

## V.—THREE NEW INSCRIPTIONS.

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### ABBREVIATIONS.

- C. *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*, vol. VII.  
A.A. *Archæologia Aeliana*.  
E.E. *Ephemeris Epigraphica*.  
J.R.S. *Journal of Roman Studies*.

### I. A MILESTONE OF AURELIAN.

During the reconstruction of a culvert under the Newcastle-Carlisle road in February, 1932, a quarter of a mile west of Fell End farm and rather more than half a mile east of Carvoran, messrs. Joseph Birkett & Sons, contractors, of Haltwhistle, discovered the inscribed stone that has prompted the present note. Thanks are due to Mr. Joseph Birkett, who at once recognized the importance of the find and arranged for its careful removal to Haltwhistle; subsequently, through the good offices of our member, Mr. Walter Ingledeu of Henshaw, Mr. Birkett has presented the stone to this society's museum, where it now is. (Plate VII.)

It had been built into the arch of the culvert (no doubt at the making of the military road in the eighteenth century), and to convert it into a voussoir the top and sides, perhaps also the bottom of it, had been trimmed away; fortunately, most of the inscription remains, little affected by weathering or subsequent vicissitudes. Its present dimensions are 2 feet 3 inches high by 1 foot wide;

the inscription can be restored with tolerable certainty as follows :<sup>1</sup>

imp caes  
i DOMITI  
o AVRELI  
A NO PF  
AVG

[*Imp(eratori) Caes(ari) L(ucio) Domi[tio]  
Aurel[i]ano p(io) f(elici) Aug(usto)*]

It has plainly been a milestone, recording (as is usual in examples of the period) nothing but the name and titles of the emperor under whom it was set up—in this case Aurelian—and it may be supposed to have been brought from the Stanegate, which passes hardly two hundred yards north of the culvert into which the stone was built; Carvoran and Greatchesters are both too far away to come into serious question, even if the form of the inscription had not shown that it was a milestone.

Hitherto, the only epigraphic record of Aurelian in this country has been the milestone from Bitterne, near Southampton,<sup>2</sup> so that the Fell End stone is a welcome addition to our evidence for Roman activities in Britain in the latter part of the third century. The inscription can be closely dated: Aurelian became emperor in 270, and was assassinated in 275; but until 273 Gaul remained independent of the central government, and Britain recognized the Gallic emperors, as inscriptions from Birdoswald<sup>3</sup> and milestones from many parts of the country<sup>4</sup> serve to show. It follows that the new milestone falls into a period of some two years at the most, from 273 to 275; but there is a possibility that it should be dated more closely. Among the remarkable series of milestones from the Stane-

<sup>1</sup> Cf. plate VII.

<sup>2</sup> C. 1152.

<sup>3</sup> C. 820, 822, 823.

<sup>4</sup> POSTUMUS: J.R.S., XII, p. 281 (Cornwall); C. 1161=E.E., IX, p. 635 (South Wales). VICTORINUS: C. 1160 (South Wales); *Roman Britain in 1913*, p. 32 (Chesterton); E.E., VII, 1097 (Lincoln); E.E., IX, 1254 (Old Penrith.) TETRICUS: C. 1150, 1151=E.E., IX, 1249, 1250 (Bitterne).

gate, found together on Crindledykes farm in 1885,<sup>5</sup> is one of Probus, who was emperor from 276 until 282. The lettering of the Crindledykes stone (now in the museum at Chesters) closely resembles that of the new inscription, particularly in the form of G used; both look to have been cut by the same mason. It may be suggested that the two represent a single scheme of repairs to the Stanegate, carried out in the years 275-276 by a gang working eastwards from Carvoran.<sup>6</sup>

## II. A RECORD OF THE CLASSIS BRITANNICA ?

In March, 1932, I learnt from our member, Mr. Thomas Hepple, of the discovery of an inscribed and sculptured stone at Heddon North Lodge, during the repair of a wall in the garden, a few days before Easter.<sup>7</sup> It is a block of freestone, that appears to have had the top and right side trimmed off subsequently to the original cutting; the present dimensions are 12 inches wide by 8 inches high. On the left side, in somewhat high relief, is the figure from the waist up of a man wearing a hooded cloak, facing the inscription, at which he is pointing with his right hand.<sup>8</sup> (Plate VIII.)

Of the inscription, all that remains is CL · P · Mr. R. G. Collingwood, who gives this reading of the stone in the *Journal of Roman Studies*,<sup>9</sup> adds, "The last letter is certain, and one cannot read *Cl(assis) B[rit(annicae)]*";

<sup>5</sup> E.E., VII, 1108 (SEVERUS ALEXANDER), 1109 (PROBUS), 1110 (GALERIUS), 1111 and 1112 (CONSTANTINE), and fragments of two others. For the discovery, cf. A.A., 2nd ser., XI, p. 130 f.

