

ART. V.—*Roman pottery from Brough-under-Stainmore.*

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DURING a visit to the castle at Brough-under-Stainmore in June 1953 I took the opportunity of searching an eroded face near the top of the escarpment at a point approximately 75 yds. east of the castle.<sup>1</sup> This produced a quantity of Roman pottery and also numerous animal bones, iron nails, some fragments of tile and one dressed building stone. On a subsequent visit I cleaned up the face and ascertained that there was no stratification. This work yielded more Roman material, including pottery, and I also picked up more from erosions at the foot of the escarpment, against which the Augill Beck once flowed. The old channel is clearly visible and still very marshy during winter months.

The bulk of the Roman material from Brough has come from this escarpment or from the bed of the beck.<sup>2</sup> Between approximately 1820 and 1860 many hundreds of metal objects were eroded from the banks of the stream and Professor Birley has pointed out that they probably derived from a Roman rubbish tip. The large deposit of pre-Hadrianic pottery found in 1954 on the edge of the escarpment east of the castle was probably dumped there as rubbish, perhaps during a reconstruction of the fort. While it is possible that the Roman pottery considered here derived from a building near the edge of the escarpment which collapsed in a landslip, it seems more likely that rubbish was thrown down the escarpment at this point also. This would certainly be a more convenient, though more untidy, method for the garrison of the fort

<sup>1</sup> CW2 lviii 46 for a sketch map of the Roman fort and its setting.

<sup>2</sup> CW2 lviii 31-56. E. Birley, "The Roman fort at Brough-under-Stainmore", where the site and previous finds made there are fully discussed.

to dispose of rubbish than the usual method of burying it in pits.

### The Pottery.

From among the fragments found in the eroded face of the escarpment all that can be drawn appear on Fig. 1. I am indebted to Mr John Gillam for his assistance in identifying these pieces. All the pottery came from the escarpment unless otherwise indicated.

#### *The Coarse Pottery (Fig. 1).*

1. Single rim fragment of a beaker in brown fabric with purple-brown coloured coating; the body of the vessel was probably roughcast; cf. Gillam types 72 and 73 (AA4 xxxv 180-251); A.D. 80-130.

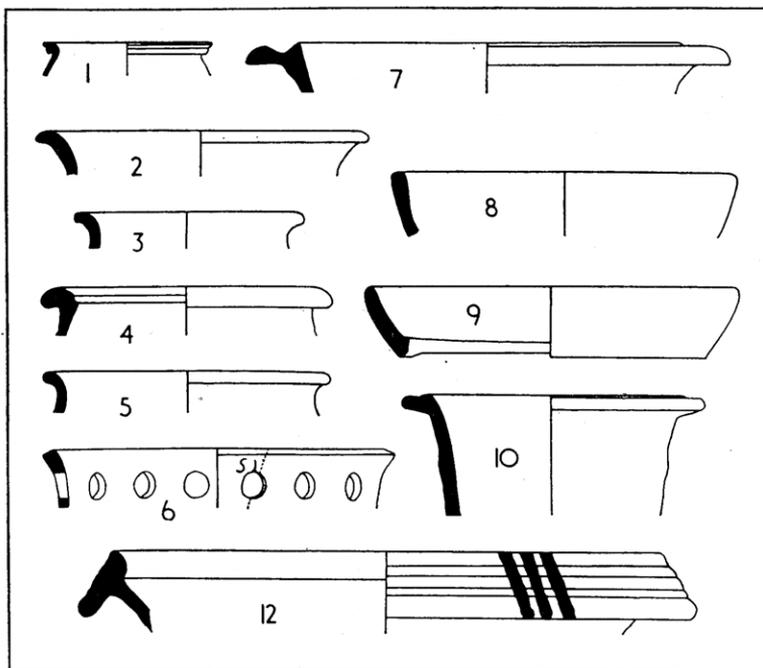


FIG. 1.—(4).

2. Single rim fragment of a cooking-pot in slightly gritty grey fabric; first half of the 3rd century.

3. Single rim fragment of a jar in gritty blue-grey fabric; second quarter of the 2nd century.

4. Single rim fragment of a Huntcliff ware cooking-pot in smooth soapy black fabric charged with calcite-grit; there is an internal groove or seating for a lid; *cf.* CW2 xlvi, Cardurnock 20; A.D. 360-400.

5. Single rim fragment of a carinated bowl or wide-necked jar in grey fumed fabric; *cf.* Society of Antiquaries, Leicester Report, Fig. 46, no. 13; A.D. 150-180.

6. Single rim fragment of a wide-necked vessel in hard, slightly gritty pinkish-orange fabric. Before firing a series of holes has been cut below the rim and SI . . . — possibly the potter's name — inscribed with a sharp instrument. The top of a third letter survives before the break. It is difficult to say what the purpose of this vessel may have been and it may be Roman or medieval (*cf.* CW2 lv, Carlisle, Fig. 10, no. 24); the graffito and fabric suggests that the former is more likely but there is no close parallel.

7. Single rim fragment of a flanged bowl in blue-grey fabric; *cf.* Crambeck 6 and Gillam type 229; second half of 4th century.

8. Single fragment of the side of a bowl in slightly gritty grey fabric; second quarter of 2nd century.

9. Single fragment of the side of a bowl in fabric similar to no. 7; possibly a product of the Crambeck kilns; *cf.* Crambeck 51; A.D. 370-400.

10. Single reeded rim fragment of a high-necked jar in smooth light grey fabric; early 3rd century.

11. (Not illustrated.) From the vicarage garden; single much worn fragment of a mortarium in pinkish-orange fabric; *cf.* Gillam type 245; A.D. 110-160.

12. Single rim fragment of a mortarium in hard white fabric with reddish-brown painted decoration; a few specks of black grit survive; *cf.* Gillam type 284; A.D. 300-370.

### *Samian Ware* (Fig. 2).

1. From the field immediately south-west of the fort; a fragment from a bowl of Dragendorff's form 37. It is possibly to be attributed to PUGNUS of Lezoux whose period of production is assessed as A.D. 150-195. The untidy finish and the godroon decoration are characteristic of this potter (*cf.* Stanfield and Simpson, *Central Gaulish Potters*, Plate 154, no. 17). I am indebted to Mr Brian Hartley for his opinion on this piece.

2. From the vicarage garden; a fragment of South Gaulish ware from a bowl of Dragendorff's form 37. It comes from the zone of decoration directly below the ovolo and the decorative details are characteristic of the styles of MERCATOR and BIRAGILLUS. The piece may therefore be dated A.D. 80-100. I am indebted to Professor Birley for identifying this piece.

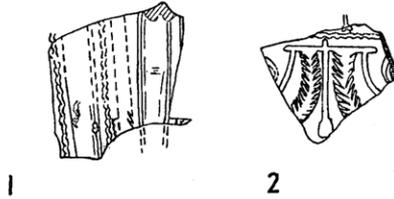


FIG. 2.—(½).