



## XI.—THIRD REPORT ON EXCAVATIONS AT HOUSESTEADS.

BY ERIC BIRLEY AND JOHN CHARLTON.

[Read on 28th March, 1934.]

### *I. The excavations of 1933, by Eric Birley.*

The Durham University Excavation Committee's operations in the settlement outside Housesteads fort were on a smaller scale in the season under review than in previous years,<sup>1</sup> since work was also in progress at Housesteads milecastle, and the committee's funds would not allow of the employment of so many men on this part of the site. For the most part, work was confined to tracing the walls of further buildings fronting on the main road southward from the south gate of the fort, and only in two places (described in detail below) was it thought desirable to excavate more fully. Reference to the plan that accompanies the present report (pl. xxviii) will show that considerable additions were made to the group of houses previously examined, particularly on the west side of the road, and this part of the settlement is beginning to take shape as an area laid out on a regular plan—or rather, perhaps, two successive plans: for it will be seen that the fronts of nos. II and IX (the western end of which was eventually incorporated in no. VIII) are in one alinement, and nos. I, VIII, and the remaining buildings on the east side of the road, in another. The latter group is coeval

<sup>1</sup> For 1931, cf. AA<sup>4</sup> IX, pp. 222-237; for 1932, AA<sup>4</sup> X, pp. 82-96.

with the existing road, and presumably to be dated with no. VIII to about A.D. 300;<sup>2</sup> the earlier group and plan may fall, with no. II, to the early years of the third century.<sup>3</sup> But another season's work may be expected to give considerably more definition to our knowledge of the sequence in planning and construction.

The roadway itself, between nos. VIII-XII and XVI-XVIII, proved of some structural interest, for it was divided into two parts, a carriage-way ten feet wide, sloping evenly, and on its west side a footpath five feet wide, stepped down at intervals of four feet. As was noted in 1932, the roadway was of one build with the flagged western end of no. VIII. Three hundred feet south of the fort, the road crossed the line of the terrace through which the committee dug sections in the two previous seasons, and here results of considerable interest were obtained. In the first place, the terrace had been cut back, and retained by a rough revetting-wall, when the roadway was made; so that the comparatively early date of the terrace, suggested by the previous sections, gains welcome confirmation; furthermore, this particular terrace in its westward course forms one of the regular series below the farm-house, which therefore may be dated equally early: there can no longer be any question of a post-Roman date.<sup>4</sup> More important, however, than the relationship between roadway and terrace was the stratification sealed by the roadway. In brief, to take the historical order of events, it was found that in the first place the ditch of the Vallum (met with in the two sections taken through the terrace previously) here also had been cut down into the limestone, which formed its sloping bottom and the lower part of the sides; but the ditch had been interrupted to allow for a causeway similar in general type to those at Birdoswald and Benwell,<sup>5</sup> though in its design and construction there were peculiar

<sup>2</sup> AA<sup>4</sup> X, p. 89.

<sup>3</sup> AA<sup>4</sup> IX, p. 231.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. W. Percy Hedley in *Antiquity*, V, pp. 351-354.

<sup>5</sup> For *Birdoswald*, cf. CW<sup>2</sup> XXXIII, pp. 247-252: for *Benwell*, pp. 176-184 above.

features: it widens from south to north and, since the Vallum ditch is cut in the rock, as normally happens it is narrower than where the subsoil is clay, so that the total length of the causeway (twelve feet) is less than in the other two instances. For a reason to be described in the next paragraph, the masonry of the revetting walls has almost all gone, but what survives (one course on the west side and six on the east: cf. pl. xxvi, figs. 1 and 2) consists of very roughly dressed blocks of limestone set in clay; the contrast between this rough work and the carefully dressed ashlar of the Benwell causeway was very striking.

It is impossible now to say whether in this instance also there had been a gateway, but two considerations suggest that there had not. In the first place, the plan of the causeway itself does not include any obvious place for the erection of such a gateway; furthermore, although the existence of the causeway itself may reasonably be taken as evidence for the contemporary existence of a fort, the fact that the Vallum does not diverge, and the contours of the site, combine to show that the fort must have been considerably further removed from the crossing here than in the cases of Birdoswald and Benwell: in such a situation an isolated gateway, without quarters for guards, would have been of little use.

The discovery of this causeway adds a fresh complication to the history of the Roman occupation of Housesteads. The excavations of 1932 showed the existing fort to be historically contemporary with the Wall,<sup>6</sup> and it appeared possible that before the construction of the Wall there was no fort nearer than Chesterholm. But the new discovery makes it necessary to revise our opinion; we must assume that there was a post of some kind (not necessarily a very large one) maintained in approximately the same position as the present fort; and it is to be hoped that in a future season the committee will be able to trace

<sup>6</sup> AA<sup>4</sup> X, pp. 84-85.

such a post, either beneath the existing fort, or in its immediate neighbourhood.

After the formation of the causeway, but before the laying-out of the early fourth-century road, this part of the site had experienced a drastic modification of levels, apparently in connection with the formation of the terrace. In consequence, the greater part of the Vallum ditch had been bodily removed, and little more of it remained than the heel, cut into the limestone: for in contrast to the situation some yards to the east, where the last section had been taken, to maintain the level of the terrace it had been necessary to shave off part of the hillside instead of forming an embankment along it; and in addition to the Vallum ditch, the greater part of the crossing itself had been removed, together with whatever roadway there may have been laid on it.

In between the formation of the terrace and the construction of the fourth-century road there was no intermediate layer at this point; it remains to be seen whether the road suggested by the earlier alinement continued as far south as the terrace or not; and it has yet to be seen whether the present road continued further down the hill. If it did, it is likely to have taken a line similar to that of the present farm-road, which gives a comparatively easy gradient, but leads away from that part of the valley in which there is reason to postulate the largest concentration of settlement in the Roman period.<sup>7</sup>

The roadway was partly flagged, partly of cobbles (cf. fig. 1); on its west side, parts of two buildings (nos. XX and XXI) were found. Of no. XX, only the south wall was cleared; parts of the north and east walls of no. XXI were exposed, and some of the east wall and the flagged floor of the building had to be removed to show the Vallum ditch beneath (cf. pl. xxvi, fig. 1); the south wall and the southern portion of the east wall have been destroyed, perhaps when the present farm-road was made. Both

<sup>7</sup> AA<sup>2</sup> XXV, p. 243

# VALLUM CROSSING HOUSESTEADS

SCALE: 5 0 5 10 15 20 25 FEET

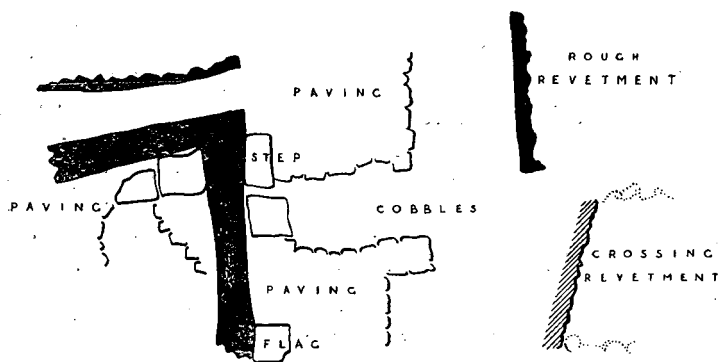
LEGEND:

ROCK:

WALLING:



P L A N



P L A N T O S H E W  
L A T E R W O R K

MENS ET DELT: C.R. BRUCE, A.R.I.B.A.

FIG. I.

buildings were of exceptionally rough construction, their walls being built of massive poorly-dressed blocks of stone; but the floor of no. XXI was at least as good as that of no. VIII.<sup>8</sup> Mr. Percy Hedley reports as follows on the stratified coins from this site :

1. *East of the causeway, below the terrace: sestertius of Trajan* (Cohen 320, A.D. 114/7); unworn.

2. *West side, over the Vallum ditch, below the floor of no. XXI: sestertius of Trajan, illegible.*

3. *Over the causeway, below the road: antoninianus of Claudius Gothicus, PROVID AVG.*

On the road were found an illegible *antoninianus*, probably of Victorinus, and a worn and illegible *as* or *dupondius* of Hadrian. No. 3 provides additional evidence for the late date of the roadway.

