

ON SOME FORGOTTEN OR NEGLECTED ROMAN INSCRIPTIONS  
FOUND IN BRITAIN.

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THE recent publication by Professor Hübner of the Roman Inscriptions of Great Britain ("Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum," vol. 7), has awakened a considerable amount of interest amongst antiquaries. The work is a most valuable and elaborate one, but, as might be expected, from its size and the amount of research required for its completion, omissions occasionally occur in it. It is with the view of supplying these omitted inscriptions, which for the most part lie hidden in works either almost forgotten or little read, that I have compiled the following paper.

The first inscription to which I would call attention was found at Caermarthen sometime prior to 1815, and is thus spoken of in the South Wales volume (No. 18) of the "Beauties of England and Wales," p. 354.

"Several other vestiges of the Roman occupation of this place have of late years been brought to light. The Rev. W. H. Barker, the present very respectable and learned Vicar of St. Peter's, has in his possession two Roman altars in a very perfect state. One has a depressed patella for the oblation, on the upper surface, the other is a cube measuring eighteen inches each way, having the following inscription on one of the sides—

BONO  
RP  
NATO

Some coins of the lower empire have also occasionally been met with."

This is the third *perfect* inscription of this class found in Great Britain, one on a milliary column near Little Chesters (*Vindolana*) on the Wall of Hadrian, was first described by Horsley in his *Britannia Romana*, p. 228 (No. 59, Northumberland), and is No. 1187 in Professor Hübner's volume.

Another found at Wroxeter, and now in the Shrewsbury Museum, is also termed a milliary by Professor Hübner (No. 1166), although it is certainly cut upon an altar-shaped stone,<sup>1</sup> and in this respect agrees with the Caermarthen example. Two other *fragments* of stones, which (judging from the remaining letters) probably bore almost identical inscriptions have been found, one at Wroxeter and the other at Lanercost (Hübner, Nos. 1167 and 1189). The first is certainly a portion of a milliary ;—regarding the latter, which has long been lost, no information as to its shape is known to exist. I have reason to believe that this Caermarthen inscription has also been lost, as the Rev. L. M. Jones, the present Vicar of St. Peter's, in that town, informs me that only the small uninscribed altar is preserved at the vicarage.

Of the date of any of these inscriptions nothing can be said with certainty. The Rev. J. C. McCaul, LL.D., who has paid some attention to the subject, says (speaking of this class of inscriptions) in the *Canadian Journal*, Vol. xii., pp. 116—17, "I have never met with an example of *natus pro bono republicae* or *generis humani* before the time of Constantine."

Another inscription, which is of a sepulchral character, and which does not appear in Dr. Hübner's work, was found at Ilkley, at the commencement of the present century. A drawing of the stone appears in the second edition of Dr. Whitaker's *History of Craven* (1812), p. 218. The inscription is—

D. M  
PVDENTIS  
IESSEI. MIL  
LEG. II. AVG.

Dr. Whitaker says that it was "lately discovered in a garden wall at Ilkley, by the Rev. Mr. Carr, in whose possession it now remains." It is now (1874) apparently lost. The monument commemorates Pudens Jesseus, a soldier of the second legion, which was styled *Augusta*, and is the only inscription referring to this legion found in Yorkshire. The name Jesseus is peculiar.

In treating of the Colchester inscriptions, Dr. Hübner also

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Anderson, who engraves it in his *Uriconium*, p. 131, thinks that it has been used during the Middle Ages as a holy water stoup. It is also engraved in

the Gloucester volume of "*Proceedings of the British Archaeological Association*," pl. 2, fig. vii.

makes some omissions, the first being a stone found there in 1713, and now preserved in the Disney Collection at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. It is engraved in the Museum Disneianum, part i., p. 99, pl. xlv., fig. 15, and bears the following inscription—

CONSIDIA VENERIA  
FILIA. V. A. III. D. XXX.  
CONSIDIA. NATALIS  
MATER. V. A. XXXV.

There is no difficulty whatever in reading this inscription, which commemorates Considia Natalis (the mother), who lived thirty-five years, and her daughter Considia Veneria, who lived three years and thirty days.

