded in the above instances.

G. JOBEY.

¹ *Trans. C. & W. A. & A. Soc.*, n.s. L, 1ff. *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, XVII (1951), 115-120.

² S. Piggott, *Neolithic Cultures*, p. 295.

³ *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, XVII (1951), p. 118.

4.—THE TOWN DITCH OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

“Unfortunately early maps of Newcastle give very little information regarding the *King's Dykes*.” So wrote Mr. Parker Brewis in his article on “The West Walls of Newcastle upon Tyne between Durham and Ever Towers”.¹ They apparently lay along the foot of the town wall, sometimes “wet” as in the Newgate area, but more often “dry” from the natural slope of the ground. Brand states that the surviving evidence of his day would suggest a breadth of 22 yards and Mr. Brewis refers to a depth of 15 feet. Evidence as to the date of construction of the ditch in the West Walls section is given by the licence granted by Edward II in June 1312 to the Black Friars to have a drawbridge 5 feet in width to give them access across the “new fosse” to their garden, on condition it was dismantled in time of emergency.² Similarly the inquiry of December 1318 into the complaint of the bishop of Carlisle that his residence outside the North Gate of Newcastle was demolished for the greater safety of the town and that subsequently a further acre had been appropriated for the digging of a ditch suggests an extension of the work.³ The assumption, however, has been that the complete town wall was already in existence.

There is ample evidence that Newgate and the stretch of wall adjoining to the south-west had been built before 1285, roughly thirty years before its ditch came into existence. A royal order of 14 August 1311 indicates the almost simultaneous construction of wall and ditch on the section from the mill belonging to the hospital of St. Mary, Westgate, southwards to the river.⁴ On the east there is a reference to

¹ *Archæologia Aeliana* 4th Series XI (1934), 11.

² *Calendar of Patent Rolls 1307-13*, p. 461.

³ *Calendar of Inquisitions Miscellaneous II*, 92-93; *Calendar of Close Rolls 1318-23*, p. 54.

⁴ *Cal. Close Rolls 1307-13*, p. 369.

“the town pele tower near the Austin Friars in Newcastle” in 1298, and a letter of 1300 shows that the tower and wall encroaching on the precincts of the White Friars at Wallknoll were already in contemplation.⁵ The reason for such speculation as to the date of completion of the town wall and ditch is the discovery in the Public Record Office, London, of a petition from the burgesses of Newcastle asking for the remission of the annual town rent in view of expenses incurred in the defence of their town. The king was accordingly pleased on 12 June 1317 to put this demand in abeyance as the burgesses had claimed to have expended £200 “in divers works to enclose the town for its protection” and on 26 November he pardoned the £200 entirely.⁶ A translation of this petition runs as follows:

“To our lord the king and his council the people of the commonalty of Newcastle upon Tyne show that whereas they have kept the said town at their own expense since the beginning of the war with Scotland [1296] until now, and by divers taxes imposed among themselves they have enclosed a great part of the same town with a wall and all the town with a ditch at their own expense; and those of the town who have lands outside are so clearly ruined by the enemy that they can have no profit, and those who are merchants of the town have so given themselves to the defence of the town that they cannot trade for that reason and also the goods they have loaded have been seized and stolen at sea by the enemy and by Flemings so that nothing remains to them; and those who are tradesmen of the town find no work because the country is destroyed round about and their possessions have been spent in defence of the town; for which reasons the commonalty is unable to sustain and bear the said responsibility without royal aid, and prays his lordship to have regard to their plight and order accordingly so that they can maintain and preserve the said defence as heretofore.”

To this is added an endorsement by the king in Council to the effect that they may have pardon for two years of the

⁵ *Cal. Inq. Misc. I*, 632; Public Record Office, London, Ancient Petition 13455, cf. *Cal. Pat. Rolls 1301-7*, p. 533.

⁶ *Cal. Close Rolls 1313-18*, p. 414: 1318-23, p. 38.

town rent [£200] on the authority of the earl of Pembroke acting for the king.⁷

This letter is important evidence that as a *continuous* line of defence the King's Dykes preceded the town wall, and also that their construction was complete before 1317, whereas the stone wall was still being built at that date. This interpretation of the letter allows for a delay of some months between the date of despatch and the first royal answer of June 1317; and it is strengthened by the fact that on 14 July 1316 the mayor, bailiffs and good men of Newcastle were licenced by Edward II to impose a tax or murage for seven years for work on the town wall, which would hardly be necessary were the wall already completed at that date.⁸ These references suggest that the ditch was thrown up during the alarms of Scottish inroads between 1312 and 1316, while the wall progressed at a more leisurely pace, the first licence for a murage being dated 21 March 1265.⁹

CONSTANCE M. FRASER.