The other site, where fuller excavation was necessary, was a short distance to the east of no. VIII. It will be remembered that in 1932 the eastern portion of the south wall of no. VIII was found to belong to an earlier building, which projected further to the east. In 1933 this building (no. IX) was examined, and built up against the east end of its south wall was found a structure (pl. xxvii, fig. 1) resting on two large flags, and consisting of a semi-circular wall of carefully dressed ashlar one stone thick, still standing in one part five courses high. Owing to some previous disturbance of the ground, the eastern flag had settled three or four inches, and in consequence the walling above was somewhat distorted. Upright across the front of this structure (though not fastened in position) was a sculptured slab (pl. xxvii, fig. 2), representing a triad of hooded and cloaked figures: its dimensions are, width  $19\frac{1}{2}$  inches, height 16 inches, thickness  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and the figures stand  $11\frac{1}{2}$  inches high in  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch relief. The identification of the triad is not easy, in the absence of close parallels; the *matres* or mother-goddesses are generally portrayed seated, and the cloaks as well as the somewhat masculine appearance of the central figure have suggested to some who have seen the sculpture that it

<sup>8</sup> Cf. AA<sup>4</sup> X, pl. 11, fig. 2.

represents a triad of otherwise unknown male deities. The committee has had the good fortune to be able to refer the sculpture to Dr. Fritz Heichelheim, the author of the articles on *Matres* and *Muttergottheiten* in Pauly-Wissowa's Realencyclopädie, who has kindly undertaken to communicate a paper on it to this society, so that the attribution of the group may be left open for the time being.

Inside the recess (that is to say, behind the sculpture) and resting immediately upon the western flag, was a small hoard of coins, which Mr. Hedley has identified as follows :

1. Elagabalus (A.D. 220).
2. Iulia Mamaea (Cohen 81).
3. Iulia Maesa, SAECVLI FELICITAS.
4. Iulia Soaemias, VENVS CAELESTIS.
5. Severus Alexander (A.D. 229).

All are *denarii*, and nos. 2-5 are unworn.

The sculpture itself, as well as the deposit of coins and the form of the structure, suggests that we have here a shrine, of a type that has not been met with previously on the Wall. While the coins may be held to give an approximate indication of the date of its erection, it was thought desirable to examine the immediate neighbourhood of the shrine, in order to obtain further evidence for its date. In the first place, a rough wall continued in line with the east wall of no. IX southward, enclosing the shrine in the eastern end of no. XII; but the very roughness of this wall suggests that it is a late addition, that originally the shrine was in the open, and that the real east wall of no. XII is to be sought nearer the road. The flag foundation of the shrine rested on a flagged area which extended south and west, and a considerable portion of this flagging was cleared. It was found that in comparatively modern times a trench had been driven north and south of it, a few feet west of the shrine; and a few feet more to the west, the flags had settled in a way that

showed that there must be a considerable depression beneath. When the flags were removed, two features were observed: a drain running south-east from the north wall of no. VIII, which like the flagging above it had settled markedly into the earlier depression, and patches of flagging about two feet below the later level. Next the central portion of the drain itself was removed, and the depression below it examined; it proved to be a rubbish-pit, averaging six feet six inches across and three feet deep, dug down to the rock. As a rubbish-pit it was a disappointment, yielding only a few handfuls of pottery; further pottery came from between the two layers of flags, and it is to be hoped that when this material is examined, it may provide evidence for the date of the upper flagging, and consequently a *terminus post quem* for the erection of the shrine. This piece of work fell at the very end of the season, and it will be necessary to continue the examination of the site in 1934, since the extent and purpose of the rough wall previously referred to, the further course of the drain, and the character of the original east wall of no. XII require further investigation. The drain itself, it is clear, was to take the eaves-drip from between nos. VIII and XII.

Of the other buildings examined, little need be said; the tracing of their walls in most cases yielded no evidence for the date or character of their occupation. Those fronting on the west side of the road were seldom standing more than one or two courses high, but the further west our trenches were carried, the more encouraging was the preservation of the buildings, and there is reason to suppose that there will be well-preserved and extensive stratification to be found in their western portion: a small trial hole yielded a surprisingly generous quantity of pottery.

Thanks are again due to professor G. M. Trevelyan, O.M., for his support of the committee's work, and to Mr. William Thompson of Riding Mill, the tenant of Housesteads farm, for his unfailing courtesy and assist-



Fig. 1. HOUSESTEADS CAUSEWAY, WEST SIDE, LOOKING NORTH.



Fig. 2. HOUSESTEADS CAUSEWAY, EAST SIDE, FROM SOUTH.



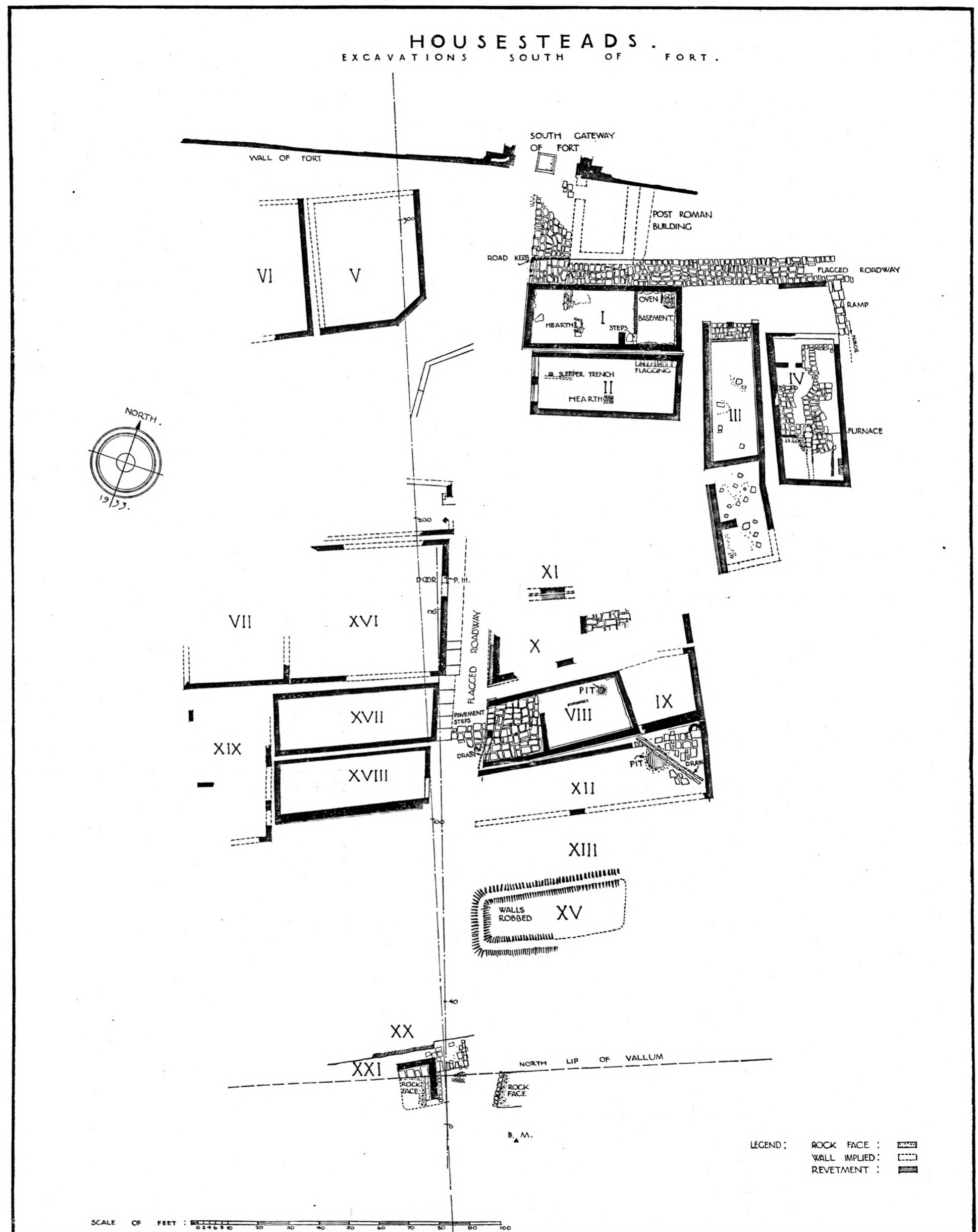






Fig. 1. THE SHRINE. FROM WEST; KING'S HILL IN BACKGROUND.



Fig. 2. SCULPTURE OF THE MOTHERS.



ance. The work described above was for the most part under Mr. Charlton's immediate direction, and Messrs. G. S. Keeney and A. W. Bell acted as assistants; for the general plan of the site we are indebted to Mr. T. J. Cahill, of the department of architecture at Armstrong College, who assumed responsibility for the surveying and planning of the committee's operations, and the detailed plan of the causeway and the later buildings there has been supplied by his assistant Mr. G. R. Bruce. A number of students from Armstrong College and the Durham Colleges also took part in the tracing of buildings, and in the sorting and classification of the finds. Mr. Charlton's report on small objects from the three seasons' excavations follows; a full report on the pottery from the settlement will accompany the account of the excavations of 1934, which are to close the present scheme of work at Housesteads.

