



GENERAL VIEW OF THE EAST END OF THE BARRACK, LOOKING WEST.

Photo. C. Chaplin.

XII.—EXCAVATIONS IN HOUSESTEADS FORT, 1960.

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In July, August and September 1960 the Durham University Excavation Committee completed its examination of one of the barracks in the Roman fort at Housesteads, no. xiv on R. C. Bosanquet's plan of the excavations of 1898.¹ The writer, who was in charge of the work, would like to express his gratitude to many people for assistance, both in the course of the excavation and in the preparation of the report. In particular, he has to thank Professor Eric Birley and Dr. J. C. Mann for their advice and help; Mr. Wilfred Dodds, of the department of archæology in Durham, for his drawings of the pottery and small finds; Dr. J. P. C. Kent, of the British Museum, for his report on the coins; and Mr. John Leach for his section on the sculptured stones. Many of the photographs were taken by Mr. Colin Chaplin, of the department of geology in the Durham Colleges. During the excavation Mr. Charles Anderson, of the Ministry of Works, co-operated in many ways, and thanks are due to the many volunteer workers without whose assistance the excavations could not have been done.

(a) *Periods I and II.*

The almost complete plan of an L-shaped barrack was recovered, confirming in general the conclusions reached in 1959 (AA4 xxxviii 64f.): its overall length was 162 ft. At the east end the first 30 feet were occupied by the centurion's

¹ Cf. AA2 xxv, plan facing 300; for an interim report, on the work of 1959, cf. AA4 xxxviii 61-71.

accommodation, extending across the barrack's full width, 35 ft.; the remainder of the building was partitioned into ten compartments, the *contubernia* to accommodate the 80 men in a company (*centuria*) of an infantry battalion nominally a thousand strong (*cohors milliaria peditata*): here the width of the barrack was 28 ft., fronted by a cobbled verandah some 6 ft. wide and bounded by a gutter cut in stone blocks, running along the north side (cf. folding plan).

The centurion's accommodation measured internally 30 ft. by 26 ft. and was partitioned into two rooms of approximately equal size (plan 1, rooms A and B). The entrance to room A was through a doorway 2 ft. 6 in. wide in its N.W. corner, a few feet south of which was situated a three-sided structure formed from small stone blocks, identified as a latrine; its outlet was traced eastwards through the outside wall, where Bosanquet's plan shows that it flowed into a main drain running northwards past the east ends of barracks xiv and xiii. It is clear that this latrine belonged to the earlier periods of the barrack, since its outlet was blocked by building debris beneath the stone floor of period III; outside the building it had not been blocked, but there is no indication that it continued in use after the latrine was eliminated. Traces of clay floors were noted in this room below the period III floor, but it was not possible to make any distinction between various levels owing to disturbance caused by later rebuilding. Some 7 ft. north of the S.E. corner, the east wall had been cut through by a drainage outlet, 8 in. wide; inside the room, however, its course could not be traced or associated with any feature. On the outside, two large stone slabs supported the sides, and some fragments of a covering slab were found; beyond this point no trace of its further course was found, apart from a slight indication that it made a turn northwards. It had been filled in with hard packed clay and rubble, clearly the work of later rebuilders; in its original state it may have served as a soak-away, probably the overflow for the main drainage of the centurion's quarters.