⁷ P.R.O., Ancient Petition 8520.

⁸ *Cal. Pat. Rolls 1313-17*, p. 516.

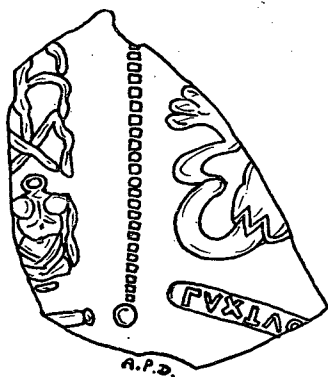
⁹ *Ibid.* 1258-66, p. 415.

5.—THE CENTRAL GAULISH POTTER LAXTVCISSA.

The following note is to be read in conjunction with J. A. Stanfield and Grace Simpson, *Central Gaulish Potters*, London, 1958, pp. 184-8 and Pl. 97-100.

Form 37, from Corbridge,¹ in orange-red glaze and rather thin wall-section, with the potter's usual retrograde signature, LAXTVCI(SF), in a label; also, the astragalus (decorative detail no. 3)² and two figure-types, the Triton (D.16=O.19) and the Trophy (D.1117). The decoration of this bowl does not appear to be closed by the usual raised line, or a slight groove, but this may be due to careless removal from the mould.

A. P. DETSICAS.

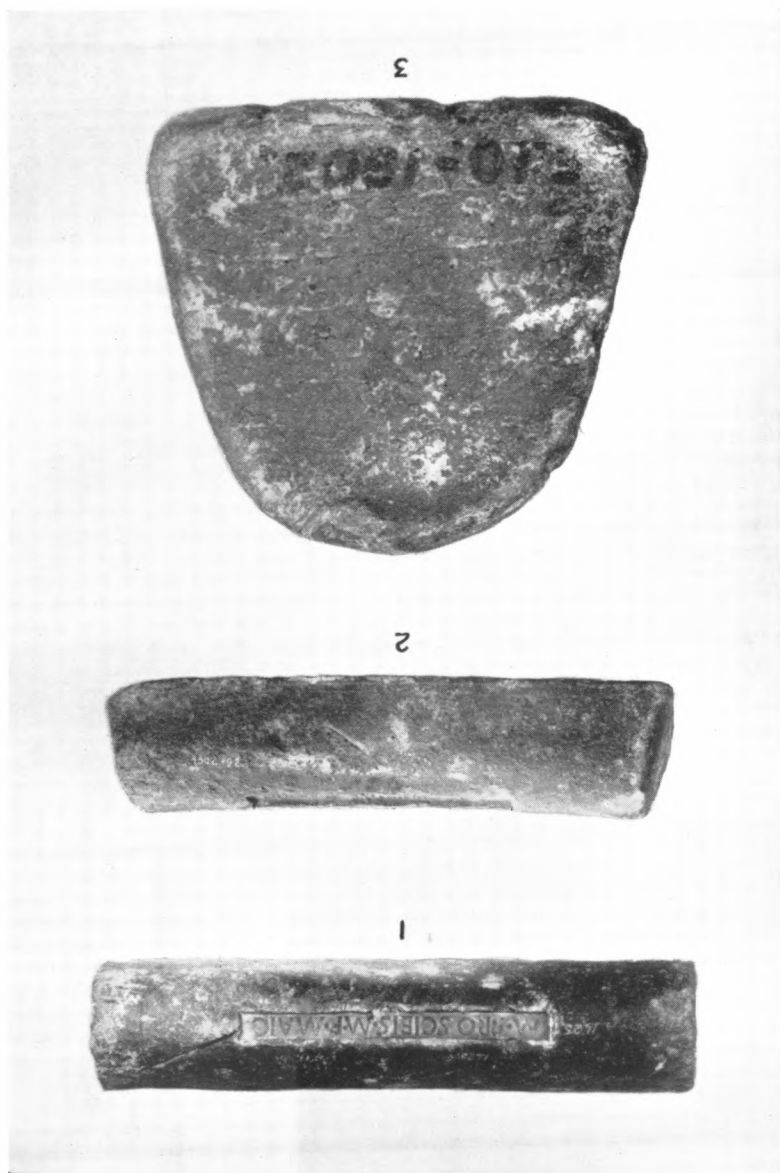


(SCALE 1:1)

¹ I am grateful to Professor E. B. Birley for permission to publish this sherd.

