

NOTES

1. *Recent Finds from Walney North End.* By F. BARNES and J. G. JACKSON.

A fairly comprehensive report on the Walney North End prehistoric site was printed in CW2, lv. Almost immediately thereafter dune movements accompanied by the rapid spread of marram grass and other dune growths obliterated all the areas under investigation and it was not until 1974 that site VI (see CW2, lv, fig. 1 and p. 5) was again exposed and we were able to carry on more or less where we had left off. Very quickly large pieces of pot no. 23 (CW2, lv, fig. 7) were recovered together with smaller but still significant rim sections of pots 21 and 22 (CW2, lv, fig. 6). Owing to the significance of this shell-gritted, grooved-ware pottery,¹ the large bucket-shaped pot 23 was restored in its entirety; the bases of pots 21 and 22 were missing so it was only possible to rebuild portions of the rims in each case; these pots are deposited in the Barrow Museum.

The thick black midden deposit included many fragments of polished bone, generally too small to admit even a guess at the identity of the original artifact; there were two exceptions however, a splendid, very highly polished and sharply pointed bone pin 12 cm long (Fig. 1, 3) and a pointed spatula 10.9 cm long (Fig. 1, 4) highly polished on top and two sides, roughly smoothed underneath.

Flint finds, besides waste flakes, included two groups of unworked pebbles associated with a few large, clumsy scrapers and a beautifully worked blade 5.4 cm long (Fig. 1, 5). But perhaps the most interesting find was a flat ovoid limestone beach pebble, 12 cm by 6.5 cm, one end of which has been carefully ground on both sides to form a sharp axe-like cutting edge (Fig. 1, 1). A smaller beach pebble 8.8 cm by 4.8 cm with a similarly worked, but blunter, end had been found in the same stratum in 1954 (Fig. 1, 2). The importance of the 1954 find had not been recognized, but the more distinctively axe-like 1974 stone immediately recalled the class of artifact so common in the shell middens accumulated by Azilian strand-loopers; these tools have been variously named, e.g. limpet-scoopers, Ertbølle axes; they have been found on British littoral sites from Oban to Cornwall and experts disagree about their use; flint working, carpentry or limpet gathering have all been suggested.² The Walney examples do not help solve the problem; a high proportion of the shells in the midden are limpets, but there is also evidence of flint working and lots of charcoal; all that can be said is that the cutting edges are virtually unmarked and the butts un battered and that the limestone would not stand up to heavy use.

The only previous significant find of bronze on Walney had been the broken shank of a large pin (CW2, xlvii, fig. 3), but in February 1976 a small bronze pin 7.5 cm long was picked up at the western extremity of the North End site (site I), where extensive wind erosion was just beginning to expose a typical occupation floor with shattered stones, bones, shells, etc. Then in June a second pin 5.2 cm long was uncovered at the same place. The larger pin (Fig. 1, 7) has a round section and is still quite sharp; the smaller (Fig. 1, 6) has a square section and the point is missing; both are flat headed and seem to belong to the Late Bronze Age.

Though so little of the prehistoric level is at present visible, these new finds emphasise the potential richness of the North end area; perhaps enough has already been observed to suggest that it has been exploited by food gatherers from early Neolithic times onwards. One indication of an early dating of the midden at site VI has been reinforced; the find of a small sherd of a beaker was reported previously (CW2, lv, 5); this year many small but unmistakable fragments of a corded