<sup>6</sup> Tacitus and Florian, the short-lived emperors who followed Aurelian and preceded Probus, are not yet represented on the Stanegate, though milestones of theirs are recorded from Britain: TACITUS (275-276): E.E., III, 117 (South Wales). FLORIAN (276): C. 1156 = E.E., IX, p. 634 (Chesterton); J.R.S., XVII, p. 219 (Stainmore).

<sup>7</sup> Leslie Murray, the finder, at the age of fifteen has shown commendable interest in the excavations that have been taking place along the military road near Heddon, and cycled some thirty miles in order to inform Mr. Hepple of his discovery.

<sup>8</sup> Cf. plate VIII.

<sup>9</sup> XXII, p. 227, where it is included in a list of inscriptions found in 1931.

but from a close examination of the stone it appears that P is hardly possible: the surface has partly gone, but the letter looks to have been either R or B; and the analogy of the two inscriptions already known, from Triermain, near Birdoswald,<sup>10</sup> and Netherby,<sup>11</sup> suggests that we have here to deal with a record of the British fleet, engaged in building or rebuilding, presumably of the Wall itself, in the neighbourhood of turret 12b; and the inscription may be restored:

ped  
CL · Brit

However that may be, it seems desirable to add a note on the significance of the two earlier stones, since they have at times been interpreted in curious ways. John Hodgson, in his *History of Northumberland*,<sup>12</sup> expanded the Triermain inscription quaintly as "peditum centum quinquaginta Britannorum," or a hundred and fifty British infantry! In Hodgson's day such an interpretation was perhaps excusable; but in a book published in 1932 the Netherby inscription is treated very little better: "... the words *Pedites Classis Britannicae*—'Landing party from the British fleet'—commemorate the work, in all probability, of the men who were afterwards 'incorporated,' so to say, as Hadrian's Own 1st Marine Cohort."<sup>13</sup>

That *ped(atura)* is the correct expansion, there can be no doubt;<sup>14</sup> the meaning of the word is well known from Vegetius III 8: *Nam singulae centuriae, dividuntibus campidoctoribus et principibus, accipiunt pedaturas* (on the occasion of making camp); each century, that is to say, was given a specific length of wall to build. That will explain the

<sup>10</sup> C. 864: PED | CL BRIT.

<sup>11</sup> C. 970: PED . CLA | BRI; perhaps this stone also originally came from the neighbourhood of Birdoswald.

<sup>12</sup> II, iii, p. 297.

<sup>13</sup> A. R. Burn, *The Romans in Britain*, p. 115.

<sup>14</sup> The rank and file of the fleets were described, not as *pedites*, but as *milites*, though to distinguish them from soldiers they are often described as *classarii*; it is possible that these inscriptions should be expanded to read *cl(assiariorum) Brit(annicianorum)*.

centurial stones: they were for purposes of record, so that if in any place the work had not been done satisfactorily, it would be possible to discover who was responsible;<sup>15</sup> and the inscriptions of the men from the fleet may be taken to belong to the same series.<sup>16</sup>

The further suggestion that the detachment from the fleet was subsequently incorporated as *coh. I Aelia Classica* is an attractive one. The cohort appears in the British diploma for A.D. 146;<sup>17</sup> from this it might be inferred at first sight that it was already in existence in 121, before work on the Wall began, since some of its men were being discharged in 146, after twenty-five years' service; but the inference is not necessarily a correct one. In the first place, it is clear that men could be transferred from regiment to regiment, and trained men were drafted into newly-raised units for training purposes; such men might receive their discharge within a few years only of the raising of the regiment in which they last served.<sup>18</sup> But the important point, as far as *coh. I Aelia Classica* is concerned, is that its original members would have some years of service with the fleet to count, so that there would in any case be members of the cohort due for discharge before it had been in existence for twenty-five years.<sup>19</sup> That it had been formed before the death of Hadrian<sup>20</sup> is shown by an inscription from Ostia.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Cf. R. G. Collingwood on the centurial stones from Caerleon amphitheatre, *Archaeologia*, 78, p. 156.

<sup>16</sup> The men from the fleet were frequently employed on land for road-works and the like; cf. Hyginus, *de munitionibus castrorum* 24, and Fiebiger, *Leipziger Studien*, XV, 277-458.

<sup>17</sup> C.I.L., III, S p. 1982.

<sup>18</sup> For the transfer of men from one regiment to another, cf. the *laterculus* of *coh. I Lusitanorum* in Egypt, E.E., VII, pp. 456-467; for the drafting of trained men into newly-raised regiments, Tacitus, *Agricola*, 28, 2 (the cohort of Usipi). The latter practice is probably the reason for the appearance of a *coh. Mattiacorum* in the Moesian diploma for A.D. 78 (*Année Epigraphique* 1925, no. 67); the cohort can hardly have been in existence as early as A.D. 53.

<sup>19</sup> Cf. the somewhat analogous case of *I Adiutrix* and *II Adiutrix*: Dessau 1998 and 1999, and *Bulletin de l'Institut archéologique bulgare VI* (1930-1931), Sofia, 1932 = *l'Année Epigraphique* 1932, no. 27.