At Colchester, also, was found (in 1850) another fragment which is also omitted by Hübner. It was the right-hand (proper) half of a tombstone, and had been clamped to another stone, which was not found, containing the left-hand half of the inscription. That remaining was—<sup>2</sup>

D  
AVR  
AAI

There are also two inscriptions found at Cirencester, and preserved in the Muscum there, of which Dr. Hübner does not seem to be cognizant. They are—

(1.)	(2.)
SILVANO	ROTAS
SABIDIUS	OPERA
MAXIMVS	TENET
	AREPO
	SATOR

The first is on a portion of an altar discovered some time prior to March, 1871, when it was communicated to me by Professor Church, of Cirencester. Its reading is plain enough. Sabidius Maximus (dedicates this) to (the god) Silvanus. Possibly the usual formula v. s. l. m. may have been on the lower portion of the altar, which is broken off, but from the space remaining, under the last existing line, this seems doubtful.

<sup>2</sup> See Journal of British Archaeological Association, Vol. vi. p. 446.

The second of these is most peculiar. It was discovered by Captain Abbot, the late Curator of the Museum, with many other Roman remains, under circumstances which precluded any idea of its being a forgery, in some excavations in 1868, in the New Road. It is a fragment of wall-painting, with the letters scratched through the surface-colour. The letters partake of the *graffiti* character. This inscription has heretofore been considered, from having occurred with mediæval remains, to have had its origin in the Middle Ages, but this example proves that it has descended from Roman times. As will be seen, it is a "squared" inscription, the words reading the same (in inverse order) from right to left, as from left to right, and from base to summit, as from summit to base.

At the great station at Caerleon (*Isca Silurum*) in Monmouthshire, several inscriptions occur which are not given by Dr. Hubner, nor indeed by Mr. Lee in his *Isca Silurum*. The following four I have copied from a little work entitled "An Historic and Picturesque Guide from Clifton through the Counties of Monmouth, Glamorgan, and Brecknock, &c. By G. W. Manby. Bristol, 1802."

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
IV. L. . .	D. CONDD	VIBI	AL
IVL CA. .	FIHIAD	PROCIS	TR
RIVS. FIL.			
V. ANN. XXV.			
OPTIO. AN.II			
F C			

No. 1 is given by Mr. Manby in the appendix to his work, p. 286. He says that it was "a sepulchral cippus found five feet below the surface," at Caerleon, and "procured for me by the Rev. Mr. Evans." He gives an engraving of the stone, from which I have taken the above lettering, and says that he applied to the Rev. T. Leman, of Bath, for a reading. The latter gentleman read it as *Julii Licii | Julius Caterius | filius | vixit annos xxv. | Optio animo libenti | faciendum curavit*. This is decidedly an erroneous reading; from the shattered condition of the upper portion of the stone it is impossible with certainty to gather the names of the person or persons commemorated, but from the position of the word *Filius*, with the name preceding it, being appa-

rently in the nominative case, I am inclined to think that two persons—a father and son have been commemorated. The last three lines I would read—*Vixit annos xxx., Optio annos ii (heredes) faciendum curaverunt*; or (if only one person is commemorated), *(heres) faciendum curavit*. I am indebted to Dr. McCaul of Toronto, for the suggestion that the letter H, standing for *heres* or *heredes*, is obliterated at the end of the fifth line. This stone is apparently lost. The office of *Optio* was equivalent to that of lieutenant in our modern armies; in the one case the centurion being the superior officer, in the other the captain. It is strange, considering the many thousand officers of this rank, who must have served in the Britanno-Roman army, that this is the only tomb-stone discovered of any officer bearing the designation.

Numbers 2 and 3 have the appearance of centurial stones. Each is complete in the engraving given by Mr. Manby, and has a moulding round it with ornaments at the sides. They are what Dr. Hubner terms throughout his work *tabellae ansatae*, and strongly resemble in appearance the stones Nos. 55, 123, and 127 in the *Lapidarium Septentrionale*, especially the latter number, but the small scale on which they are engraved (about two-thirds of an inch in length by one-third in breadth) has prevented justice being done to them. They were apparently in a bathing-house belonging to Mr. Butler, and the light being very faint, Mr. Manby says he could see them very imperfectly. Number 4 is a mere fragment, and is mentioned by Mr. Manby in his Appendix (p. 287), as being recently discovered.