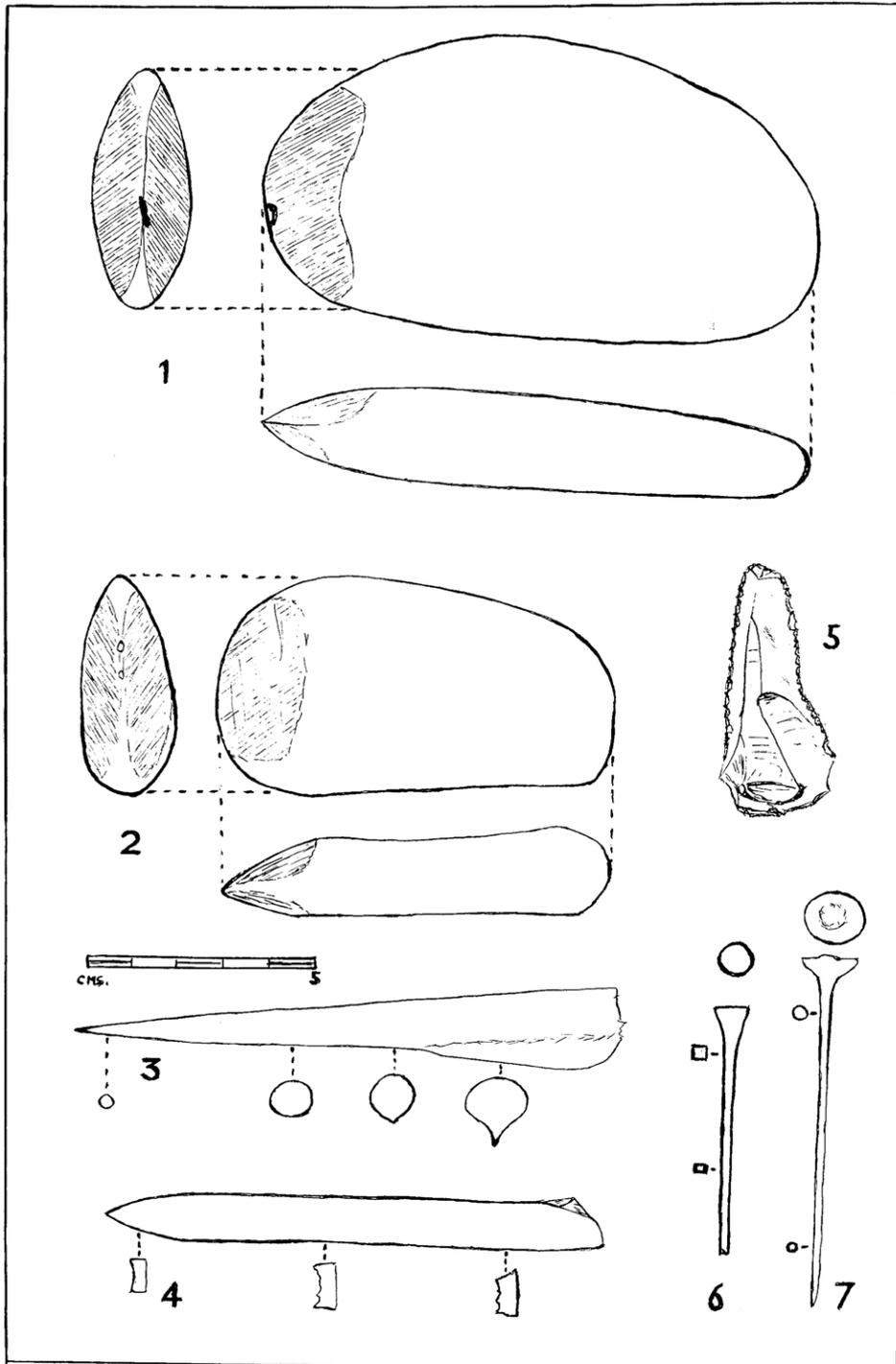


Figure I. Artifacts from Walney North End. 1, 2, limestone; 3, 4, bone; 5, flint; 6, 7, bronze.

beaker were recovered from a thin eroded habitation layer which lies above the midden stratum, separated by a band of blown sand varying from 15 to 30 cm thick; the midden layer itself has never been subject to erosion.

References

¹ Cf. T. G. Manby, "Grooved Ware sites in the North of England" (*British Archaeological Reports*, No. 9, 1974).

² Cf. V. Gordon Childe, *Prehistoric Communities of the British Isles*, 1940, 25, and J. G. D. Clark, *Mesolithic Age in Britain*, 1932, *passim*.

2. *Roman Coins from Carlisle*. By D. C. A. SHOTTER.

Earlier volumes of these *Transactions*, particularly in the latter years of the 19th century, contained many reports of discoveries of Roman material in and around Carlisle. Most of these reports, however, are brief and provide little detailed information about discoveries of Roman coins, with the result that fewer than fifty coins can be securely listed together with half a dozen, mostly ill-documented, hoards (Shotter 1979). This paucity of material is hardly consistent with the likely importance of Carlisle in the Roman period, particularly in view of the amount of urban development which has taken place over the past century and a half. Of the coins which have been recorded, the majority come from two periods – A.D. 70-180 and the first half of the fourth century.

This gap in our knowledge has to some extent been filled by the recent re-discovery in Lancaster Museum of a notebook containing details of more than one hundred Roman coins found in Carlisle in the 1860s. The notebook belonged to Thomas H. Dalzell, a collector of antiquities in the mid 19th century who lived in Lancaster, before moving to Clifton Hall, near Workington (Penney 1977). That Dalzell was a respected and thorough collector is seen from the fact that he was a source for a considerable amount of the information given in W. T. Watkin's *Roman Lancashire*. Much of Dalzell's collection was given to the Lancaster Mechanics' Institute, and now forms an important part of the coin collection in Lancaster Museum. In fact, approximately half of the coins which he lists as deriving from Carlisle have now been identified in the Museum; in the following list, these are identified by an asterisk.

<i>Issuer</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>References in RIC</i>
Republican	1?	A coin is credited to M. Antonius, but is insufficiently described for positive identification.
Augustus	4	<i>RIC</i> p. 44 (COL NEM; 2 specimens, both in Lancaster Museum), 84,* 220.*
Tiberius	3	<i>RIC</i> p. 95, no. 6 (DIVVS AVGVSTVS PATER),* 15,* 26.*
Gaius	3	27,* 32,* 35.
Claudius	5	60 (2 specimens; one in Lancaster Museum), 61, 66,* 68.* (The two examples of <i>RIC</i> 60 bear the counter-mark, N(ero) C(aesar) A(ugustus) PR(obavit).)
Nero	7	68, 131, 203,* 222 (3 specimens; one in Lancaster Museum), 329.*
Galba	3	35 (3 specimens; two in Lancaster Museum).
Vitellius	1	10.
Titus (under Vespasian)	1	(Vesp) 616a.

Domitian (under Titus)	1	(Tit) 155.
Domitian	5	232, 285,* 301b, 313,* 393.*
Trajan	13	390, 395, 399,* 434,* 476,* 503,* 508, 534,* 538,* 607,* 655, 667, 672.*
Plotina	1	740.
Hadrian	18	550,* 551,* 561,* 563 (2 specimens), 577a,* 594,* 631,* 636 (2 specimens; one in Lancaster Museum), 748, 777, 785,* 823, 849 (2 specimens), 850,* 859.*
Sabina	2	1017,* 1035.*
Antoninus Pius	4	605, 658, 767,* 875.
Faustina I	1	1103A.*
M. Aurelius (under Antoninus)	2	(Antoninus) 1322 (2 specimens).
M. Aurelius	5	796,* 904(?), 922(?), 1063, 1154.
Faustina II	2	(Antoninus) 1371, (Marcus) 1703.
Commodus	4	368a(?), 368b, 370, 654.
Clodius Albinus	1	No details given.
Septimius Severus	2	669,* 802.
Caracalla	2	473, 550a.
Julia Soaemias	1	407.*
Severus Alexander	8	440,* 511,* 528,* 535,* 618,* 648 (2 specimens, both in Lancaster Museum), 651.
Julia Mamaea	1	676.*
Maximinus I	3	61,* 67,* 90.
Pupienus	1	23.
Gordian III	2	297, 305.*
Philip I	2	165,* 167a.*
Otacilia	2	203 (2 specimens, both in Lancaster Museum).
Diocletian	3	(Carthage) 17a,* (Ticinum) 23a, 45a.*
Maximian	3	(Antioch) 44b,* (Ticinum) 55b, (Aquileia) 29b.
Maximinus II	1	(Siscia) 222b.

Whilst, however, the number of coins is substantial, we should beware of assuming that it is necessarily representative of what was being found. Dalzell purchased his coins from labourers on construction sites, and will presumably have been subject to what they were prepared to show him. This may indeed explain the total absence of silver coins from his group, so that it fails to reflect the growing strength of the *denarius* from the mid-second century onwards (Reece 1973, 232 ff.).