## *II. Small objects from Housesteads and other sites, by John Charlton.*

The bulk of the objects here described are the product of the Durham University Excavation Committee's work at Housesteads in the seasons 1931-3; but since it is more than twenty years since a report on small finds on a large scale has appeared in this society's publications, it has been thought convenient to include certain finds from other sites, such as those recently excavated by the North of England Excavation Committee; and the presence in this volume of an article on the Roman fort at South Shields<sup>9</sup> has occasioned the inclusion of a certain amount of material from last century's excavations there, either for comparison with material from Housesteads, or because of some intrinsic interest.

The Housesteads objects come, for the most part, from the civilian quarter outside the south gate of the fort, and

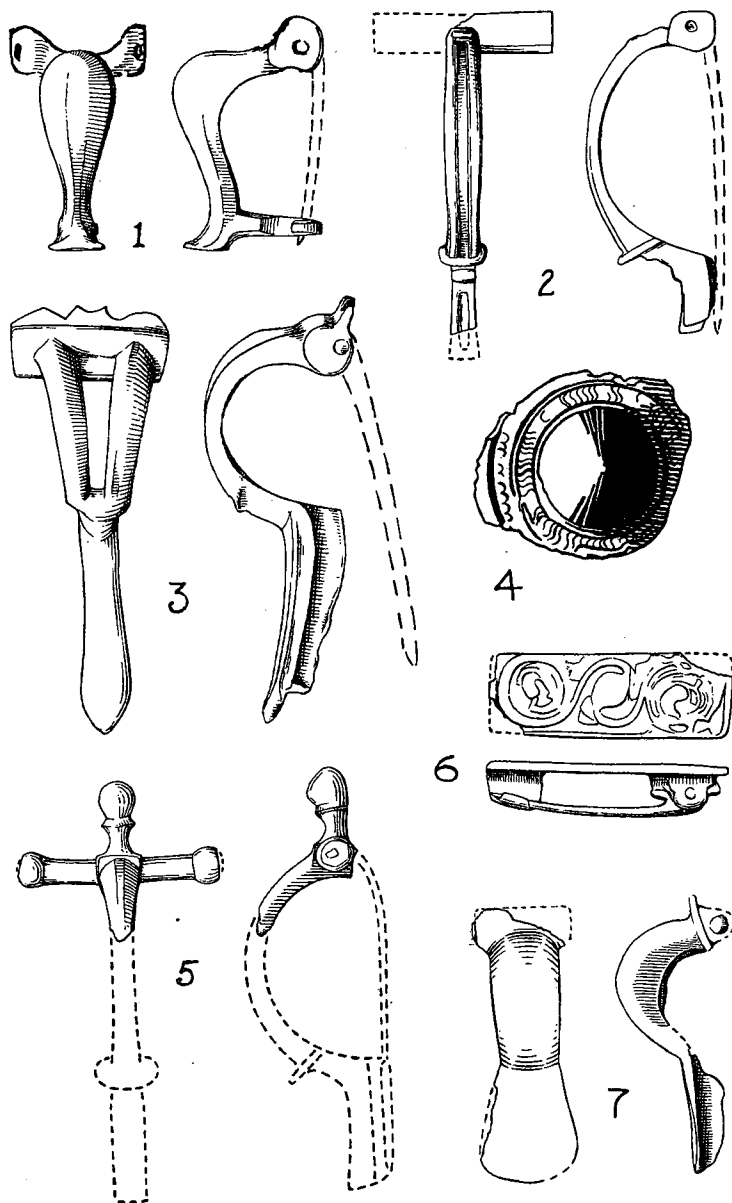
<sup>9</sup> Above, pp. 83-102.

therefore date from the beginning of the third century to the "Picts' War."<sup>10</sup> With the metal-work of the second century we are to some extent acquainted, though greater precision in its dating is still required; but until now material attributable to the succeeding century and a half has been scarce, so that the specimens listed below may help to fill the gap. Viewed as a whole, the series of objects bespeaks usefulness rather than elegance—an impression in keeping with the buildings from which they come. Perhaps the humble artistic pretensions of, say, the brooches are to be ascribed less to the nature and condition of their wearers than to some decline in the craft of metal-work; indeed, bearing in mind the date of this part of the site, the fact that virtually no fine bronze or enamel work was found is a strong confirmation of the existing view that the great school of craftsmen which produced the trumpet-brooches did not survive the second century—though whether its end came in the middle or at the end of that century is not definitely established. It may be that for a time the enamels of Belgic Gaul took the place of the local products; but that is a point that requires fuller discussion than can be accorded to it here.

Thanks are due to the Research Committee of Armstrong College, for a grant which made possible the examination of many museum collections to secure comparative material; to Dr. J. A. Smythe, of Armstrong College, for the metallurgical treatment of the objects, many of which would have been quite unrecognizable but for his skilful handling; and to Mr. Eric Birley, for general assistance in the preparation of this catalogue.<sup>11</sup>

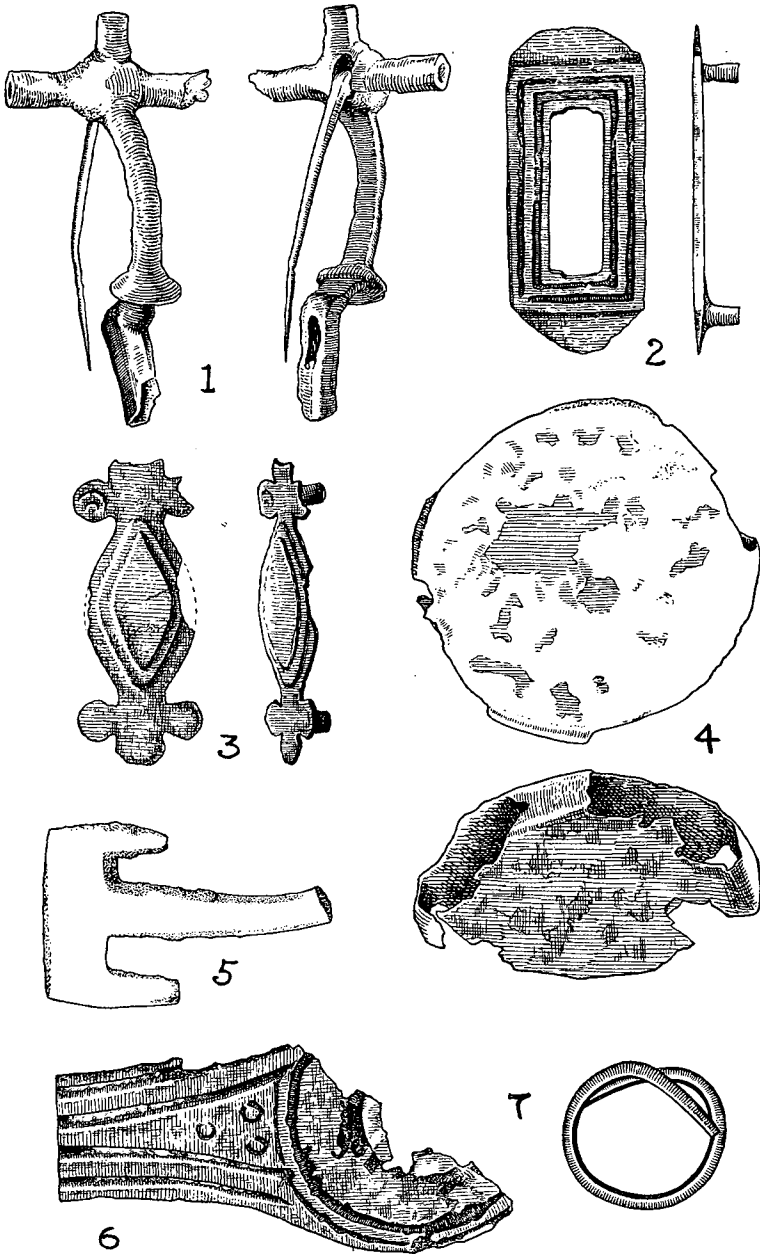
<sup>10</sup> Cf. AA<sup>4</sup> IX, pp. 230-232.