² *Central Gaulish Potters*, fig. 27, p. 184.





6.—A ROMAN INGOT OF LEAD FROM SPAIN IN THE
MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY, NEWCASTLE
UPON TYNE.

Among the exhibits in the Municipal Museum of Science and Industry, Newcastle upon Tyne, is an ingot of Roman lead, one of a well-known group of about 30 (not 50 as sometimes said) apparently identical castings reported as found c. 1846 in ancient mines near Orihuela (Valencia), some 30 miles north of Cartagena, the ancient *Nova Carthago*, in an area renowned from earliest times for its rich lead deposits.¹ The ingots from this group were before long widely distributed—some at least through diplomatic channels—and the Newcastle specimen is one of several still surviving, notably in London (Brit. Mus.), Paris (Biblioth. Nat. and the Louvre), Madrid (Museo Arqueol. Nac.), Cartagena (Museo Arqueol.), and Murcia (Col. Guirao in Museo Arqueol.). The Newcastle ingot was itself originally in London, in the Museum of Practical Geology in Jermyn Street; it was passed to the Science Museum, South Kensington, in 1902, and thence transferred to its present home in July 1933. It is in fact the ingot referred to by W. Gowland ("Early Metallurgy of Silver and Lead," *Archæol.*, lvii, 1901, pp. 378 and 400), who gives a good sketch of it (*ibid.*, Pl. lviii) including the long gash which runs upwards from the right of the inscription (see Pl. XXXVIII, Fig. 1).

The ingot is of the normal type associated with Roman lead from Spain, i.e., cast in a relatively steep-sided mould with an almost semi-cylindrical base (Figs. 2 and 3) on which the inscription in low relief appears in small lettering in a narrow sunken panel or panels.

¹ See, among many references, CIL., ii, 3439 (=Dessau ILS. 8706), M. Besnier, *Revue Archéol.* (S.v) xii, 1920, pp. 237-8, no. 14, and, for the most recent (but not entirely accurate) account, A. Beltrán, *Mem. de los Museos Arqueol. Prov.*, viii, 1947, p. 206.

Details are as follows:²

Rounded base as cast in the mould: length 17 inches.

Top surface as cast in the mould: length 18 inches, breadth 4 inches.

Thickness: approx. $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches average (the ingot has warped slightly—after being turned out of the mould, since the original top surface has dropped below the horizontal at that end which stands over the right of the inscription: see Fig. 2).

Panel: length $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches; breadth $\frac{1}{4}$ inch; depth $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.

Lettering: $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

Weight: 74 lbs.

Inscription: M·P·ROSCIEIS·M·F·MAIC i.e., “(lead produced by) Marcus Roscius and Publius Roscius, sons of Marcus Roscius, of the Maecian tribe”. These men were Italians, the *gens Roscia* being especially associated with Lanuvium, 20 miles south-east of Rome, a town enrolled in the Maecian tribe (see CIL., xiv, p. 191 and n. 4).

Personal names on lead ingots are normally (where not ambiguous owing to abbreviation) expressed in the genitive case, and the form ROSCIEIS therefore calls for comment. It is probably an archaic nominative plural, and this on linguistic grounds would indicate a date not far removed from the beginning of the last century B.C. The early form MAIC = MAEC(ia tribu) would accord well with such a dating. Thus early, the use of the genitive case had evidently not yet become accepted practice. Certainly no parallel to the use of the nominative can be adduced except the very doubtful record in CIL., ii, 4964.1 (an alleged inscription L·S·REX on ingots from Canjayar, north-west of Almeria). A less probable explanation is that ROSCIEIS is a dative plural in a possessive use, with the pre-Augustan form *-eis* = *īs*. No nearly contemporary parallel exists for such a dative on an ingot, the only other instance being the two much later specimens of A.D. 81 found in Yorkshire in the eighteenth century, both cast in the same mould with the inscription IMP·CAES·DOMITIANO·AVG·COS·VII (CIL., vii, 1207).

² Since the surfaces of the lead are extremely coarse and the edges heavily bevelled, measurements of any such ingots can never claim to be precise.