Further, it is clear that as a collector Dalzell was selective; he notes the prices which he paid for his coins – (on average two or three shillings, but as much as five shillings for some) – and it is obvious that he was prepared to pay well for what he wanted. Quality was clearly one criterion, for the majority of the coins located in Lancaster Museum are good or very good specimens.

Another criterion was almost certainly a desire for particular types of coin; it can hardly be accidental that the majority of coins listed are *sestertii* and *dupondii* up to the 240s and *folles* of the period from Diocletian's reform to the early years of the fourth century, when the size of the

new denomination began to slide decisively. In other words, there are no coins of the prolific issue-periods A.D. 260-275 and 330-350. It is worth noting that whilst few coins of these periods were recorded amongst the casual finds from Carlisle, they have been recovered in substantial numbers in recent excavations.

It would in view of these factors be unwise to make many general comments about the collection; it is, however, worth noting the high proportion of pre-Flavian issues – twenty-seven coins. The presence of substantial numbers of Claudian and Neronian coins indeed might be taken as evidence in the vexed question of pre-Agricolan activity at Carlisle. As striking, however, is the comparative paucity of Flavian coins in the group, contrasting sharply with the coin evidence from Miss Dorothy Charlesworth's recent excavations. The second point to note is the large number of coins from the first half of the third century – a period which is generally poorly represented on sites in north-west England, particularly in *Aes* issues. There is no suggestion in Dalzell's notes that any of these were hoard material, although the similarity in the condition of those coins of the period which have been identified in Lancaster Museum at least raises the possibility.

Finally – and this is perhaps the most significant uncertainty – Dalzell gives no indication of the places in the city which were the sources of his coins. It is clear from notes in the earliest volumes of *Transactions* that construction work was widespread over the period 1860-1880; in particular, considerable attention was paid to the discoveries made in the course of work on the City's sewers in 1859 (CW1, iv [1880], 337 ff.), though few coins were mentioned in this connection. It is further possible that the Kirksteads hoard of *folles* may have been the source for the latest coins in Dalzell's collection (Whellan 1860, 171); this hoard of more than one thousand coins was dispersed, although the recent discovery of a further two hundred coins from this hoard shows that their condition may not have been unlike those in Dalzell's collection (Casey 1978).

The total of recorded Roman coins from Carlisle is now in excess of two hundred, and I hope to have the opportunity for a full discussion of the sample in the context of Mr M. McCarthy's report on his current excavations in the city.

References

- Casey, 1978: P. J. Casey, in *Coin Hoards*, IV (1978).
 Penney 1977: S. H. Penney, "The Dalzell collection", *Contrebis* V (1977), 23ff.
 Reece 1973: R. Reece, "Roman Coinage in the Western Empire", *Britannia*, IV (1973), 227-251.
 Shotter 1979: D. C. A. Shotter, "Roman Coin Hoards from Cumbria", CW2, lxxix (1979), forthcoming.
 Whellan 1860: W. Whellan, *The History and Antiquities of Cumberland and Westmorland* (1860).
 Crawford: M. H. Crawford, *Roman Republican Coinage* (Cambridge 1974).
RIC: H. Mattingly, E. A. Sydenham, C. H. V. Sutherland, (Eds.), *The Roman Imperial Coinage* (London 1923-).

Addendum

Dalzell's collection also included a number of coins from other places in Cumbria; it may be useful to gather these together:

Ambleside:	Æ coin (possibly Trajan).
Brough under Stainmore:	<i>Dupondius</i> of Hadrian (<i>RIC</i> 605).*
Papcastle:	<i>Denarius</i> of Galba (<i>RIC</i> 92).*
Penrith:	<i>Denarius</i> of Censorinus (probably Crawford 346 of 88 B.C.)
Leck:	<i>Denarius</i> of Domitian (<i>RIC</i> 16).* This coin may derive from the fort at Burrow-in-Lonsdale, although it is possible that its context lies in the extensive Romano-British settlements published by R. A. C. Lowndes (CW2 lxiii (1963), 86ff; lxiv (1964), 6ff).

Lancaster Museum also has the notebook of Mr Corbyn Barrow, another coin collector who was a contemporary of Dalzell. Whilst it is clear that the provenances of many of his coins are in north-west England, he rarely gives precise information concerning particular sites. He does, however, note that he acquired two coins of Constantine I from Whitehaven.

Acknowledgements

My thanks are due to Mrs Edith Tyson and Mr Stephen Penney, Curator and Keeper of Archaeology respectively at Lancaster Museum, for allowing me access to the Dalzell and Barrow notebooks, and for facilitating my examination of the coins.

3. *A Roman Coin Hoard from Brougham.* By D. C. A. SHOTTER.

In 1910, a hoard of some 500 Roman coins was found at Brougham Castle Farm (NGR NY 539290). The hoard, which was found apparently in association with the foundations of a wall and human remains, consisted of coins of the period A.D. 253-273, many of which were irregular issues of a very poor standard, being small in size and with blundered, often illiterate, legends.

A. J. Heelis (CW2 xi, (1911), 209 ff.) published 23 coins – (Valerian 3, Postumus 5, Tetricus I 2, Tetricus II 6, with seven illegible) – and it is clear from his report that identification of the prototypes from which the coins were derived was far from easy. Heelis noted that, besides the 23 coins which he published, he had in his possession a further 127 very small irregular issues; all 150 were to be handed over to the Lord of the Manor, Lord Hothfield. The remainder of the hoard had already by 1911 been dispersed into private hands; of these little was known apart from the fact that some were issues of Postumus.

Carlisle Museum and Art Gallery has in its collection 51 coins from Brougham which, although not specifically assigned to the 1910 hoard, clearly do belong. Through the kindness of Mr David Clarke and Mr John Chapman (respectively Curator and Keeper of Archaeology at the Museum), I have been able to re-examine the coins, in some cases correcting the original descriptions. The Museum's collection consists of 8 regular and 43 irregular issues.

