

ART. XV.—*Recent Roman Discoveries.* BY THE PRESIDENT.

Communicated at Carlisle, Sep. 13th, 1888.

I regret that I have no new Roman inscriptions to bring under your notice: the objects which I have to bring have already been brought by me under the notice of the Society of Antiquaries of London in performance of my duty as one of their officials, and I shall read to you the accounts that I have laid before the London Society.

I.

I have the honour to exhibit a whetstone of quartzite, stained red by infiltrated iron matter. It is $4\frac{3}{8}$ inches long, tapering to the ends; the cross-section measures in the centre $\frac{7}{16}$ of an inch. This beautifully finished little article was found in the excavations for the foundations of the New Markets now being erected in Carlisle. A bronze pin, $4\frac{1}{16}$ inches long, was found with it. The precise circumstances of the find cannot be ascertained, but the locality is close to Sewell's Lane, Scotch Street, where, in 1804, were discovered two bronze vases, with carved handles, ornamented with figures in high relief, now in the British Museum.*

To return to the little whetstone, our learned President, Mr. Evans† cites several instances of similar objects of even smaller dimensions, and assigns them to the bronze period. In the *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*;‡ one is thus described:—‘Small whetstone of quartzite, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length, quadrangular, and tapering to both ends, which are slightly rounded off.§

Mr. J. G. Goodchild of Her Majesty's Geological Survey, kindly supplies the following note as to the stone of which the whetstone is made:—

* They are described in Jefferson's *History and Antiquities of Carlisle*, p. 326.

† *Ancient Stone Implements*, p. 242.

‡ 2nd Series, vol. VIII, p. 173.

§ Other instances will be seen in the same *Proceedings*, Series 2, vol. II, pp. 172 and 221; vol. IV, p. 37; vol. VII, pp. 8 and 469. See also *Archæological Journal*, vol. XIII, p. 184; vol. XV, p. 70, and vol. X, p. 356.

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It is not easy to speak with certainty in regard to where it (the stone) came from. All one can say is, that stone exactly like it is not at all common, perhaps is absent entirely, in the north-west of England, and also in parts of Scotland adjoining. On the other hand stones of exactly the same character do occur in the new red conglomerate of the west midlands, and also along the south coast of Devonshire. Vast quantities of pebbles of the same material occur in the glacial drifts around Stafford, and thence southward for a considerable distance. I am inclined to think it may have been worked out of the material presented by one of these pebbles.

A good deal of Romano-British pottery in a fragmentary condition has also been found in these excavations, including a large number of fragments of the red Samian ware. Two of these fragments displayed well-known potter's marks, ADVOCIS and CRVCVRO, while a third had XIII cut on it. The red Salopian and the black Durobrivian were also represented, but in no great quantity. One or two fragments displayed the green glaze assigned to a mediæval date; while a broken figure of a dragoon's horse cannot be earlier than the end of last century. A wooden lion's face cannot be of great antiquity; and a small iron dish looks much like a mince pie tin. A small circular brooch, richly enamelled, is a relic of the Romano-British period. The coins are very few, half-a-dozen battered specimens of Roman date and a couple of half-pennies of George II.

I reserve for the present any list of the potter's marks, as I think more may be yet found, but I will refer the impatient to *Proceedings S.A.*, 2nd series, vol. XII, p. 112, and to *Archæologica Æliana*, 2nd series, vol. XIII, p. 198.

II.

"I have the honour to exhibit and present photographs of a sculptured stone of Roman date found on the site of the New Markets, Carlisle. The present find is the larger portion of a stone, on which there is a representation of the well-known *deæ matres*, seated under a segmental arch rising from pillars with square capitals and abaci supporting an involute. An ornament resembling the dog tooth decorates the front of the arch: the fragment contains only two of the three *deæ matres*, each of whom supports on her lap the usual basin or basket of fruit. The face of one of the figures has been, at some remote period, knocked off, the other is weathered. A careful look out is being kept for the missing piece of the stone. This stone was found very close to the surface. We are indebted to the Council of the British Archæological Association for the loan of the engraving given with this account,

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A small altar was found in another part of the site at the depth of twelve feet ; it is blank ; with it was found the stone socket or stand, into which its base fitted.

Pottery continues to occur ; an almost perfect *mortarium*, with an inside diameter of 10 inches, was found with the altar ; it bears no potter's mark.

This is all that has come to my notice up to this date Sept. 13, 1888, as found on the site of the New Markets, Carlisle, but a bronze figure of a sea horse was found, and acquired by a London dealer, who sold it to the British Museum : I fancy coins have been found, and sold on the sly. About 1000 cartloads of earth yet remain to be carried away : they should yield something.*

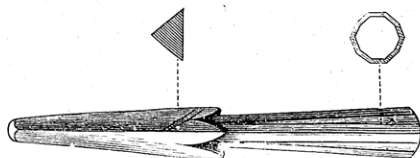
III.

I have also the honour to exhibit a bronze implement of a type, which seems to me peculiar : it measures $4\frac{1}{8}$ inches in length and

* Up to going to press (January 1889,) I have heard of nothing, but I have been unable to be present.

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has probably been $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length before its point was bruised: the head is a triangular pyramid, measuring along one of its sides $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches with a base of rather over one quarter of an inch: it is slightly barbed: the socket is roughly circular within, and has ten rough facets without, on one of which is IX: the weight of the implement is $1\frac{3}{4}$ oz. The point of the implement is much bruised,



and the implement is bent: it presents every appearance of having been fired with very great force against a stone. It was found in a pit of black earth at North View, Stanwix, about 400 yards north of the station on the Roman Wall: some pottery was found with it, which I have been unable to see. I am inclined, but hesitatingly, to conjecture that this bronze implement is the head of a javelin that has been fired from an engine of some sort or other, and not projected by the hand alone: the socket for the shaft is very small, and would only admit of a shaft very disproportionate in diameter and weight to the diameter and weight of the head: the weapon, whatever it may have been, to which this head belonged, must have been very top heavy, unless balanced by a heavy ferule at the other end.

I have succeeded in finding three similar objects, similar in every way, in the triangular pyramidal heads, the rudimentary barbs, and disproportionate shafts, as indicated by the sockets.

Two of these, of bronze, are in the Guildhall Museum, among the Romano-British relics, and are labelled "Pikeheads": they are rather larger than the one now exhibited, one being 5 inches in length, and the other 6: the first was found at Butler's Wharf, Shadwell; the second on the Upper Thames. A third is in a case in the Second Bronze Room in the British Museum, with Roman relics, and is with others labelled "Arrowheads": it is only $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. Next to it is a similar object, but having a tang for insertion in a shaft instead of an hollow socket for its reception. We are indebted to the Council of the Society of Antiquarians of London for the loan of the engraving given with this account.