<sup>11</sup> Except for a few objects specified as from other sites, all the items listed here are from Housesteads; after the figure reference, in many cases, there follows a reference to the *building* in which the object was found, but such references have only been given in the case of stratified objects. Wherever possible a date (based either on the stratification or on parallels from other sites) has been suggested. It has not been thought necessary to subjoin a list of abbreviations, since those here employed will be familiar to all students of this category of evidence.



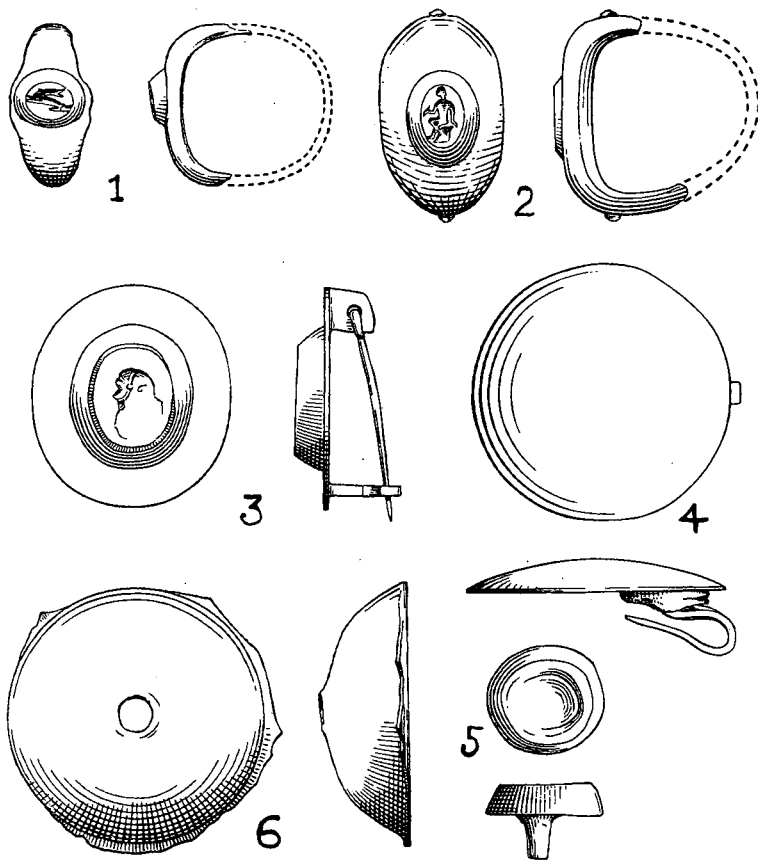
BROOCHES (NOS. 1, 3, 8, 11, 4, 10 & 6) :  $\frac{1}{2}$ .





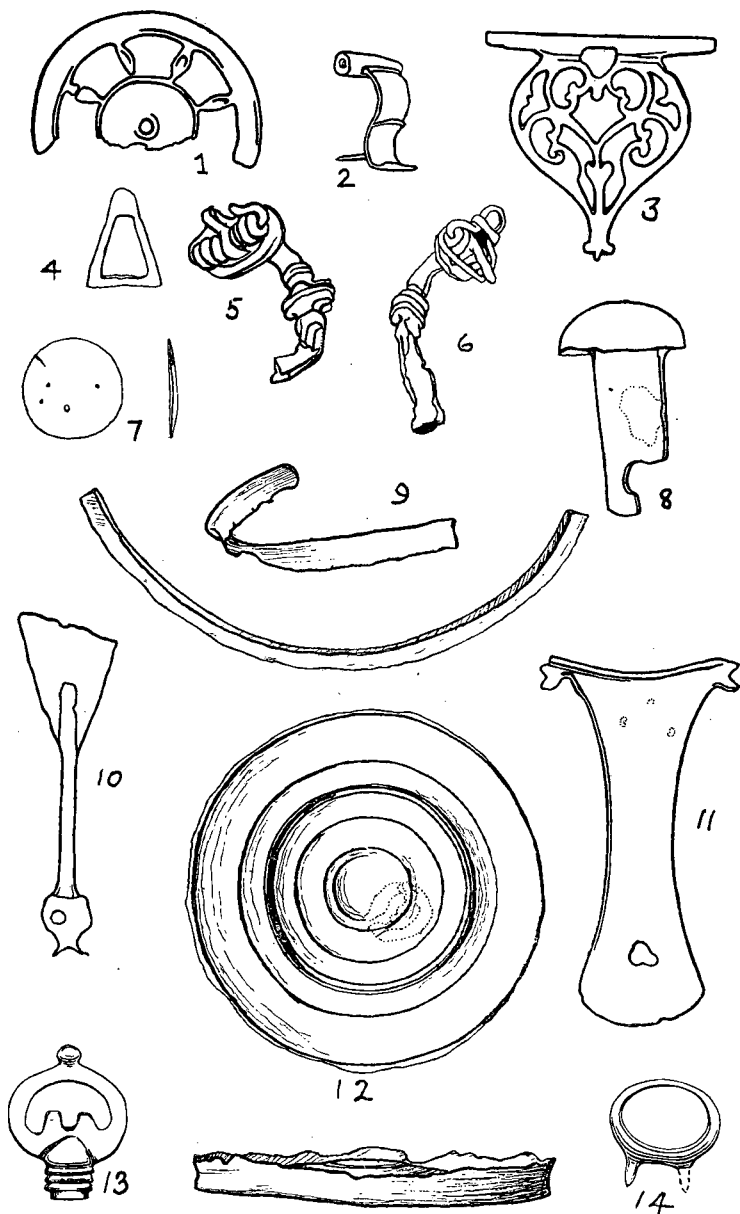
VARIOUS OBJECTS (NOS. 5, 19, 47, 52, 54, 24 & 38) :  $\frac{1}{4}$ .





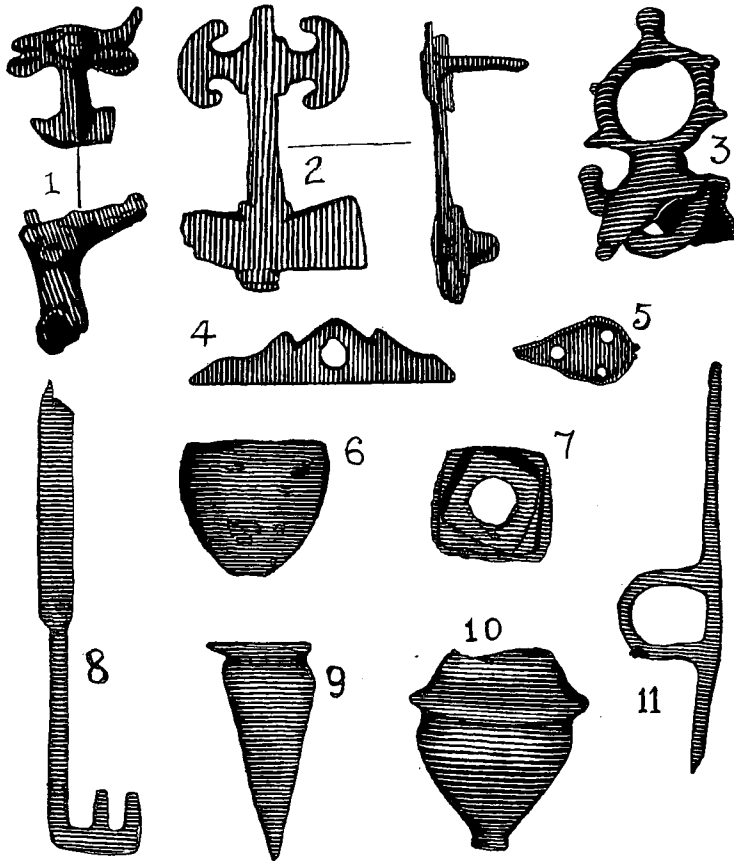
VARIOUS OBJECTS (NOS. 36, 37, 14, 39, 41 & 43) :  $\frac{1}{4}$ .





VARIOUS OBJECTS (NOS. 13, 2, 18, 64, 12, 12, 60, 59, 23, 35, 25, 22, 56 & 45) :  
ALL  $\frac{1}{2}$ , EXCEPT NO. 8, WHICH IS  $\frac{1}{4}$ .