<sup>20</sup> The title *Aelia* is not a sufficient indication, as it might equally well be given to a regiment raised by Antoninus Pius.

<sup>21</sup> C.I.L., XIV, S 5347: *L(ucio) Volusio L(uci) f(ilio) Maeciano*

Whether the assumption is justified depends, however, on the stones that mention the detachment from the fleet being Hadrianic; and that is not certain. In the case of the centurial stones, indeed, a Hadrianic date is generally assumed; but there appears to be only one centurion mentioned who can be shown with some probability to have served in the time of Hadrian:

- (1) From Newburn, E.E., VII, 1010: *Leg(ionis) XX V(aleriae) V(ictricis) c(o)ho(rtis) IIII (centuria) Lib(urni) Fro(ntonis) (centuria) Tere(nti) [Ma]g(ni)*.
- (2) From Benwell, C. 506: *I(ovi) O(ptimo) [M(aximo) Dolic]heno et numini[b]us Aug(ustorum) pro salute imp(eratoris) Caesaris T(it)i Aeli Hadr(iani) Antonini Aug(usti) Pii p(atris) p(atriciae), et leg(ionis) II Aug(ustae), M(arcus) Liburnius Fronto (centurio) leg(ionis) eiusdem v(otum) s(olvit) l(ibens) m(erito)*.

To judge by the name *Hadrianus* occurring among the names of Antoninus Pius, the Benwell inscription belongs to the early years of his principate; and the dedicator, who as a senior centurion of the second legion was acting in command (we may suppose) of the fort at Benwell, may not unreasonably be identified with the centurion of the twentieth legion at the building of the Wall twenty years before; such a transfer of a centurion from one legion to another within a province was not uncommon, least of all in Britain;<sup>22</sup> and the uncommon *nomen*, occurring in conjunction with the same *cognomen*, would seem to warrant the identification of the two Liburnii Frontones as a single man. But in no other case does there appear to be reason to place a centurion definitely in the time of Hadrian; and the unusually elaborate character of the stone from Newburn somewhat reduces its value as evidence for dating the other centurial records. The whole question is one that deserves fuller consideration than can be given to it here;

*praefecto Aegypti, praef(ecto) annonae, pontif(ici) m(inori), a libellis et censibus imp(eratoris) Antonini Aug(usti) Pii, a studiis et proc(uratori) bibliothecarum, praef(ecto) vehicularum, a libellis Antonini Aug(usti) Pii, sub divo Hadriano adiutori o(perum) p(ublicorum), praef(ecto) coh(ortis) I Aeliae Classicae, praef(ecto) fabrum, patr(ono) col(oniae), d(ecurionum) d(ecreto) p(ositum)*.

<sup>22</sup> Cf., e.g., Dessau 2653, 2656, 2666<sup>b</sup>.

for the present it must suffice to emphasize that they need not all be of the time of Hadrian, or indeed of the same period; and the same must be said of the other stones of a similar type.<sup>23</sup>

### III. A NEW CENTURIAL STONE.

In the summer of 1932 I learnt through our member, Mr. John Gibson, of a centurial stone, newly discovered at Sharpley farm by messrs. Ballantyne, the tenants. I was not able to pay a visit to Sharpley before November, when in company with Mr. Thomas Hepple I examined the inscription and (under conditions of some difficulty) made a drawing of it. The stone is an ordinary Wall facing-stone, 14 inches wide by 9 high, very considerably weathered; it is built into the west wall of the coal-house, and is now thickly impregnated with coal-dust. The inscription, within an ansate panel, is fairly clear:

**R R O W**  
**P R O**      (*Centuria*) *Romu(lei) Pro(culi)*

The letters are very irregular, ranging from 1 to 1½ inches high in the first line to 2 to 2½ inches in the second; in the first line the top of the R is no longer to be made out, and the ligature MV is not perhaps quite certain. The stone must come from somewhere on Lime-stone Bank.

Romuleius Proculus, as the abbreviations may reasonably be expanded, is a welcome addition to the list of centurions recorded on the Wall. The *nomen* is an exceedingly rare one, but another example of it is known from the Wall, in a centurial stone found near Cawfields in 1905.<sup>24</sup> A further instance comes from Dacia.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>23</sup> In addition to the records of the *classis Britannica*, considered above, there are four stones recording (as it would seem) the work of British cantons: C. 775, 776, 863 and 897; and one, the *pedatura* of an individual, Vindomorucius. These last inscriptions are unquestionably later than the time of Hadrian.

<sup>24</sup> E.E., IX, 1189: (*centuria*) *Romulei Iusti*.

<sup>25</sup> C.I.L., III, 1352: *I(ovi) O(ptimo) M(aximo) [A?]eteto, L(ucius) Romul(eius) Quintus*.



MILESTONE OF AURELIAN FROM FELL END.





HEDDON NORTH LODGE.