A Regular Coins (1-8)

Valerian

1. IMP C P LIC VALERIANVS AVG
FIDES MILITIVM (A.D. 253; Rome; *RIC* 89)
2. IMP C P LIC VALERIANVS P F AVG
LAETITIA AVGG (A.D. 256; Moesia; *RIC* 216)
3. IMP C P LIC VALERIANVS P F AVG
VIRTVS AVGG (A.D. 256; Moesia; *RIC* 227)

Postumus

- 4-6. IMP C POSTVMVS P F AVG
MONETA AVG (A.D. 259-68; Cologne; *RIC* 315)
7. IMP C POSTVMVS P F AVG
PAX AVG (A.D. 259-68; Lugdunum; *RIC* 154)
8. IMP C POSTVMVS P F AVG
SAECVLI FELICITAS (A.D. 259-68; Cologne; *RIC* 325)

B Irregular coins (9-51)

Many of the radiate copies in the hoard are of a very poor standard and frequently small; the following list indicates their prototypes, such legends as they have, diameters in millimetres, and references to their prototypes in Volume 5 of *The Roman Imperial Coinage*.

Postumus

9. Pax (Rev. IIX)	Diameter 9 mm	RIC 318
10. Virtus (Obv.] VS PA)	9.5	331

Claudius II

11. Providentia (Obv. VS P I AV)	9	162
12. Altar (Rev.]ATI)	6.5	259
13. Altar	10.5	259
14. Altar	8.5	259

Victorinus

15. Mars (Obv. VCTINV[]AVG)	11.5	53
16. Pax (?) (Obv. IMVI[])	11.5	55 (?)
17. Salus (Obv.]VIC[])	11	67
18. Sol (?) (Obv.]INI[])	11	114 (?)
19. Victoria (Obv.]INVS)	11	75
20. Illegible (Obv. IV[])	9.5	?
21. Illegible (Obv. VICT[])	10.5	?

Tetricus I

22. Aequitas	9	52
23. Fides (Obv.]TITRIC[])	9	68
24. Fides	8	68
25. Hilaritas (Rev.]LAITIIS[])	13	79
26. Hilaritas (Obv.]ITV[])	10	79
27. Hilaritas	9	79
28. Hilaritas (Obv.]CVS AVG Rev.]AVG)	12.5	79
29. Mars	9	95
30. Pax	11	100
31. Pietas (Obv.]TRICVS P Rev. PIITA[]G)	16	110
32. Pietas	6.5	110
33. Pietas	10.5	110
34. Salus	12	121
35. Sol (Rev.]V[])	10	82
36. Victoria (Rev. V[]AATN)	16	144 (?)
37. Victoria (Rev. V G)	12	140
38. Virtus (Obv.]AG)	8	145
39. Virtus (Obv.]A)	11.5	145

40. Virtus (Rev.]V[)	11.5	145
41. Virtus (Obv.]VSPI[)	11	145
42. Virtus	10	145
43. Illegible (Obv.]TETRIC AV Rev.]AV)	10.5	?
44. Illegible	9	?
45. Illegible	9.5	?
46. Illegible	11	?
(Struck on to a re-used flan of 17mm diameter)		
47. Illegible	16	?

Tetricus II

48. Sol (Obv.]ICVS AVG Rev.]VC AVG)	14	234 (?)
49. Pax (Obv.]SCI)	10	248
50. Pax	9.5	251

Illegible

51.	9.5	?
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Clearly, general comments are not justified on a collection which represents only 10 per cent of the original hoard, particularly since in the process of dispersal it is more likely that the "attractive" coins will disappear. Nonetheless, if we take the 150 coins seen by Heelis, noting that only eight of these were regular issues, it is clear that the hoard must have contained a significant proportion of poor, irregular coins; this, coupled with the absence from the hoard of coins of Carausius, would suggest a deposition date in the 280s.

It is also worth noting that in 1914 another small hoard was discovered at Brougham (Ninekirks); this hoard, which also contained a high proportion of irregular coins, is republished by P. J. Casey in the present volume of these *Transactions*.

4. *A Section of the Stanegate at Boothby, Cumbria, (NY 552627)*. By G. G. S. RICHARDSON.

In April 1974, our member Mr D. Adams of Estate House, Boothby, reported that whilst digging for a faulty field drain in a small field immediately south of his house he had uncovered some dressed stone blocks which looked like kerbing. As the find was on the presumed course of the Stanegate a short distance west of the point where it crossed the Quarry Beck (CW2, xxxvi, 182) it was decided to take the opportunity to excavate a trial section.

The dressed stones exposed in the drainage trench proved to be unconnected with the road; they were part of the foundations of a small building which had been erected over the silted-up south ditch of the road. No datable evidence was obtained from the small area of this structure which was examined, but it is not shown on any of the early maps of the district and is therefore presumably earlier than 1700.

The south ditch of the Stanegate, the road itself, and part of the north ditch, were sectioned; the northern part of the north ditch is deeply buried under recent spoil. The road was built in a natural shallow ravine converging on the valley of the Quarry Beck. The boulder clay floor of this

