

Melandra Castle

BEING THE REPORT OF THE

Manchester and District Branch of the

Classical Association

for 1905

EDITED BY

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PREFATORY NOTE BY PROFESSOR R. S. CONWAY.

THE following pages contain the record of the excavation and study of the site and antiquities of the Roman Camp known as Melandra Castle, near Glossop, in 1905, by members and friends of the Excavation Committee of the Manchester and District Branch of the Classical Association in pursuance of a friendly arrangement with the trustees of the site (the Glossop Archæological and Natural History Society). The excavation is far from complete yet, but we have done our best to interpret as fully as possible the abundant evidence already obtained, and I venture to think the chronological results we have established (to mention only these) are of some historical importance. The Excavation Committee is especially indebted to its Secretary, Mr. F. A. Bruton, for undertaking the heavy work of planning and describing the camp so far as it is yet opened. The actual operations were directed first by him, and later on by Mr. J. H. Hopkinson and myself.

Each contributor to the Report is responsible for his own article only, but at the request of the Committee of the Branch I acted as General Editor. I may, perhaps, be allowed to express the pleasure with which our Committee entered into an arrangement with the Editor of this *Journal* whereby our Report on this well-known Derbyshire site is appearing in its pages. The division of the cost of publication has enabled us to make our illustrations far more complete than we could have ventured otherwise to do.

R. S. CONWAY.

The University, Manchester,
April, 1906.

P.S.—Mr. Bruton has now kindly added, at the request of the Excavation Committee, a brief account of the operations which he and Mr. A. C. B. Brown, B.A., directed this summer, of which a full report will appear early in 1907, under the title *Toothill, Mancunium, and Melandra*.

EXCAVATIONS AT MELANDRA IN 1906.

The work at Melandra during the year 1906 was directed definitely to obtaining answers to four questions:—

1.—Did any remains exist of the *spina* of the eastern gateway? The answer was in the negative, but the excavations produced the first specimens of the iron sockets of the gates found at Melandra so far.

2.—Were there any buildings on the terrace half-way down the western slope? Several deep trenches revealed nothing, and the work was abandoned.

3.—Did the ridges outside the north gate indicate a building? Excavation soon brought to light a small square building, evidently of Roman construction.

4.—Would the uncovering of the rest of the central building afford further evidence of its plan? The heavy work of removing the surface soil, which in some cases was piled five feet high, has not been unrewarded. The whole building is now cleared, and the three rooms have been trenched in the search for buried remains. Thanks mainly to Mr. Hamnett's subsequent work, foundations, indicating a plan somewhat similar to that of the Hard Knott headquarters, have been met with, the foundations lost by Mr. Garstang have been picked up, and a pit, containing part of an altar and other remains, has been discovered.

A detailed report of the work sketched above, illustrated by plans and photographs, will be issued early in the New Year by the Committee of the Classical Association, entitled *Toothill, Mancunium, and Melandra*. Canon Hicks has kindly consented to write for this report an article on the Melandra Altar and Mithras Worship among the Romans in Britain.

F. A. BRUTON,

Hon. Secretary, Excavation Committee.

November, 1906.

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ADDENDA.

- Page 5. A note should be added referring the reader to the Sectional Map in the Frontispiece.
- „ 42. A note should be added explaining that the photographer has slightly over-reduced the plan of Gellygaer.
- „ 98. In reply to a question, Professor Hope W. Hogg has very kindly sent me the following note (May 19, 1906):—

“Among the Jewish coins assigned to the period A.D. 132—135 are coins of the first year bearing the name ‘Simon Prince of Israel,’ and coins of the second year bearing the name ‘Simon.’ It is reasonably inferred that ‘Simon’ was the personal name of the leader of the Jewish revolt against Hadrian. Jewish sources call him Ben—(or Bar—) Koziba, perhaps from his native town or his father; Christian sources call him (Bar) Chochebas, ‘Son of the Star,’ a Messianic title founded on Numbers xxiv., 18. Of his career and the course of the war not much is known with certainty; but the struggle was severe, and the revolt was suppressed only after Roman troops had been amassed in considerable strength by (Sextus) Julius Severus, governor of Britain (*leg. pr. pr. provinciae Britanniae, leg. pr. pr. provinciae Judaeae* [C.I.L. iii. n. 2830]), who was transferred to Judaea to take charge of the war (Dio Cassius, lxix., 13). Has that any connection with the presence of the coin at Melandra?”

The information given us by the authorities Prof. Hogg cites, seems to give a negative answer to his final question; since it seems clear that this Severus was never in command in Judaea before coming to Britain, and that he did not return to Britain after the Jewish war. But there is nothing to prevent our supposing that some Roman officer of lower rank had served in Judaea before coming to Britain.

- „ 113. At the foot should be added—

RECORD OF LOST FRAGMENT OF INSCRIPTION.

Small sketch, by R. B. Robinson, of the left-hand top corner of a moulded stone found at Melandra, but now lost, containing the letters I M P. C . . . See page 128.

R. S. C

ERRATA.1

- Page 2 footn. 2 read 'Longdendale.'
- „ 4 l. 18 read Batham Gate.
- „ 6 footn. 7, l. 5 *dele* and.
- „ 8 l. 7 read six instead of seven.
- „ 56 l. 11 read headquarters instead of *pratorium*.
- „ 63 l. 2 *dele* and.
- „ 70 l. 7 from foot, „ closing the quotation should be added after forts.
- „ 77 last line, read beauty or variety.
- „ 92 last paragraph, read discs uniformly in all three places.
- „ 93 last line, read hot air.
- „ 100 Note 1 attached to Weight no. 29 should be at the foot of the page and followed by the initials R.S.C.
In the same note read Mr. W. Makower.
- „ 101 l. 5, *dele*. Beyer.
- „ 104 last line, read no intentional marks save the perforations.
- „ 105 Weight no. 4, read frustum.
- „ 110 read III. WEIGHTS OF KELTIC STANDARD (contd.).
under IV. DOUBTFUL in the heading to the 6th column read =8 drachmae; and in the next heading read 18 siliquae.
- „ 116 ll. 12-13, read preferring.
- „ 119 l. 6 from foot, read inscriptions.
- „ 123 l. 1 instead of T read I.
- „ 128 footn. last line, read (cf. p. 113).
- „ 129 l. 12, *dele* the comma after *impiae*.
- „ 130 l. 9, read monster-haunted; and so on p. 137 l. 8.
- „ 133 l. 17, add a comma after Concanum.
- „ 133 footn. 21, read Hor. *Odes*.
- „ 135 footn. 38, after Britain add (as being so far North) and in the next line read than in Italy.
- „ 137 l. 15. The words It is fortunate should begin a new paragraph.
- „ 138 l. 10, read The shores of the sea that we know.
- „ 141 l. 8, read uocantibus.
The last three lines of the page should have been printed as continuous prose.
- „ 142 l. 20, for about 409 read 403 and for Radagaisius read Alaric.
- „ 142 footn. 65 should read Claud. *de Bell. Get.* 416, cf. p. 119 supra; but see also Gibbon l.c. p. 380.

1. It is fair, I think, to both editor and printers, to explain why this list is so long. In order, if possible, to be in time for this off-print to appear with the current number of the *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal*, the copies were struck off before the proof could be finally read for press.