Another inscription from this station is first mentioned in the Gentleman's Magazine, vol. 59, part 2, p. 1072, (Dec. 1789), by the author of "A Tour in South Wales," who, speaking of what he saw at Caerleon, says, "In a currier's yard in this town I saw a stone with an inscription which I read thus—IVLIA ESSEVND A VIXIT ANNOS XXX. The numeral letter after the last x is so defaced that I could not decipher it." In the Gentleman's Magazine for Nov. 1799, p. 934, another writer who had been on a similar tour says—"At another place" (in Caerleon) "was a flat stone in the form of a tomb-stone, probably an ancient monument with the following inscription badly engraved upon it—IVLIA. ESSEVND A FIXXIT (*sic*) ANNO XXXV." Dr. Hubner holds the opinion that this inscription was part of a longer one, which is No. 124 in his

work, and which is still preserved at the Caerleon Museum, but this is impossible, for the following reason. At p. 56 of his work, Mr. Manby says—"In a wall belonging to Mr. Williams, currier, is a remarkable inscribed stone, but so defaced by washing with lime, as nearly to obliterate the characters. This stone was brought from the mound or keep, and was part of those bought of the lord of the manor, from the foundations of some buildings there." In his plate of Caerleon antiquities, No. 4 is "Mr. Williams' Stone," and in the engraving the only letters visible are—

D M  
IVLIA  
IVNDA  
X  
ANNO XXX.

The remaining letters had probably been obliterated by the whitewash, but enough remains to identify the inscription with that named in the Gentleman's Magazine. By means of Mr. Manby's engraving, we get its linear divisions. The Rev. J. Seyer, in his "History of Bristol" (1821), vol. i., p. 134, mentions this stone under the head of Caerwent, and says it was the only inscription that had been found there. This is plainly an error.

With two other smaller inscriptions I conclude the list of omissions at Caerleon. In Coxé's "History of Monmouthshire," p. 82, the author says, "In crossing the stile on the other side of the Broadway, Mr. Evans pointed out to me a Roman Terminus, used as one of the cap-stones, bearing the inscription TERMIN."

In the Gentleman's Magazine, June 1835, p. 601, a writer signing A. J. K. says, "A few years since an altar of reddish stone brought from Caerleon was sold at Thomas's Auction Rooms, on which I read the initials I. O. M.—*Jovi Optimo Maximo*."

Passing to Filey, in Yorkshire, Mr. Thomas Wright, in the "Intellectual Observer," of October, 1865, p. 234, describes an inscription found there in 1857, with many other Roman remains, in these words—"Close to the eastern stone a bit of shale was found, which had broken off a larger piece, in the middle of the one side of which was drawn a large A with scrawls which appeared to have no meaning. On the other

were parts of two lines of an inscription of which the following words remain :

CÆSAR. SE  
QVAM. SPE

It has been written probably by some individual in mere playfulness."

I am inclined to think that IMP. has preceded CÆSAR, and that the Emperor named is Severus.

Dr. Hubner's inscription No. 142 is the well-known one found at Caernarvon, mentioning the first cohort of the *Sunuci*, but he omits the fragment found at the same place by Sir R. C. Hoare, mentioned in his "Giraldus Cambrensis," vol. ii., p. 94, as existing "in a wall of a field adjoining the turnpike road," and which he says in a note, "was found in a subterraneous vault near the spot." It bore the letters—

SVC.

This is probably a misreading of SVNC, standing, as it does, in the above-named inscription, for SVNVC, the last v being ligulate with the n.

In the Corbridge inscriptions there seems also an omission. In Mackenzie's "History of Northumberland," (Newcastle, 1825), vol. i., p. 453, in the account of Alnwick Castle, it is said, in a note, "several ancient curiosities are deposited in the prison. Amongst them is a Roman funeral urn found near Corbridge. It bears the following inscription on its side—

D.M. AVRELIAE ACHAICES.