VARIOUS OBJECTS (NOS. 62, 16, 53, 28, 50, 58, 58, 55, 58, 58 & 46) :  
ALL  $\frac{1}{2}$  EXCEPT NO. 2, WHICH IS  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

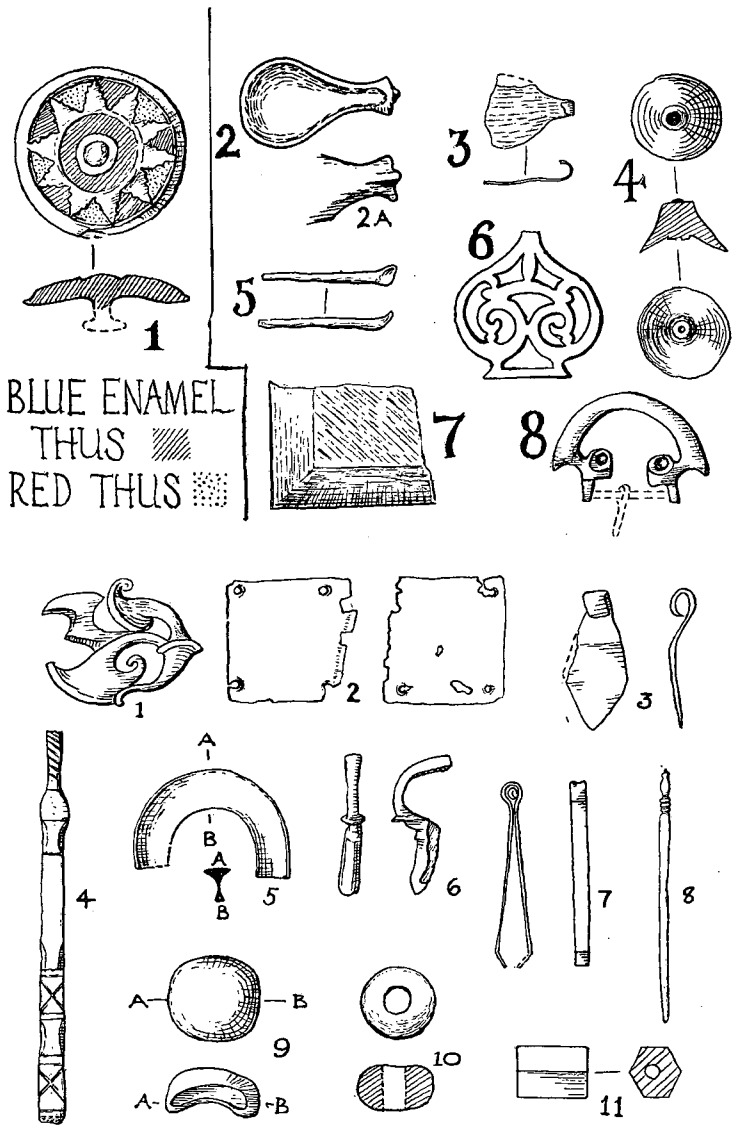
The first part of the paper is devoted to a general discussion of the problem of the origin of life. It is shown that the problem is not only a scientific one, but also a philosophical one. The scientific aspect of the problem is concerned with the question of how life arose from non-life. The philosophical aspect is concerned with the question of whether life is a necessary part of the universe or whether it is a mere accident. The author argues that the scientific aspect of the problem is more important than the philosophical aspect, and that the scientific aspect of the problem is more difficult to solve than the philosophical aspect.

The second part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the scientific aspect of the problem. It is shown that the scientific aspect of the problem is a very difficult one to solve. The author argues that the scientific aspect of the problem is more difficult to solve than the philosophical aspect, and that the scientific aspect of the problem is more important than the philosophical aspect.

The third part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the philosophical aspect of the problem. It is shown that the philosophical aspect of the problem is a very difficult one to solve. The author argues that the philosophical aspect of the problem is more difficult to solve than the scientific aspect, and that the philosophical aspect of the problem is more important than the scientific aspect.

The fourth part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the relationship between the scientific and philosophical aspects of the problem. It is shown that the scientific and philosophical aspects of the problem are closely related. The author argues that the scientific and philosophical aspects of the problem are more difficult to solve than either aspect alone, and that the scientific and philosophical aspects of the problem are more important than either aspect alone.

The author concludes that the problem of the origin of life is a very difficult one to solve, and that it is more important to solve the scientific aspect of the problem than the philosophical aspect.



VARIOUS OBJECTS : A (NOS. 49, 61, 40, 42, 29, s.v. 18, 34 & 20):  
ALL  $\frac{1}{2}$ , EXCEPT 1 & 2A, WHICH ARE  $\frac{1}{4}$ .  
B (NOS. 15, 51, 26, 32, 44, 7, 33, 31, 48, 57 & 63) :  $\frac{1}{2}$ .



A. *Knee-brooches.*

1. The head, the angular outlines, and the form of the catch-plate, suggest that this brooch was made abroad; it resembles the types of the German rather than the British *limes*.

(Pl. xxix, no. 1: unstratified; *late second century*.)

2. An exceptionally small example (from CHESTERHOLM); its contours are much more rounded than those of no. 1, and suggest British manufacture. Cf. Collingwood, *Archæology of Roman Britain*, V, 85.

(Pl. xxix<sup>c</sup>, no. 2: *Chesterholm; second-century type*.)

B. *P-brooches.*

3. This is not a typical example in every respect, but it has the usual "collar" and stumpy foot.<sup>12</sup>

(Pl. xxix, no. 2: from the main drain of the fort; *early third century*.)

4. Only the head and part of the bow survive. This is a characteristic example of the early cross-bow brooch; cf. Collingwood's T 74.

(Pl. xxix, no. 5: unstratified; *early third century*.)

5. This brooch is of the early cross-bow type, but lacks the customary terminal knobs.<sup>13</sup>

(Pl. xxix<sup>a</sup>, no. 1: unstratified.)

6. P-shaped bow and fan-tail; this is a humble brother of the Aesica brooch. The restoration of the head-plate is probable but not certain, and should perhaps be based on a specimen from Corbridge.<sup>14</sup> The fan-tail shape of the foot recalls Collingwood's type 97.

(Pl. xxix, no. 7: below no. VIII; *late third century*.)

7. Fragmentary P-brooch.

(Pl. xxix<sup>e</sup>, B, no. 6: unstratified.)

C. *Split-bow brooches.*

8. Bronze brooch, gilt; there are the remains of loops for a hinge-pin. The type is common on the German *limes*,<sup>15</sup> but less so in Britain, though the present example is of the form most frequent in this country. From the evidence of the German *limes*

<sup>12</sup> Cf. *ORL Zugmantel*, IX, 57-59.

<sup>13</sup> Cf. *ORL Holzhausen*, VII, 8; *ORL Zugmantel*, IX, 62 and 64-5; *Opgravingen op het Domein te Utrecht*, fig. 17.

<sup>14</sup> *AA<sup>3</sup> VII*, p. 184 and fig. 25.

<sup>15</sup> Cf. *ORL Zugmantel*, IX, 47; *Germania Romana*<sup>2</sup> V, v, 3, 8.

its latest date is generally given as *c.* A.D. 260, a date in accord with both the present example and one from Birdoswald.<sup>16</sup>

(Pl. XXIX, no. 3: under flagging in no. 1; *late third century.*)

9. Part of the head-plate and bow of a brooch of similar type, but with the bow more flattened than that of no. 8:<sup>17</sup> perhaps an import.

(Not figured: unstratified.)

#### D. Other brooches.

10. Rectangular brooch with spring pin; its face shows a plant ornament and traces of enamel. The design is much corroded, but the motif appears to be classical rather than native.

(Pl. XXIX, no. 6: under revetment on east side of Vallum causeway; *second century.*)

11. Circular ribbed disk-brooch; in its centre is a cone of glass paste, surrounding which are three concentric raised rings, in the hollows between which is a lightly engraved scroll pattern—a kind of *guilloche*—which bears traces of gilding. Brooches of this type may be round or oval (those found at South Shields are mostly of the latter class); the stone is generally “keyed” in position by bedding it on a small boss, square in section, in the centre of the setting; the character of the ornament varies a little: e.g. sometimes criss-cross lines replace the *guilloche*. Such brooches are widely but sparingly distributed in Britain,<sup>18</sup> and are only really common in the Wall area;<sup>19</sup> the bulk of the brooches of this class for which reliable evidence of association is available appear to belong to the fourth century, though a few may be earlier.<sup>20</sup> Cf. Collingwood’s type 104.

(Pl. XXIX, no. 4: unstratified; *fourth century.*)

12. Two examples, much corroded, of the second-century trumpet-brooch. They appear to be typologically early.

(Pl. XXIX<sup>c</sup>, nos. 5 and 6: unstratified; *c.* A.D. 120-50.)

<sup>16</sup> CW<sup>3</sup> XXXI, p. 132 and fig. 4, no. 4.

<sup>17</sup> Cf. *ORL Lieferung* 49, XXIV, 23.