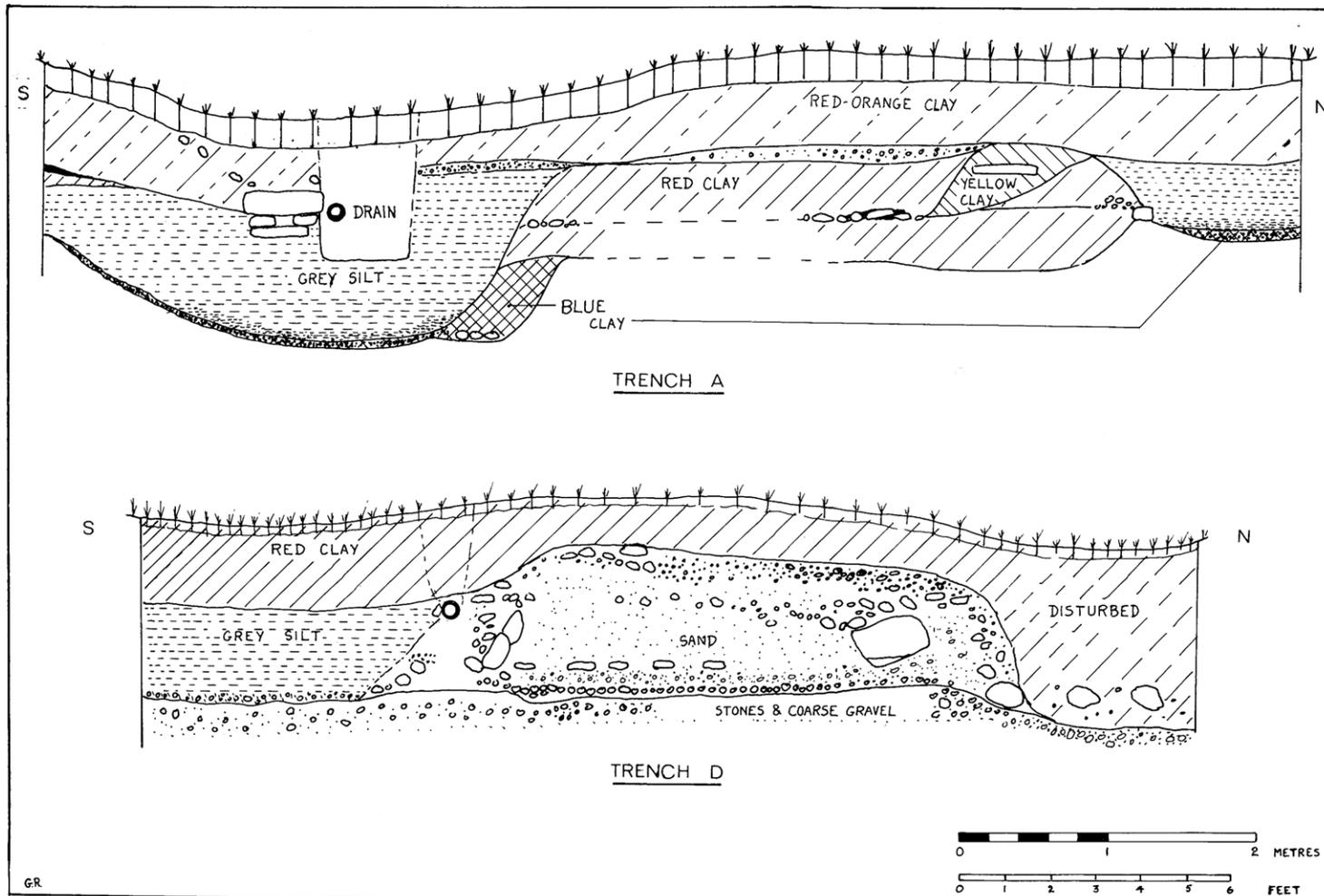


Figure I. Sections of the Stanegate at Boothby.

ravine had been consolidated with a layer of river pebbles set in a tough blue clay, above which an artificial road bed 1 metre high and 4 metres wide had been built up, leaving a ditch 3 m wide on the south side; the ditch on the north side was traced for 1 m and showed no sign of rising, so it was at least of similar width. The edges of the clay "agger" had been consolidated with large stones set in puddled yellow clay, but there was no dressed kerbing. The surviving road surface consisted only of a sparse layer of small cobbles and gravel. In the ditch there was 0.10 m of dark grey silt, overlaid by 0.75 m of paler grey silt (See Fig 1, Trench A).

Taking advantage of another exploratory drainage trench which Mr Adams had opened about 20 m east of Trench A, a second section (Trench D) was obtained. Just beyond Trench D the ravine turns sharply southward, through a cutting which may be artificial, and dips more steeply towards the Quarry Beck.

The section in Trench D showed a remarkable contrast to Trench A. The sub-stratum of boulder clay had given way to a bed of stones and gravel, and on this had been laid a foundation course of closely set flat stones, over which was a bed of sandy clay 0.4 m deep and 3 m wide, consolidated at each side with large stones bedded into the clay. The road surface consisted of hard-packed gravel and small stones to a depth of 0.25 m, resting on an irregular layer of large stones. At the southern end of the section the surface had been roughly repaired with much larger stones over a width of about 0.75 m. The south ditch showed similar stratification to the section in Trench A, but without the layer of pebbles in blue clay; the north ditch had been disturbed by later building activity.

The heavier construction of the second section was presumably made necessary by the somewhat unstable sub-stratum, and the proximity of the steeply sloping bend. Traffic stresses would be much more severe in this region than on the straight and gently sloping sector in which Trench A was cut.

The section described in the report of the Cumberland Excavation Committee already referred to appears to have been cut closer to the Quarry Beck on the final slope down to the crossing. The construction appears to have been similar to that found in Trench D, but we found no traces of the wooden stakes along the edge of the road which were noted in 1935. The wide ditches found have a parallel in Miss Hodgson's section of the Stanegate at High Crosby (CW2, xxxvii), where she recorded shallow ditches 6 ft. wide on each side of the metalling.

5. *The North Sea Gas Pipe Line through North Cumbria.* By G. G. S. RICHARDSON.

With the co-operation of the British Gas Corporation and the contractors involved, members of the Carlisle Group of the Society maintained a watch during 1975 on the trenching involved in the laying of the Frigg gas pipe line from the Scottish Border near Netherby to Edenhall on the western branch, and to the Northumberland boundary near Mains Rigg on the eastern branch, with the exception of the intersection with Hadrian's Wall near High House, which was watched by Newcastle University. An exposure of the Stanegate was recorded near Over Denton, although circumstances did not permit of a full section drawing being obtained. The Wall ditch and the Vallum ditch were examined in detail at the intersection near Walby, and good photographs and section drawings were obtained. In the Vallum ditch it was noted that, after only slight silting had occurred in the bottom of the ditch, a layer of turves on edge had been set across it, and covered with broken turfy material and clay. A well marked ancient turf line had developed above this infilling.

No other important observations were made, and there was no evidence of disturbance of any early sites. A full report was submitted to the Department of the Environment, who made a grant towards the expenses of the operation, and a copy has been deposited in the Society's library.

6. *Two Medieval Vessels at Whitehaven Museum.* By C. RICHARDSON.