Dr. Bruce also omits this from the *Lapidarium Septentrionale*.<sup>2</sup>

Another inscription of the same class, also omitted, was found at Cambridge, and is described in the "Gentleman's Magazine," Nov. 1802, pp. 1000, 1001. It is also engraved on a small scale in Pl. II., Fig. 1, in the same volume. It occurs on an olla (?) which was found, together with fragments of larger vessels, in excavating for the foundations of

<sup>2</sup> Since writing the above, I have communicated with the Duke of Northumberland as to this urn; but it cannot be found at Alnwick Castle. Dr. Bruce

informs me that he thinks it is the same as the stone No. 565, *Lapidarium Septentrionale*. In this, however, I do not agree.



the gaol. This vessel had fine *ansae*, and in it were found a few coins. The inscription was round the body of the vessel, and was imperfect. The letters visible were—

\* \* \* \* C. ICC. M \* IA \* PCB.

The asterisks mark unintelligible or lost letters, but the reading is, according to my idea, erroneous, and (the vessel having been lost) must, I fear, remain so.

Again, in the "Gentleman's Magazine," Feb. 1837, p. 161, is an account of a Roman sepulchral vase found at Newbury (Berks), containing bones, coins, &c. The vase bore the inscription—

D. O. M

S. M. L

\* \* \*

apparently *Deo optimo maximo, sacrum*, &c.<sup>3</sup> The letters in the third line could not be made out. Upon a horn handle (which contained a small piece of iron or steel about two inches long) found in the vase, were the letters—

P. R. M.

Another omission of Dr. Hübner's is that of a thin plate of gold found at York, in excavations for the railway station some years ago. It has an inscription "in two lines rudely and slightly formed. To what system of writing the characters in the upper line belong, or what is their meaning, is altogether uncertain, but the lower line being in Greek characters, is sufficiently legible :

ΦΝΕΒΕΝΝΟΤΘ

Though expressed in Greek characters, the word is probably Coptic, and the interpretation of it "Lord of the Gods," but to whom this title was meant to be applied it is not easy to decide." It "was probably an amulet or spell belonging to a disciple of one of the Egyptian sects of Gnostics, which prevailed during the second and third centuries of the Christian era." (Catalogue, York Museum, p. 86. Proceed-

<sup>3</sup> From the smallness of the o in the first line of this inscription it has occurred to me that it may be merely a stop—

and thus the line would read D. M. i.e. *Dis manibus*.



ings Yorkshire Phil. Soc., vol. i. p. 100). It is engraved in Wellbeloved's "Eburacum," pl. xvii., fig. 15.

A fragment of an inscribed slab of Purbeck marble found at Chester in 1863, seems also to have escaped Dr. Hübner's notice. There are visible on it the lower halves of the three letters forming the upper line, and the upper halves of those forming the lower lines. The letters apparently are—

OGA  
. DOM

There is plainly visible a stop before DOM, and the letters are finely cut and of large size.

At Littleborough (Notts) a Roman altar was found in 1718, which seems to have been overlooked by Dr. Hubner; only the last line of the inscription was legible, which read—

LIS. ARAM. D. D

(See Stukeley, *Itinerarium Curiosum*, p. 89.)

Most unaccountably, also, Dr. Hubner omits the handsome white marble sarcophagus found at Clapton in 1867, and described by Mr. Price in the "Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archæological Society," vol. iii., p. 196. Though the inscription is all but obliterated, its last line seems to read—

MARITIMIVS.

as first suggested by the Rev. H. M. Scarth.

With regard to Exeter, there is also an omission. In the "Gentleman's Magazine" for August, 1836, p. 156, appears an account by Mr. W. T. P. Shortt, of some recent discoveries at Exeter, and amongst them, he notices a bronze "sword-handle," bearing the inscription—

Z. MEFITI. T. EQ. FRIS.

Mr. Shortt expands this as—*Servii Mefiti Tribuni Equitum Frisiorum*, but the last word should undoubtedly be *Frisia-vonum*.

In his account of the milliaries, or Roman milestones, existing in Britain, Dr. Hubner has omitted three examples, each of much interest. In the "Viæ Cambriæ," he should

have inserted a milestone found near Dynevor, Carmarthen-shire, inscribed—

IMP. C

M. CL

TACITO

P.F. IN

VICTO

AVG

This inscription evidently reads — *Imperatori Cæsari Marco Claudio Tacito Pio Felici Invicto Augusto*. It was first described by Edward Lhywd, the antiquary, in a letter to the Rev. John Lloyd, dated Llandilo, Dec. 20, 1697, which is published in the “*Archæologia Cambrensis*,” vol. iv., 3rd series (1858), p. 346. This is the only known instance of an inscription to the Emperor Tacitus having been found in Britain. The stone formed, at the time it was discovered, the corner of a small farm-house near Dynevor, but is now apparently lost.