<sup>18</sup> e.g. Wickham Brook, Suffolk (*Gent. Mag.* 58, p. 702: found with coins of Constantine I); Canterbury (*Brit. Arch. Assoc. Journ.* XVI, pl. 23, nos. 4 and 8); Kirkby Thore (*Arch. Inst., York meeting 1848*, pl. 5); Long Wittenham Saxon cemetery (*Archæologia* 39, pl. 9, 1); Wroxeter (*1912 report*, fig. 9, 1); Lowbury Hill (pl. 9, 35-6 and references there); Emscote near Warwick (*Antiq. Journ.* V, pl. 29, 2 and p. 268).

<sup>19</sup> Particularly at South Shields, Corbridge, and Chesters, but also at Birdoswald and Carlisle.

<sup>20</sup> Gilded disk-brooches with engraved ornament are not uncommon on the German *limes* (e.g. *ORL Zugmantel*, X, 26 and p. 82, with zig-zag ornament), but they are not numerous, perhaps because that frontier was abandoned before they became generally popular.

13. Wheel-brooch, of worked and annealed bronze, in the form of an eight-spoked wheel, with remains of the socket of a hinge-pin. Such brooches are rare, though found, e.g., in France; Switzerland and Germany (Mainz, Neuss and Pfünz).<sup>21</sup> Small circular brooches (with only four spokes) are not unusual in Germany, and have come from Wroxeter<sup>22</sup> and Corbridge.<sup>23</sup> The form is interesting, for though rare on brooches, eight-spoked wheels have several times been encountered in other media on northern Roman sites, notably in the silver necklace found at Newstead,<sup>24</sup> and the celebrated "Harry Lauder" figure of a god on a clay mould found at Corbridge;<sup>25</sup> while a potsherd from the 1933 excavations at Housesteads bore an appliqué representation of a wheel closely resembling our brooch in form and size. It is presumably a badge or amulet, and was perhaps worn in honour of Jupiter.<sup>26</sup>

(Pl. XXIX<sup>c</sup>, no. 1: no. VIII, first phase; *early fourth century*.)

14. Plain disk-brooches: various fragments of these were found in different parts of the site. One, here figured, is unusual; its poor but ingenious owner evidently attached the bezel of a ring to the "face" of the brooch with a lump of beeswax.<sup>27</sup>

(Pl. XXIX<sup>b</sup>, no. 3: unstratified.)

15. Silver brooch (found during the excavations of 1898) of the true trumpet-pattern, in a sweeping curvilinear design. This has close relationships with continental finds, especially on the German *limes*,<sup>28</sup> though Newstead<sup>29</sup> and Traprain Law<sup>30</sup> have also produced examples of the type.<sup>31</sup>

(Pl. XXIX<sup>c</sup>, B, no. 1: unstratified; *late second century*.)

16. Axe-brooch (from SOUTH SHIELDS): the type is exceptional, but there are exact parallels at Stockstadt<sup>32</sup> and Neuss.<sup>33</sup>

<sup>21</sup> Cf. *Préhistoire* II, i, fig. 34, 1 and 3 (which are enamelled); *R.G. Kommission XV Bericht* (1923-4), fig. 10; *Novaesium*, pl. 30, A, 43; *ORL Pfünz*, XIII, 26.

<sup>22</sup> *1913 report*, p. 13 and fig. 4, 7; this example, which is decorated with *millefiori* glass, has actually five spokes.

<sup>23</sup> *AA*<sup>3</sup> V, p. 406 and fig. 21.

<sup>24</sup> Pl. 87, fig. 34, and p. 333 f.

<sup>25</sup> *AA*<sup>3</sup> VI, p. 224 and fig. 6.

<sup>26</sup> *Newstead*, *loc. cit.*

<sup>27</sup> This fact was revealed through Dr. J. A. Smythe's careful analysis.

<sup>28</sup> e.g. *ORL Munzingen*, V, 62; *ORL Kapersburg*, VII, 23; *ORL Gnotzheim*, III, 5; *ORL Pfünz*, XIII, 26; *ORL Böhming*, II, 4.

<sup>29</sup> Pl. LXXVI, fig. 2.

<sup>30</sup> *P.S.A.Scot.* 50, p. 111 and fig. 28, 1.

<sup>31</sup> Cf. also Riegl, *Spättrömische Kunstindustrie*, pls. 33-4.

<sup>32</sup> *ORL Stockstadt*, VII, 18.

<sup>33</sup> *Novaesium*, pl. 24, 47.

The large axe is unusual, but the miniature axe-heads, like the smaller double-headed axe, are occasionally found as a decoration on personal ornaments,<sup>34</sup> though not to the best of my knowledge in Britain. This is presumably an import, and by its German analogies may be dated to the third century.

(Pl. xxix<sup>d</sup>, no. 2: *South Shields; third century.*)

17. At SOUTH SHIELDS are two penannular brooches of a type sometimes described as "Welsh," which was dated to post-Roman times by Mr. Reginald Smith (*P.S.A.Lond.* XXVII, 1914-1915, pp. 96-8); Dr. Wheeler has recently shown that their

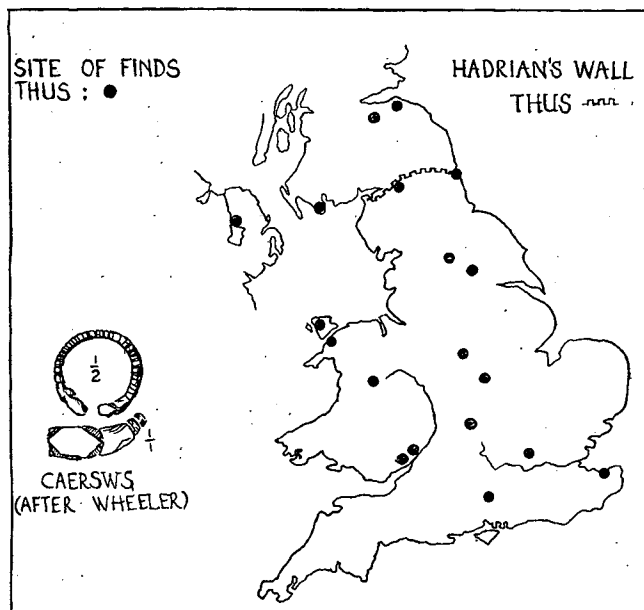


FIG. 2.

development arises from the method of folding the terminals of penannular brooches to prevent the pin from slipping off,<sup>35</sup> and that their occurrence at Caersws suggests that the type originated well before the end of the Roman period<sup>36</sup>—a view

<sup>34</sup> e.g. attached to the shank of a *stylus*-like object from Vieil Eureux (*l'Archéologie de l'Eure*, III, p. 186 and fig. 104, 7), and two bronze pins in the form of axes found at Lydney (p. 83 and fig. 18, 61 and 62).

<sup>35</sup> *Lydney*, pp. 78-9 and fig. 14.

<sup>36</sup> *Segontium*, p. 137.

supported by the discovery of brooches of the same type in the second and third levels at Traprain Law.<sup>37</sup> In addition, we may call attention to the example found at Birdoswald in 1929, in a sealed deposit of the fourth Wall period, that may be dated c. A.D. 370-83.<sup>38</sup> The type is widely distributed, and the accompanying map (fig. 2) suggests that the title "Welsh" is hardly suitable for it. The occurrence of two examples at South Shields is in keeping with what is known of the late history of the site, as revealed (for example) by the amount of Crambeck pottery that it has produced, as well as by the structural evidence considered elsewhere in this volume.<sup>39</sup>

(Cf. fig. 2: *South Shields; late fourth century.*)

*List of sites marked on the distribution map (fig. 2):—*

Scotland	{	Traprain Law.
		Longfauth, Midlothian.
		Dowalton Lough, Wigtownshire.
		Birdoswald.
		South Shields.
England	{	York.
		Dowkerbottom cave.
		Pike Hall, Derbyshire.
		Leicester.
		Stratford-on-Avon.
		Abingdon, Berkshire.
		Oldbury, Wiltshire.
		Bifrons, Canterbury.
Wales	{	Lydney.
		Carnarvon.
		Port Dafarch, Holyhead.
		Caersws.
Ireland	{	Caerwent.
		Toome Bridge, near Lough Neagh.

#### E. Buckles.

18. Part of a belt-buckle, with open-work ornament somewhat resembling the trumpet-pattern (cf. no. 15 above); designs of this sort are common on the German *limes*,<sup>40</sup> and are not rare in

<sup>37</sup> *P.S.A.Scot.* 50, fig. 23, 4 and 5; fig. 24, 1 and 2; *ibid.* 54, p. 88, fig. 18, 1; fig. 19, 1.