These are referred to in CW2, xxv (1925), 364 as a "bronze skillet and bronze cauldron" of probable medieval date, and were described by the donors as a "Roman camp kettle" and "Roman urn" respectively.

The extremely fine bronze cooking vessel (Plate 1) was ploughed up in 1790 at Fingland Rigg, in the parish of Bowness-on-Solway, two miles S.E. of the Roman fort at Drumburgh. It was presented to the Museum by Miss Agnes Wilson, of Whitehaven, in 1908.



PLATE. 1. – Bronze cauldron from Fingland Rigg, Bowness-on-Solway. *Photograph by C. Richardson.*

Three-legged cauldrons possessing paired angular handles appear in the late 12th century, the type persisting with little modification until fairly recent times.¹ Cast in two separate halves, the join is clearly visible on the Fingland Rigg vessel in the form of a raised ridge running vertically on opposite sides of the cauldron. A rough, circular area on the base indicates the point where molten metal was run into the mould. Overall height 24 cm, circular mouth internal diameter 16 cm, neck tapering inwards to a depth of 3 cm, restriction diameter 12.5 cm, maximum body circumference 69 cm. The paired handles are roughly finished and appear to have been cast separately, 9.5 cm in length bent at right angles half way along. The legs also possess a rough finish, average length 8 cm terminating in "cats paw" feet, one being partly broken off. Ornamentation is lacking on the body of the vessel.

Earthenware cooking pots were in general use during the early medieval period, giving place to metal in the 13th century and being virtually superseded by the latter in the 14th century. A bronze cauldron of similar type is recorded from Gamelsby, Wigton, in CW2, lxiv (1964), 374-5, Pl. 1, but differs from the Fingland Rigg vessel in shape and display of ornamentation. The closest parallel is a specimen of 14th century date from Sumner Street, Blackfriars, London.²

The bronze ewer illustrated (Plate II) is in a rather parlous condition, being in two halves; much of the body is missing. This is one of the commonest forms of medieval vessel and displays the characteristic three legs, strip handle, rounded bottom and tubular spout terminating in an animal head. The latter is a consistent feature often representing a dragon's head and appears also on pottery jugs of the period.³ Presented to Whitehaven Museum by a Mr Ryrie in 1882, the provenance of the vessel is unknown.



PLATE II – Bronze three-legged ewer. *Photograph by C. Richardson.*

Vessels of this type contained late 14th-century coin hoards at Balcombe, Sussex,⁴ and Fortrose, Ross and Cromarty.⁵ Another vessel of identical form was found at Ashby Castle, Leicester, of 14th century or early 15th century date.⁶

The dimensions are: height 23.5 cm, circular mouth diameter 9 cm, neck tapering inwards to a depth of 8 cm, and restriction diameter 6.5 cm, maximum body circumference *c.* 42 cm, length of strip handle 13.3, width 2 cm. The spout is hexagonal in section, length 11 cm. Legs and feet are all intact, the average leg length being 6.8 cm.

A close parallel for the Whitehaven ewer is an example from Battersea, London, dated 14th-15th century.⁷

References

- ¹ R. E. M. Wheeler, *London Museum Medieval Catalogue* (1940, r. 1975), 205.
- ² R. E. M. Wheeler, *op. cit.*, 207, Pl. LVI, No. A27445.
- ³ R. E. M. Wheeler, *op. cit.*, 228, Fig. 75, 2. No. A27544.
- ⁴ J. H. Cooper, "The Find of Edwardian Coins at Balcombe", *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, xlii (1899), 209-13.
- ⁵ W. S. Geddie, "Notice of the discovery of a hoard of groats of Robert III, enclosed in a ewer of brass, and buried in the Cathedral Green, Fortrose", *P.S.A.S.*, xiv (1880), 182-219.
- ⁶ Notes "Pewter Vessel from Ashby-de-la Zouch Castle", *Antiq. Journ.*, xviii (1938), 178-180.
- ⁷ R. E. M. Wheeler, *op. cit.*, 201, Pl. LIII, No. A2752.

7. *Stone Head from Millom.* By C. RICHARDSON.

Manufactured from red sandstone, this head (Plate) was presented to Whitehaven Museum by Mr E. James in June 1976. It was recovered from St. George's Churchyard, Millom (SD 171 800), and had been used for some two years as a "doorstop", the flat smooth-surfaced back making it ideally suited for such a purpose. It is worth noting that a number of stone heads, ranging from Celtic to relatively modern, possess flat backs.¹ In the case of the early heads, this is frequently the result of re-use in later structures, notably field, house and church walls. In view of the number of "modern reproductions" in circulation, one is inclined to question the validity of stone heads lacking a context. Dating such heads is invariably hazardous, resting upon stylistic grounds. Despite the wide range of types, stone heads from Iron Age contexts exhibit certain common characteristics, cf. Ross (1967, 61-126), Jackson (1973, 2-4), the present example displaying these features and suggesting authenticity.



PLATE. Stone Head from Millom, Cumbria. *Photograph by C. Richardson.*

Overall length 30 cm, average width 19.5 cm, max. thickness 10 cm, rectangular-shaped eye sockets (left 3.5×2.5 cm; right 3.0×2.2 cm). Eyebrows clearly defined, slit mouth 6.5 cm in length, showing teeth. Nose is parallel-sided extending downwards from the inner bottom corner of each eye socket for a distance of 4.5 cm, the vertical marks linking up. Nostrils have been inserted with a hint of a moustache. An attempt has been made to provide the head with hair, on the top, side of face and chin. Tooling marks are visible, comprising small circular punch-like depressions and elongated score marks.