In the “*Viæ Britanniae Mediterraneæ*,” after No. 1169, (the milliary of Hadrian found near Leicester), there should have been inserted an account of another milestone, disinterred from the side of the Fosse Way at Sex Hill or Seg’s Hill, about fifteen miles N.N.E. of Leicester. It was first described by Mr. J. F. Hollings, in a paper on “*Roman Leicester*,” (published at Leicester, 1855), p. 42, note,<sup>4</sup> and was presented to the Leicester Museum by the owner. The only letters visible on the column are—

IMP.

and according to present appearances, no others seem to have been on it.

The third, and, perhaps, in some respects the most interesting example, is a cylindrical column dug up in 1836, at Middleton, some three to four miles N.E. of Kirkby Lonsdale, in making a fence for a plantation. It is preserved on the spot where it was found, and in its present (1874) erect position, it is 5ft. 8in. in height from the ground level, and 4ft. in circumference. The only inscription it bore was—

M. P. LIII.

<sup>4</sup> This paper was originally read before the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society, 13th January, 1851.

Some distance beneath this, Mr. Moore, the owner of the site, added another inscription in Latin, intimating that he re-erected the pillar in A.D. 1836.

The Roman road from Overborough to Borrowbridge is visible on Middleton Common, about a mile and a half to the south, and if continued northward would pass the spot where the stone was found, which bears the name of "Low Barrows Hill." This inscription has, I believe, never before been published, nor has the stone been mentioned in any archæological work or county history, though it is alluded to in Lewis's Topographical Dictionary of England (edit. 1849, article "Middleton"), and in the Post Office Directory of the county. The distance of fifty-three Roman miles would correspond well with the situation of Carlisle, or, perhaps, quite as closely with that of Caervorran (*Magna*), and the road from Overborough northwards joins the roads to both of these places, at or near Kirkby Thore.

Coming to the "Massae Plumbi," there is an omission of a pig of lead, found on the bank of the river Carron, in Scotland, and described in the "Stirling Observer" of 19th Sept., 1850. It bore the inscription—

IMP. CAES. HADRIANI. AVG. T.M. LV.,

reading probably—*Imperatoris Cæsaris Hadriani Augusti tributum metallis Lutudensibus.* (Vide Dr. McCaul, Br. Rom. Insc., p. 47).

The chapter in Hübner's work, "Supellex ex Aere," is deficient of the following inscription—

CA . . . . . V  
LVAM. NVSF

which occurs in incised letters on the handle of a *patella*, found near Abergele, Denbighshire, and described by Mr. H. Ecroyd Smith, in the Proceedings of the "Historical Society of Lancashire and Cheshire," vol. ix., 2nd series, p. 25. Another example is the inscription C. ARAT on the handle of a *patella* found in the last century in the river Witham. See "Philosophical Transactions" (abridged edit.), vol. 18, p. 39.

In the chapter "Signacula ex Aere," there is omitted, perhaps on account of the barbarous appearance of the

word, a bronze stamp found at Colchester, and preserved in the Museum there, bearing the inscription—

BIOKNO.

Whatever may be the meaning of this, it appears to be a genuine relic of the Roman Period.<sup>5</sup>

Under the head of "Anuli," there are several omissions by Dr. Hubner, namely—

1	2	3	4
HPAKAI	I.M.P.	ΘEPMIA	ETTOAM
ΔΗΣ			

The first of these inscriptions is on an intaglio, in a ring of white metal found at Dover, and its reading is apparently *Heraclides*. The figure of a horse is on the intaglio, above it are the first six letters, and underneath it the remaining three. (*Vide Archaeological Journal*, vol. xxi., p. 263).

No. 2 is on a gold signet-ring, engraved with two heads facing each other. Above are the letters. It was found at Colchester, and was in the possession of the late Lord Braybrooke, who described it in a paper on rings in his collection, in the Essex Archæological Society's "Transactions," vol. ii., p. 63.