Examination of the ingots preserved in London and Paris and comparison with data received from museums elsewhere indicate that many of this group were cast in the same mould. The Newcastle ingot is in very satisfactory condition and has suffered little from oxidation effects: it shows on its surface (Fig. 3, end face) the linear markings which result from the cooling of the molten metal as it enters the mould, and also, on its top surface as originally cast, two typical small orifices which frequently appear as the metal contracts in the mould during the cooling process.³

An analysis carried out by the late Dr. J. A. Smythe showed that the ingot contains 0.0029%, i.e., 18.8 dwts. troy, of silver to the ton avoirdupois of lead.⁴ The total of base metals was found to be .1142%, comprising copper .0781%, antimony .0004%, bismuth .0028%, iron .0021%, nickel .0020%, zinc .0288%. Arsenic and tin were lacking. The specific gravity of the lead was 11.35.

It may be noted that the shape and weight of this ingot, in conjunction with others of the Spanish type which range from approx. 70½ to 77 lbs., indicate that towards the end of the Roman Republican era lead ingots were regularly being cast in a standardized type of mould as above described, and that this had been carefully dimensioned so as to produce a standard weight of 100 Roman pounds (*librae*)⁵ of lead.

The Newcastle authorities are fortunate in being able to display an exhibit of such historical and metallurgical interest and importance.

G. CLEMENT WHITTICK.

³ The linear markings are entirely superficial and do not indicate the use of a ladle for filling the mould, as usually said. Ingots were in fact cast by teeming in a single operation. Detailed evidence on these points will be given in the *J. Roman Studies* (forthcoming).

⁴ For comparison, assays of other ingots of the same group carried out by Dr. J. A. Smythe showed the following silver-content: British Museum specimen 19.1 dwt.: Paris (Biblioth. Nat.) 13.8 dwt.: Paris (Louvre) 19.7 dwt.

⁵ If the Roman *libra* be accepted as equivalent to 11.55 ozs. avoirdupois, then in theory the standard Spanish ingot of 100 Roman *librae* would weigh approx. 72 lbs. In practice some variations from this would inevitably occur. Most ingots in fact slightly exceed the standard 100 *librae*.

7.—HOARD OF COINS (HENRY VII ?) FROM STANLEY,
CO. DURHAM.

During clearance work on a council housing estate at Stanley, County Durham, and in the course of demolishing a wall, workmen discovered a small hoard of 14 silver coins which, unfortunately, were not reported and were dispersed by the finders. Fortunately, however, three coins were brought to the writer for identification, together with further information concerning the find, which makes it possible to place the hoard on record.

The 14 coins—from the description being Groats and Pennies—were found inside the wall being demolished, in a field known as “Castle Field”, not far from the site of Stanley Hall. Many of the smaller coins (? pennies) were broken whilst being handled, the remainder being dispersed, and three Groats, all Henry VII, reported some two months after being found (in 1957).

The coins are described as follows:

- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) Groat. Brooke type IIB. | Plain double-arched Crown. London. c 1490-94. |
| (2) Groat. Brooke type III. | Two jewelled-arches. London. c. 1495-1504. |
| (3) Groat. Brooke type V. Profile B. | i.m. illegible (broken off) c. 1500-1509. |

Site. According to Surtees in his “History of Durham”, volume II, pp. 268-70, the earliest notice of Stanley occurs in the Almoners’ Book of the Convent of Durham. In 1391 Isabel, widow of John de Birtley, held the manor of Stanley and left her son Thomas heir, who in 1394 is stated to hold the same manor for life with reversion to Richard de Kilkenny . . . the heir of Kilkenny, however, never enjoyed this reversion; the name occurs no more; and Thomas Birtley alienated Stanley to Sir Ralph Lumley, in whose heirs it continued vested for several descents.

In another part of the volume (p. 229, note i) Surtees states that Stanley was meanwhile the residence for some descents of the Halls: Robert Hall of Greencroft, who died 1473, leaving a son of his own name, who was succeeded in 1506 by a third Robert (of Stanley Byres) and he was followed by a fourth in 1536. The Halls, though owners of half the manor of Greencroft and other estates, were certainly in Stanley only tenants to the Lumleys and Tempests—the Lumleys had alienated to the Tempests.

It would appear, therefore, that at the time of burial of this hoard the manor of Stanley was occupied by the third Robert Hall of Stanley Byres.