Several crude heads of Roman period date fashioned from local sandstone and associated with native cults have been recovered from the Cumbrian area. Excavations at Castlesteads² yielded stone objects including a roughly worked head with features similar to the Millom head: rectangular eye sockets, parallel-sided nose, hair shown by pecking. No attempt had been made to

fashion the Castlesteads head into naturalistic form, unlike the present example which has a roughly shaped outline. The parallel-sided nose form is found on examples from Maryport (incised head)³ and Netherby,⁴ while the slit mouth is a feature of many Celtic heads, teeth occasionally being displayed.⁵ A head from the N. Riding, Yorks., is close to the Millom specimen, differing in squared outline and almond-shaped eyes.⁶ Tricephalos from Woodlands, Co. Donegal, possesses eyes and nose of form similar to the Millom head.⁷ One of two heads built into the church at Kirkby Malham, N. Yorks., is likewise close.⁸

The Millom head exhibits features which can be paralleled in examples from Iron Age contexts, and a date within that period is tentatively suggested. Drawing of firm conclusions must await detailed recording and study of existing heads in the Cumbrian area, plus additional material. It is worth bearing in mind that Celtic characteristics were copied by 19th century stone-carvers, an aspect yet to be investigated locally. For a study of medieval and later effigies, busts and portrait medallions in the Diocese of Carlisle, cf. CW1, xv, 417-458; CW2, iv, 118-145.

Thanks are due to Dr A. J. N. W. Prag, Manchester University Museum, for providing information on the Kirkby Malham head.

References

- ¹ S. Jackson, *Celtic and other Stone Heads*, (1973), Pls. 2, 10, 36.
- ² F. Haverfield, "Report of the Cumberland excavation Committee for 1902", CW2, iii, 1903, 348.
- ³ A. Ross, *Pagan Celtic Britain* (1967, 84, Pl. 26d).
- ⁴ A. Ross, *op. cit.*, 81, Pl. 21a.
- ⁵ S. Jackson, *op. cit.*, Pls. 12, 41.
- ⁶ A. Ross, *op. cit.*, 85, Pl. 27a.
- ⁷ A. Ross, *op. cit.*, 75, Pl. 18a, b.
- ⁸ Manchester University Museum.

8. *Note on a Grave-Slab in a Distington garden.* By C. RICHARDSON.

Located some years ago by Mary C. Fair in the rear garden of Museum House, Distington (NY 0035 2257), this red sandstone grave-slab (Plate) is almost certainly the stone removed from Irton Church c. 1856, and subsequently lost. Known also as a "ledger" slab, it is a flat or coped memorial stone which covered the remains of the deceased. The vast majority of such stones are flat, the design incised or in relief, frequently a combination of both. For a full description and catalogue of grave-slabs in the Diocese of Carlisle, see CW2, vii (1907), 165-184; CW2, ix (1909), 1-23; CW2, xii (1912), 86-98.

Overall dimensions: length 1.67 m, width 66 cm, average thickness 10 cm. The stone has been broken into three pieces, the middle and bottom sections are joined, the top is free. Dexter side possesses a chamfered edge. The design consists of a plain cross surrounded by six annulets with possibly part of a seventh showing, the whole enclosed within a circle. On the sinister a long sword with traces of a sword belt, a small "satchel-shaped" object lies between the sword and the cross. Identification and dating of the slab largely rests on the interpretation placed upon this object. Calvary steps lead up to the cross base. Much of the design is in relief, some incised. Reverse side is undecorated with a flat surface damaged in places.

The earliest known person named "of Irton" was Bartram de Yrton, witness to a deed of gift to York Abbey c. 1110.¹ Thomas de Irton is the earliest recorded member to appear in local history, his name occurring regularly in the Chartularly of St. Bees from 1230-c. 1280. The Irton family pedigree published in the county histories tends to be unreliable, the early members lack factual confirmation, much of the information stemming from Samuel Irton's family compilation of 1764. A reference in this source states: "Adam de Yrton was a one of ye knights of St. John of Jerusalem

attended Godfrey of Bologne and ye other Christian princes into ye Holy Land and was at ye sege of ye cyty of Jerusalem Layd buryd under ye Communion Table at Irton in Church where his Jerusalem cross sword and gauntlet are partly desernable".² There was a strong tradition that one or more of the Irtons were Crusaders, the stone referred to was known locally as the "Crusader's Tombstone". The term is not uncommon, being applied to graveslabs elsewhere.³ The Irton monument was invariably linked with Adam de Yrton of the late 11th-early 12th century as the Family Memoir records. However, if the "satchet-shaped" object on the tombstone represents a gauntlet, this would suggest a later date for the stone.⁴



PLATE. Grave-slab from Museum House, Distington, Cumbria. *Photograph by C. Richardson.*

Irton Church was demolished in 1856, and the present building erected. The grave-slab was reputed to have been "taken to Irton Hall where it long remained. It is now lost, but under the communion table is a modern inscription".⁵ Taylor records the stone as having been presented to Distington Museum in 1872.⁶ Fortunately it has survived the disposal of the Museum collection in 1899. At present the stone is standing upright in a sheltered position and providing it is not moved should not suffer unduly from weathering.

My thanks are due to Mr and Mrs H. Fletcher of Museum House, Distington, for allowing me access to the stone, and to Carlisle Museum & Art Gallery for providing the date of the closure of Distington Museum.

References

- ¹ Rev. S. Taylor, "The Irtons of Irton Hall" (CW2, xli, 1941, 112).
- ² Rev. S. Taylor, *op. cit.*, p. 112.
- ³ Rev. A. J. Heelis, "Ninekirks and the Countess's Pillar", (CW2, iii, 1903, 356-9).
- ⁴ C. A. Parker, *The Gosforth District* (1926), 153.
- ⁵ C. A. Parker, *op. cit.*, p. 153.
- ⁶ Rev. S. Taylor, *op. cit.*, p. 74.

9. *The Irton Altar Frontal*. By R. S. BOUMPHREY.

When I wrote the note on Arms at Irton Hall (CW2, lxxvi, 220-21), I had not seen the armorial altar frontal referred to by C. A. Parker and Canon S. Taylor, but I have since been able to inspect this owing to the kindness of its owner, Mrs H. S. Greg (née Taylor) of 4 Little Aynam, Kendal, and have also seen its description in the *Catalogue of the Cumberland News Heraldic Exhibition*, held at Tullie House, Carlisle, 2-15 August 1951, in which it is numbered Item H4. The description is, however, incomplete in various details. The frontal, which measures $8\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{4}$ ft. (not 7×2 ft. as stated in the *Catalogue*), is of fine linen canvas, and the shields, names and other decorations are worked on it in tent stitch; the colours have faded remarkably little considering its age. A flower motif runs the length of the frontal above the arms; each shield is enclosed by rather formal fronds or branches, and below each one is the name of the marriage the impaled coat represents. Some of the names are incorrect, especially those ending in *s*, but the exact spelling is given here.