<sup>38</sup> *CW<sup>2</sup> XXXI*, p. 132 and fig. 4, no. 3.

<sup>39</sup> Above, pp. 83-102.

<sup>40</sup> e.g. *ORL Zugmantel X*, especially no. 52; *ORL Strecke 14*, XVI, 14; *ORL Cannstatt*, VIII, 6; *ORL Faimingen*, VIII, 6. The list might be prolonged almost indefinitely.

Britain,<sup>41</sup> but there is no exact parallel to our example: The source and development of scroll-work like this deserves closer study. The similar object figured on pl. xxix<sup>e</sup>, A, no. 6, is from KIRKBY THORE.

(Pl. xxix<sup>e</sup>, no. 3: unstratified; *third century*.)

19. Buckle from a leather belt; cast, tinned bronze; with grooves round the central opening.

(Pl. xxix<sup>a</sup>, no. 2: no. VIII, first phase; *early fourth century*.)

20. "Cat" end of a bronze belt-buckle; the prong and bar are missing. This is a fairly common second-century type, found with slight variations both in Britain (e.g. High Rochester,<sup>42</sup> Housesteads,<sup>43</sup> Caerleon,<sup>44</sup> Richborough<sup>45</sup>) and abroad.<sup>46</sup> Ritterling has suggested A.D. 150 as the latest date of its normal occurrence.<sup>47</sup>

(Pl. xxix<sup>e</sup>, A, no. 8: *turret 19a; first Wall period, A.D. 120-196*.)

21. Part of a belt-buckle similar to no. 20.

(Not figured: lowest level of the terrace, east of the Vallum causeway; *mid-second century*.)

#### F. *Paterae*.

22. The base of a bronze saucepan, strengthened with concentric rings, and having only a slight foot-stand; the centre of the base has been skilfully mended in Roman times.<sup>48</sup> Typologically this should be a relatively early piece, not later than A.D. 200; but the life of objects of this class seems to have been surprisingly long at times.

(Pl. xxix<sup>e</sup>, no. 12: no. I; found with *early fourth century* pottery.)

23. The rim of a bronze saucepan, found with no. 22, and probably part of the same vessel.

(Pl. xxix<sup>e</sup>, no. 9: no. I; *early fourth century*.)

24. *Patera* handle with three stamped circles forming a trefoil.<sup>49</sup>

<sup>41</sup> Cf. an object in the Richborough museum (no. 1402); one from Kirkby Thore in the British Museum; and perhaps a fragment from the *Hadrian-Antonine* layer at Caerleon amphitheatre (*Archæologia* 78, pl. 33, no. 1, 6).

<sup>42</sup> *Alnwick catalogue*, p. 145, no. 778.

<sup>43</sup> Cf. no. 21.

<sup>44</sup> *Archæologia* 78, fig. 14, no. 26.

<sup>45</sup> *Third report*, pl. XII, fig. 1, no. 32, and references on pp. 80-81.

<sup>46</sup> e.g. *Mainzer Zeitschrift* VII, p. 87, fig. 3, nos. 15 and 16; *ORL Zugmantel*, XII, 5 and 17; *ORL Walldurn*, III, 4; *ORL Wiesbaden*, X, 33; *Novaesium*, pl. 30, B, 73.

<sup>47</sup> Cf. *Hofheim*, XI, 14, 20-21, for first-century examples.

<sup>48</sup> Cf. that from Lamberton Moor (*P.S.A.Scot.* 66, p. 364, fig. 48, 1).

<sup>49</sup> Cf. examples from Corbridge (unpublished) and Neuss (*Novaesium*, pl. 32, no. 15, which has a stamp which may be that of L. ANSIUS EPAPHRODITUS, the Italian maker).

The trefoil (either in the form of incised circles or, more often, of a trefoil piercing as in no. 25) appears to have been a trade-mark first used by the Italian metal-workers, and later copied in Gaul.<sup>50</sup>

(Pl. XXIX<sup>a</sup>, no. 6: unstratified.)

25. *Patena* handle (from CHESTERHOLM) with a trefoil hole<sup>51</sup> and faint traces of three incised rings.

(Pl. XXIX<sup>c</sup>, no. 11: *Chesterholm; second century.*)

#### G. Bowl-escutcheons.

26. Escutcheon from a bronze bowl. A similar specimen is in the Guildhall museum (from excavations on the site of the National Safe Deposit); cf. also Richborough<sup>52</sup> and Villa d'Ambenay (Eure).<sup>53</sup>

(Pl. XXIX<sup>e</sup>, B, no. 3: basement of no. 1; *early fourth century.*)

27. A much corroded escutcheon from SOUTH SHIELDS (South Shields museum) is more classical in form, and may date about a century earlier than the Housesteads piece.<sup>54</sup>

(Not figured.)

28. Bowl-escutcheon (from BENWELL) of a somewhat uncommon type, with Italian antecedents, best paralleled abroad. Evidence from other sources suggests A.D. 120-180 as its probable date.<sup>55</sup>

(Pl. XXIX<sup>d</sup>, no. 4: *Benwell; second century.*)

#### H. Toilet and similar instruments.

29. "Ear-pick," so called because it is generally thought to have been used for removing wax from the ear; the type is common on most Roman sites, especially in London.<sup>56</sup> Some pieces of a fine bronze stem may be part of the handle of a similar instrument.

(Pl. XXIX<sup>e</sup>, A, no. 5: unstratified.)

30. Hair-pin (?) of twisted bronze wire. Similar objects have come from Corbridge and from the triangular temple at St. Albans.

(Not figured: unstratified.)

<sup>50</sup> On this whole question, cf. R. C. Bosanquet in *P.S.A.Scot.* 62, pp. 246 f.

<sup>51</sup> For the trefoil opening, cf. examples from Longfaugh (*P.S.A.Scot.* 62, p. 249, fig. 2) and Pfünz (*ORL Pfünz*, XIV, 87).

<sup>52</sup> III, pl. XIV, 54.

<sup>53</sup> *L'Archéologie de l'Eure*, IV, p. 311, fig. 9; the handle is still attached in this example.

<sup>54</sup> Cf. *ORL Zugmantel*, XIII, 12 and p. 93.

<sup>55</sup> *Ibid.*, XIII, 8 and 10, and p. 93.

<sup>56</sup> A number are figured in *Lowbury Hill*, pl. XII, nos. 19-25.

31. Bronze hair-pin with moulded top; the type is not closely dateable.

(Pl. XXIX<sup>a</sup>, B, no. 8: unstratified.)

32. Nail-cutter or *stylus*, with engraved ornament.<sup>57</sup> The form of decoration is not uncommon; e.g. it may be seen on a nail-cleaner from Lowbury Hill,<sup>58</sup> and on a bone pin from Wroxeter.<sup>59</sup> Dr. Wheeler calls a somewhat similar object from Lydney a *stylus*, and compares its decoration with fourth-century bracelets from the same site, and its form with eighth-century examples from Whitby.<sup>60</sup>

(Pl. XXIX<sup>a</sup>, B, no. 4: unstratified; *fourth century*.)

33. Bronze tweezers. Cf. Milne, *Surgical Instruments in Greek and Roman Times*, pl. LXXXIX, 22; *Wroxeter 1912*, pl. x, fig. 1, no. 5. They differ little from earlier examples.

(Pl. XXIX<sup>a</sup>, no. 7: no. II; *third century*.)

34. Fragment of a shale palette, perhaps used for compounding unguents. Cf. *Novaesium*, pl. 25, nos. 35-38.

(Pl. XXIX<sup>a</sup>, A, no. 7: unstratified.)

35. Object of uncertain use; one end has been looped, and perhaps was attached to a châtelaine. The other end is paddle-shaped, and too narrow for the object to have been a mirror; it may be a toilet or a surgical instrument.

(Pl. XXIX<sup>a</sup>, no. 10: unstratified.)

#### J. Various small objects.

36. Finger-ring with engraved gem; its size suggests that it was for a man's use;<sup>61</sup> traces of gilding survive. The figures are obscure: dolphins, or a hound and a stag, may be intended.<sup>62</sup>

(Pl. XXIX<sup>b</sup>, no. 1: unstratified; *c. A.D. 250-350*.)

37. Similar ring; the gem shows the figure of a man seated upon a rock or bench, and holding a stick-like object (perhaps a highly conventionalized fishing-rod) in his hand.

(Pl. XXIX<sup>b</sup>, no. 2: unstratified; *c. A.D. 250-350*.)