Mr. J. D. A. Thompson kindly advises me that there are several hoards of this period, such as the Clay Coton,¹ Wallingford,² Bury St. Edmunds,³ and Norham Castle⁴ hoards, all of which contain English and Foreign coins, with no Scottish coins being included. Unfortunately, it is not possible to say whether Stanley contained coins other than Henry VII. Mr. Thompson further suggests the hoard might have been deposited during the Flodden campaigns of 1512-1513 (e.g. the Norham hoard) or when the Scots invaded England in support of Perkin Warbeck's claim to the English throne. Warbeck was, however, hanged in 1499 and coin No. 3 is of the 1500-1509 issue and, therefore, the Flodden campaigns are more likely to have been the cause of this deposit.

J. H. CORBITT.

¹ NC (ns) vi, 1866, pp. 136ff. Proc. Soc. Ant. iii, 1865, p. 77.

² NC³, xii, 1892, p. 220.

³ NC (ns), 1862, p. 148.

⁴ BNJ³, vi, 1951, pp. 348-50.

8.—CHURCH ARCHITECTURE IN DURHAM AND
NORTHUMBERLAND—A HISTORY.

I have recently completed a study of "Church Architecture in Durham and Northumberland from the beginning to the Sixteenth Century". The work is too costly to publish and I have deposited a typescript copy in the University Library, Newcastle, and another in the City Library in the same town. As no review of it is likely to appear, since these copies cannot be circulated, I am asking you kindly to insert this letter in the next number of *Archæologia Aeliana*, so that your readers may be informed at least of its existence.

My study is not a repertory of churches in alphabetical order but a consecutive history of church architecture in a well-defined region. This region corresponds pretty closely to the former spiritual diocese of Durham, as distinct from the Palatinate. I have presented the growth of the art in the two counties as a whole, from its beginnings with Wilfrid and Benedict Biscop to the end of the Middle Ages. I have at no point allowed my view to be narrowed by the geographical boundaries of the region, but have treated this growth as a chapter in the history of architecture in England and western Europe, relating it constantly to developments abroad.

I know that we have no tradition of provincial histories of architecture, as there is in France and Italy; but in this case I am sure that such a history is justified and that the limits of my subject are not arbitrary.

The study comprises a hundred and fifty illustrations.

C. M. GIRDLESTONE.

9.—GOSFORTH PARISH CHURCH:

In a Note on Gosforth Parish Church (AA, 4th, XXXVIII, pp. 240-1) Mr. G. Harbottle quotes the Archdeacon's visitation instructions of 1764 in which the steeple is referred to. He comments—"Clearly it was a square tower with four pinnacles at the corners surmounted by a spire. This is clearly indicated as the Archdeacon uses the word steeple and not tower."

A New English Dictionary (Oxford) quotes Hook's *Church Dictionary* 1871—"A steeple is the tower of a church with all its appendages, as turret, octagon and spire. It is often incorrectly confounded with the spire."

Another quotation is given, from Edmund Turnor's MS. Letters 1812—"An Elevation of the west end of Great Ponton Church to show the steeple." Great Ponton church can be seen clearly from the train three miles south of Grantham on the west of the main line. It has a fine tower with eight tall pinnacles, but no spire.

In Durham Cathedral, in the roof space above the south transept, at the entrance to the turret stair, there is a notice painted on the wall—"In at this Door is to the Steeple Top. 1783." The central tower, here called the steeple, has never had a spire.

This last example is almost contemporary with the Gosforth document. It is likely that the Archdeacon in 1764 was using "steeple" in the same sense, to mean the tower. It does not seem necessary to assume that the tower of Gosforth Parish Church once had a spire.

J. H. S. WILD
(Dean of Durham).

10.—THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF ARCHIVES IN
NORTHUMBERLAND.

Lists of the following collections, prepared by the County Archivist and others, have been sent to the London headquarters of the Register for duplication:

Allgood MSS (Owner: G. H. Allgood, Esq., Nunwick, Simonburn, Hexham). 34 pages.

Delaval papers in Newcastle Central Library.

Berwick Corporation Archives. 36 pages.

MSS in the Library of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne at the Black Gate. 70 pages.

North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers MSS. 95 pages.

Handlist of Northumberland Quarter Sessions papers and order books 1663-1834. 105 pages.

Calendar of Northumberland Quarter Sessions Order Book 1687-1697. 81 pages.

Thomas Bell Collection of Northumberland MS maps and surveys:

Part I (Owner: The Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne). 49 pages.

Part II (Owner: Sir William Gibson). 18 pages.

Part III (Owner: W. Percy Hedley, Esq.) list in progress.

Copies of these lists as they come to hand are being placed in King's College Library, Newcastle Central Library, and the Library of this Society in the Black Gate, from which they may be borrowed by members in the usual way.

H. A. TAYLOR.