Below the centre shield are worked the date 1768 and initials F I, for Frances Irton, who worked the frontal, daughter and heir of Robert Tubman, of Cockermouth, and wife of Samuel Irton (1714-66), who built the chapel at Irton Hall between 1762 and 1766. The frontal remained at Irton Hall until the death of Samuel Irton in 1866, when his widow Eleanor Senhouse returned to her family home at Calder Abbey, taking with her the frontal and certain other items from the Hall, which thus escaped the sale of the Hall and its contents on James Oldham Ryder's bankruptcy in 1872. Mrs Irton left these items to her husband's cousin and god-daughter, Elizabeth, Mr Ryder's wife; and Mrs Ryder's daughters left the frontal to their cousin Nancy Taylor, now Mrs H. S. Greg.

The shields, from left to right, are:

1. Argent a fess Sable in chief three mullets Gules [Irton]; impaling, Or three cinquefoils pierced Sable. Swinburne [*sic* – correctly, Dykes, of Warthole].
2. Irton; impaling, Azure six annulets Or, three, two and one. Musgrave.
3. Irton; impaling, Argent two bars Gules on a canton of the second a cross of the field. Odingsels [*sic* – correctly, Broughton, of Broughton].
4. Irton; on an escutcheon of pretence, Azure on a bend between six lozenges Or five escallops Sable. Tubmans.
5. Irton; impaling, Azure a fess between three leopards' faces Or. Pools.
6. Irton; impaling, Gules three cushions Ermine tasselled Or. Redmans.
7. *Arms*. Quarterly, 1 & 4, Irton; 2, Or a crescent enclosing two human hearts fessways conjoined in fess Gules [Bassenthwaite]; 3, Argent two bars Gules over all a bend Or a canton of the second [Copeland]. *Crest*. A Saracen's head and bust affronté Proper wreathed about the temples Argent and Sable. *Motto*. Semper constans et fidelis. Copeland-Basenthwaite.
8. Irton; impaling, Or a cross flory Sable. Lamplugh.
9. Irton; impaling, Argent a lion rampant Sable. Stapletons.

10. Irton; impaling, Argent two bars Gules on a canton of the second a cross moline Or. Dykes [sic – correctly, Kirkby, of Kirkby Ireleth].
11. Irton; impaling, Gules a fret Argent. Harington [sic – correctly, Fleming of Rydal].
12. Irton; impaling, Or [sic – correctly, Argent] fretty and a canton Sable. Middleton.
13. Irton; impaling, Gules a chevron between three combs Or. Ponsonby.

10. *William Thain*. By J. W. KAYE.

In the descriptive leaflet of Wreay church, it is stated that a pine which still stands in the churchyard was grown from seed sent to Miss Sarah Losh, builder of the church, by her friend, Major William Thain, who was killed by a poisoned arrow in the Khyber Pass. Canon A. R. Hall, in his book *Wreay*, mentioned a now vanished inscription at the foot of the tree:

This Khelat pine is placed in memory of Wm. Thain, Major of the 33rd, and was raised from seed transmitted by him to England. He perished in the fatal Pass of Khoord Kabul, esteemed and lamented by all who knew him.

There are errors in both the above. Thain was not killed in the Khyber, nor in the Khoord Kabul, nor by a poisoned arrow, and he had transferred to the 21st Foot some years before he was killed. Although not a Cumbrian by birth, brief mention of this interesting man may not be out of place here. He was born at St. James's, London, in December 1796. A Wreay School Latin grammar bore his name and the date 1802. He spent his schooldays at Wreay, living there with a farming family named Bewley. He was well known in the village, where he had many friends. When little over 16 years of age, he was commissioned as ensign in the 33rd foot in May 1813, without purchase, and served in the unfortunate expedition to Bergen-op-Zoom in the Low Countries. For a year from May 1814, he was Town Adjutant of Antwerp, then full of allied troops - a responsible post for a lad of 17. In May 1815 he became Adjutant of the 33rd, an appointment he held for eleven years. From the Waterloo Roll, he appears to have been the junior of the nine ensigns of the regiment; he was severely wounded at Waterloo, receiving the Waterloo medal and a year's pay.

During the long peace that followed there was little opportunity for further distinction: promotion - except by purchase - was slow. In 1838 Thain transferred to the 21st Foot, obtaining a brevet Majority. During the first Afghan war he went as A.D.C. to General Elphinstone when the latter took over command of the British garrison at Kabul. Elphinstone had commanded the 33rd at Waterloo and the two men remained life-long friends. By November 1841 the garrison was beleaguered in its indefensible cantonment. Much fighting ensued, which ended in the fatal retreat towards Jellalabad, 90 miles way, during which the army of 4,500 men and 12,000 followers perished at the hands of the Afghans or from the extreme cold. There were virtually no survivors apart from hostages held by the Afghans. Three of them wrote detailed and first-hand accounts of this signal catastrophe. They repeatedly pay high tribute to the courage and leadership of Thain. In the fighting at Kabul and during the retreat, "repeated charges were led by the gallant Major Thain", although he was not a regimental officer. "Few men have ever combined all the excellent qualities which constitute the good soldier and the good man more remarkably than did Major Thain . . . Would that all to whom the General was in the habit of deferring had been equally wise to counsel and prompt to execute". He is described as "an officer of rare merit, ever present at the post of danger" and he proved himself to be "an able and judicious leader" under whom even dispirited troops "could yet redeem their injured reputation". Such references to Thain are among the few gleams that brighten a tale of "fruitless valour and unutterable woe".

He was one of fourteen of the few surviving officers who fell on 12th January 1842 in the Jugdullak Pass, the last of the snow-covered passes on the way to Jellalabad. Of the entire force, only one man - Dr Brydon - reached the safety of that place. There can be little doubt that the unmarked pine tree in the churchard at Wreay was planted in memory of a fine soldier and an honourable man.