No. 3 was also found at Colchester, and was in the possession of the late Lord Braybrooke. It occurs on a ring set with an intaglio as a signet, engraved with a sphinx-like figure, with the inscription over it. The reading is simply THERMIA. It was exhibited at the Chichester meeting of the Archaeological Institute in 1853, and is described in the Catalogue of the Temporary Museum formed at the time, p. 48. See also *Archaeological Journal*, vol. x., p. 350.

No. 4 is the inscription upon a gold ring said to have been ploughed up in 1850, "upon the Roman road near Whittlesey." (*Gentleman's Magazine*, Sept., 1850, p. 296). Its weight was 14½ dwt.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> To this class of remains also belongs a Roman bronze stamp found in Oxfordshire (but the exact place is not known,) and exhibited at a meeting of the Archaeological Institute Nov. 4th, 1864, by Mr. J. E. Nightingale, who informs me that it is now accidentally lost. It bore the letters ELEPAV.

<sup>6</sup> A finger ring, with incised letters bearing the inscription,—

M A T  
R E S

was found at Carrawburgh (*Procolitia*), in 1871 (*vide* Mr. C. Roach Smith's letter in the *Builder*, Dec. 2, 1871). Dr. Hubner does not give it, although he publishes some other inscriptions found at the same time. I am inclined to think its reading is simply *Matres*, but Mr. Roach Smith reads it *Mat(ribus) Res(titutus)*.

Under this head I may also introduce a curious relic found at York, and thus described in the Gentleman's Magazine, Sept. 1835, p. 302 :—"An elegant relic of the time when Eboracum owned the Roman sway, was recently turned up between York and Dringhouses, a site rich in Roman remains. It is a signet of iron contained in a case of silver, or some mixture of which silver constitutes the principal part, and its form is as near as possible to that of a modern eye-glass neatly engraven, and the rivets of brass. It has a ring at the top by which it has in all probability been attached to a chain. . . . . On one side is a profile of Flavius Domitian, with the inscription FLAVIVS. DOMI., and on the other a man on horseback, raising a whip in his hand, inscribed, HOMO ET EQVVS." . . . . . "Every part of the engraving is distinct and perfect, the iron having been preserved by the metal in which it is enclosed."

Amongst the inscribed *tegulae* given by Dr. Hubner, I fail to find the following, the inscriptions on which are important, as showing the presence of some portion of the legions named at the places where they were found.

1	2	3	4	5
LEG.	XX.VV.	LEG.IX.HIS.	DEC.L.VI.	C. I. S
				E. E. A.

The first two occur on two portions of Roman tiles, found with others (uninscribed) and some Greek and Roman coins at Whittlebury (Northamptonshire) in 1822. They may possibly be portions of the same tile.

No. 2 bears the titles of the 20th Legion. (*Vide* Baker's Hist. of Northamptonshire, vol. ii. p. 73.)

No. 3.—This inscription, which is the stamp of the 9th Legion, surnamed *Hispanica*, occurs on a Roman flanged roof-tile, found in 1867 at Hilly Wood, two miles east of Woodcroft (Northamptonshire). This spot is in the line of the Ermine Street, between the great station of *Durobrivae* (Castor) and the Lincolnshire boundary. (*Vide* memoir by the Ven. Archdeacon Trollope, "On the Ermin Street," read 1868, in the Transactions of the Lincoln Diocesan Archæological Society.

No. 4 is the stamp on a Roman tile found in March, 1865, in the stone screen in Berkeley church, Gloucestershire. The screen is of the Late Perpendicular period. A fragment of a similarly inscribed tile was also found at the

same time. It should probably be read, *Decuria Legionis Sextæ*. (See also "Intellectual Observer," vol. vii. p. 312.) The tile is now built up into the wall of the nave.<sup>7</sup>

No. 5.—This peculiar inscription occurs on a tile found in the ruins of a Roman villa at Chelmsford, in 1849, and described by Mr. F. Chancellor, F.S.A., in the "Essex Archæological Society's Proceedings," vol. i. p. 59. Mr. Chancellor courteously sent me a tracing of the tile, which bears upon its face, several times repeated, not only the inscription, but a representation of wolves attacking stags. Dr. Hübner describes (No. 1244) the tile found in the walls of Ashstead Church, Surrey (which stands upon the site of a Roman villa), almost identical with this one, and which is engraved in Brayley's "History of Surrey," vol. iv. p. 396.