38. Expanding finger-ring of bronze.

(Pl. XXIX<sup>a</sup>, no. 7: unstratified.)

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<sup>57</sup> If a fragment of bronze, pierced for suspension, is part of this object, it may have come from a châtelaine.

<sup>58</sup> Pl. XII, 30.

<sup>59</sup> *1913 report*, pl. IX, fig. 1, 1 and p. 18.

<sup>60</sup> *Lydney*, fig. 19, 88 and p. 85.

<sup>61</sup> Cf. *Lowbury Hill*, pl. XII, 11-13.

<sup>62</sup> A gem from the St. Albans excavations of 1933 has a stag drawn in similar technique to that of the Housesteads example.

39. Button, with hook for engaging in an eye fastened to the other part of the garment. This is not an uncommon find; a close parallel comes from the 1933 excavations at St. Albans.

(Pl. xxix<sup>b</sup>, no. 4: no. VIII; *fourth century*.)

40. Small bronze plate, twisted into a hook at one end; this is perhaps the hook from a hook and eye.

(Pl. xxix<sup>e</sup>, A, no. 3: unstratified.)

41. Plain circular bronze stud; this is a common type.<sup>63</sup>

(Pl. xxix<sup>b</sup>, no. 5: unstratified.)

42. Conical stud of cast bronze, with haematite inset; probably the ornament for a box or a leather jerkin.<sup>64</sup> Several similar objects, lacking the inset, are in the collection of Silchester material in the Reading museum.

(Pl. xxix<sup>e</sup>, A, no. 4: no. VIII, first phase; *early fourth century*.)

43. Small bronze boss, probably for attachment as an ornament on leather harness.

(Pl. xxix<sup>b</sup>, no. 6: no. VIII; *fourth century*.)

44. Semi-circular bronze fitting, probably intended to be inset in wood or leather; its purpose is uncertain. The object is exactly paralleled at SOUTH SHIELDS.

(Pl. xxix<sup>e</sup>, no. 5: below no. VIII; *third century*.)

45. Bronze loop from the end of a leather thong.

(Pl. xxix<sup>c</sup>, no. 14: no. VIII; *fourth century*.)

46. Looped iron bar, probably from harness.

(Pl. xxix<sup>d</sup>, no. 11: unstratified.)

47. Diamond-shaped ornament, with trefoil terminals, and with studs at the back for attachment to leather.

(Pl. xxix<sup>a</sup>, no. 3: unstratified.)

48. Bronze button, with a slot to allow the passage of a strap.

(Pl. xxix<sup>e</sup>, B, no. 9: below the road over the Vallum causeway; *third century at latest*.)

49. Enamelled bronze button, with the remains of a stud for attachment at the back. The enamelled design consists of a blue centre, surrounded by a band of red; encircling this is a ring of alternately red and blue triangles.<sup>65</sup> Each triangle has two small pointed projections on either side, giving it a broken outline shaped

<sup>63</sup> Cf. e.g. Fremersdorf, *Der röm. Gutshof Köln-Mungersdorf*, pl. 27, 6, found with a coin of Gallienus.

<sup>64</sup> There seem to be few good parallels, but *RLO* Heft 3, VIII, 25, and *ORL Stockstadt*, VII, 43, may be noted.

<sup>65</sup> That some of the blue triangles are now whitish accords with Mr. Leeds's view that the white spots on the West Kell enamels were intended to be blue.

rather like the lower half of a holly leaf; this feature, originally intended to "key" the enamel, was later often used purely for decorative effect.<sup>66</sup> The button is of British manufacture, and was probably made in the north; specimens found in the south (e.g. a very similar design on a seal-box lid from the silt in the outer ditch at St. Albans, found in 1933) are generally much inferior in taste and execution.

(Pl. XXIX<sup>e</sup>, A, no. 1: *turret 19b; first Wall period, A.D. 120-196.*)

50. Base of a pear-shaped seal-box, with three holes for the cords; the type is a common one.<sup>67</sup>

(Pl. XXIX<sup>d</sup>, no. 5: unstratified.)

51. Thin bronze plates with holes at the edges (several examples were found); perhaps plating for a small box, or the binding of a wide leather belt. The examples figured were stratified.

(Pl. XXIX<sup>e</sup>, B, no. 2: basement of no. 1; *early fourth century.*)

52. Circular martingale; a commoner type is cruciform.<sup>68</sup> Its purpose was to protect the junction of two leather thongs (e.g. on harness): parallels occur at Wroxeter,<sup>69</sup> Traprain Law<sup>70</sup> and Neuss.<sup>71</sup>

(Pl. XXIX<sup>a</sup>, no. 4: no. II; *third century.*)

53. Terret ring, of a type that appears to be continental<sup>72</sup> rather than British,<sup>73</sup> though it has been found elsewhere in Britain: e.g. at Corbridge,<sup>74</sup> Lowbury Hill<sup>75</sup> and Brecon Gaer.<sup>76</sup>

(Pl. XXIX<sup>d</sup>, no. 3: unstratified.)

54. The ward only of a slide-key of the familiar form; it is T shaped and (exceptionally) of bronze.<sup>77</sup>

(Pl. XXIX<sup>a</sup>, no. 5: unstratified.)

55. The ward of a similar key, L-shaped, of iron.<sup>78</sup>

(Pl. XXIX<sup>d</sup>, no. 8: unstratified.)

<sup>66</sup> This point was derived from Mlle. Françoise Henry through Mr. J. D. Cowen.

<sup>67</sup> Cf. Collingwood, *Archæology of Roman Britain*, p. 272.

<sup>68</sup> e.g. ORL Weissenburg, III, 29 and VII, 23; *Manchester*, pl. 44, no. 9.

<sup>69</sup> 1914 report, pl. xvii, 21 and p. 26.

<sup>70</sup> P.S.A.Scot. 54, p. 85.

<sup>71</sup> *Novaesium*, pl. 33, 35.

<sup>72</sup> e.g. *Mainzer Zeitschrift* VI, p. 107, no. 42 (from the legionary fortress at Mainz); ORL Feldberg, VI, 4 and 6; *Novaesium*, pl. 30, A, 20.

<sup>73</sup> High Rochester (*Alnwick catalogue*, p. 252) and York have produced "British" terrets on Roman sites.

<sup>74</sup> AA<sup>3</sup> VII, p. 188 and pl. iv, 2 (ornamented with knobs).

<sup>75</sup> Pl. XIII, 1.

<sup>76</sup> P. 117.

<sup>77</sup> Cf. *London in Roman Times* (London Museum catalogue no. 3), p. 74 and pl. xxx, A, 2.

<sup>78</sup> *Ibid.*, pl. xxx, A, 3; *Malton*, fig. 21, 2 and 3.

56. The handle only of a bronze key of the rotary type.<sup>79</sup>  
(Pl. xxix<sup>c</sup>, no. 13: from the main drain of the fort.)

57. Bronze weight.

(Pl. xxix<sup>e</sup>, B, no. 10: no. IV, stone building, first period; *third century*.)

58. Set of plumb-bobs, from the occupation-layer beneath building "A" on the east side of the Vallum causeway at BENWELL.<sup>80</sup> The objects were somewhat corroded, but their identity does not seem in doubt; pl. xxix<sup>d</sup>, no. 7, was found with them. It is tempting to suggest that in them we have part of a *groma*.

(Pl. xxix<sup>d</sup>, nos. 6, 9 and 10: *Benwell*; *mid-second century*.)

59. Bronze bolt, with dome-shaped cap.

(Pl. xxix<sup>c</sup>, no. 8: unstratified.)

60. Small bronze disk, perhaps a counter.

(Pl. xxix<sup>c</sup>, no. 7: unstratified.)

61. Bronze spoon, with slightly developed "rat-tail"; the handle is missing. Cf. Pitt-Rivers, *Rushmore*, XVI, 15, and XX, 11 (silver); *Bokerly Dyke*, CLXXXIII, 11; *Richborough* III.

(Pl. xxix<sup>e</sup>, A, no. 2: basement of no. I; *early fourth century*.)

62. Zoomorphic ornament from CORBRIDGE, perhaps an amulet.

(Pl. xxix<sup>d</sup>, no. 1: *Corbridge*.)

63. Hexagonal bead of translucent green paste.

(Pl. xxix<sup>e</sup>, B, no. 11: annexe of no. III; *fourth century*.)

64. Bronze object of uncertain purpose.

(Pl. xxix<sup>c</sup>, no. 4: unstratified.)

<sup>79</sup> *London in Roman Times*, pl. xxxi.

<sup>80</sup> Cf. p. 179 f. above.