Into Dr. Hubner's list of potters' marks I do not intend at present to enter (although numerous omissions occur in it). There is, however, one inscription on a piece of pottery which I think of great importance, and which I cannot find in his work. It is—

IVRE VRO,

and occurs on the bottom of a vessel found with great quantities of other Roman pottery at a place called Fencot-on-Otmoor, in Oxfordshire. It was first noticed in the "Gentleman's Magazine," Oct. 1817, p. 310, by a writer signing "H. W.," and subsequently by the Rev. R. Hussey, in his "Account of the Roman Road from Allchester to Dorchester, &c.," p. 34. (Printed by the Ashmolean Society, Oxford, 1841.) Fencot is on the line of this road. Mr. Hussey thinks from the words that the potters' names stamped upon Roman vessels are those of persons holding a licence from the Government to carry on their business. I fully concur in this view of the subject, and recognise the inscription to be of much interest as determining the point.

A little further on the line of the same road, at a place called Wood Eaton, where foundations of buildings, quantities of Roman coins, tiles, pottery, fibulæ, spear heads, &c., were discovered, Mr. Hussey says (p. 38) there occurred "a broken piece of a plate of thin metal, stamped with the letters—EDO."

With two other fragments, and two doubtful inscriptions,

<sup>7</sup> I am indebted to the clerk of the works, Mr. J. T. Irvine, for this information.

I will close this paper. The fragments are, first, an inscription found on a stone at Wroxeter, and described in the "Gentleman's Magazine," Oct. 1867, p. 514. The letters are—

CAAM.

The second was painted in fresco on a fragment of stucco found at the same place, and consisted of the word—

ARCA.

(*Vide* T. Wright's "Uriconium," p. 113.)

The doubtful inscriptions are—

(1)	(2)
D.M	DEABVS
CAMILLVS	NYMPHIS
SATVRNALISCA	BRITANNIAE
MILLENATVLEPAT	L.CARACTACVS
RONE.MERENTISSIME	CORNAVTVS
	V. S. L. M.

The first is now preserved at Exeter, where it was taken from Bath by Dr. Musgrave, who fixed it in the wall of his house. It is now to be seen in the wall of "Musgrave's Alley." (*Vide* Proceedings of Archæological Institute at Bristol, 1851, p. lxxviii., where a rubbing of it was exhibited; also. "Proceedings of the Somerset Archæological Society," vol. ii. p. 190.) The inscription being on a marble slab, it has been doubted whether it was found in England; but a marble inscription having been found in Bath, and other fragments of the same material having, of late years, been found in various parts of England, there seems on this ground, at least, no reason to doubt its being Anglo-Roman.

There is no notice of either this or the following inscription in Dr. Hübner's list of "false or foreign" inscriptions.

The second inscription is one said to have been found at Wroxeter, and is still preserved in the neighbourhood of that place. A sketch of it was exhibited to the Chester Archæological Society in 1853. (*Vide* their "Proceedings," vol. i. p. 430.) I recently had some correspondence with Mr. C. Roach Smith, F.S.A., on the subject of this stone, and he writes to me thus:—"The altar you refer to has been suspected, on account of the inscription being so very fresh and perfect, and the stone apparently so new. If false, there has been great skill shown, and the *falsarius* must



have been *learned*, at least to a certain extent. The discovery does not seem authenticated."

The foregoing inscriptions, which number about fifty, will, I think, be considered to make an important addition to Dr. Hübner's valuable list. A few others have been found since the work was published, but these do not come within the scope of this paper, which has for its object merely the completion of the series of those found previously,<sup>8</sup> and if this result has been attained, the writer will feel abundantly satisfied.

<sup>8</sup> Another addition to the list is a fragment found at Melandra Castle. It is the left-hand upper corner of a large slab, which has borne an important inscription, and probably been fixed over one of the gateways of the station. The only letters remaining are IMP., the ab-

breivation for the word *Imperator*. On a recent visit to the site I was informed that this fragment was preserved at Hollingworth Hall, the owner of which, Captain de Hollingworth, originally discovered the stone. (*Vide* "Journ. Brit. Arch. Association," vol. vii. p. 19).