A doorway 3 ft. wide led westwards from room A into

room B. In room B were found definite traces of occupation belonging to the earlier periods of the barrack. A hard-packed clay floor lay upon the natural soil, extending over the whole of the room except for a strip across the south, where a trench had been cut by earlier excavators to locate the foundations of the main S. wall. On this floor were the remains of three hearths, constructed from roof-tiles and varying in size from 2 ft. 6 in. by 2 ft. to 1 ft. by 1 ft.; there was no indication whether they represented different periods of occupation, and it seems more likely that they were in use simultaneously, each being employed for a specific purpose. Such hearths, constructed from readily available materials such as tiles, can have had only a limited life and must have required frequent renovation. Along the west side of the room ran a channel cut into the subsoil, the purpose of which is not clear, but it perhaps served to carry away the waste from cooking and the like. It flowed into an outlet near the north wall of the room, which formed part of another drain, constructed of stone; this drain followed an erratic course southward through room B, passed through the partition into room A and flowed out at the S.E. corner of the barrack into the main drain. Its function is something of a puzzle; it must be assigned to the earlier periods, since it had been cut through by a stone floor of period III where it flowed out of room A, and a possible explanation has been found on consideration of the contours of the site. After prolonged heavy rainfall water must have collected at the east end of the barrack, overflowing the gutter running along the front of the verandah; this would undoubtedly have caused serious inconvenience to the occupants, for the floor levels were not at that period raised above the outside ground level. The effect of this drain would have been to draw off any such excess water, conveying it under the centurion's suite into the main drainage system; in time of such flooding the other channel, along the west side of room B, must have been sealed off to prevent the flood-water from entering it. The stone drain cuts off the corner of the most northerly tile-hearth,

showing it to be secondary, but there was nothing in the dark silt which filled it to indicate its date. If the tile-hearths had gone out of use when the overflow drain was constructed, they may well have been superseded by a semicircular stone hearth, some 5 ft. in diameter, built against the partition wall in the N.E. corner of the room; this was a far more durable structure, and its stone-flagged floor showed signs of very prolonged use. A doorway in the N.W. corner of the room gave access from the verandah.

The rest of the barrack consisted of ten *contubernia* (rooms C-L, plan 1), each providing quarters for a section of eight men. Extensive rebuilding at the beginning of period III had left only the barest traces of the foundations of the first two periods; at the west end in particular, only short lengths of the clay and whinstone foundation survived, while virtually every trace of the earlier floor-levels had been removed (pl. XXIII, 1). It appears that the period III builders aimed at compensating for the slope of the site (almost 13 ft. from W. to E.) by removing all the debris of the earlier levels to the E. end, thus raising the new floor-levels and eliminating the danger of flooding.

All the *contubernia* are virtually identical in size, some 11 ft. by 25 ft. internally; the *principales* or junior officers of the century had no special accommodation reserved for them—unless (as Professor Birley has suggested to me) the *signifer* and *optio* shared the centurion's suite. At the east end the well-preserved walls of period III had of course to be left in place, and it was only possible to examine one *contubernium*, room C, thoroughly; it was only in this room that we found an instance of subdivision into an inner compartment (15 ft. by 11 ft.) and an outer one (9 ft. 6 in. by 11 ft.)—normal practice in Hadrianic barracks. In the outer compartment there was a clay floor, extending through into the inner room, to which access was gained through a doorway 3 ft. wide at the W. side. A small hearth, neatly made from tile fragments, built up against the W. wall of the inner room, suggests that it served as a kitchen and living-room,



1. WORKSHOP WALL FROM NORTH-WEST, PERIOD I, WEST WALL FOUNDATION BENEATH.



2. GUTTERING OUTSIDE NORTH WALL OF CENTURION'S END, LOOKING NORTH-EAST.

Photos. J. Wilkes.



1. ROOM 2, HEARTHES OF PERIOD I-III, LOOKING SOUTH-WEST.



2. FLAGGED FLOOR OF ROOM 2, PERIOD III, LOOKING NORTH-WEST.

Photos. J. Wilkes

the outer room being used for storing equipment or the like. In none of the *contubernia* was it possible to locate a doorway opening on to the verandah; Bosanquet encountered a similar difficulty in his examination of barrack i, though he did manage to establish the positions of two such doorways (AA2 xxv 231). Few traces of the internal arrangements survived in the remaining *contubernia*, though it will be recalled that in 1959 a hearth, very similar to that in room C, was found against the east wall of room E, with a clay floor yielding a small deposit of second-century pottery (AA4 xxxviii 67 and fig. 2, 1-7). Traces of an early clay floor were also noted in room G.

The verandah cobbling and its stone gutter, noted in 1959 opposite room F, were traced at two other points along the north side of the barrack. Three small gutter blocks were found in position outside room L, while at the east end a length of some 15 ft. survived along the N. side of the centurion's suite (pl. XXIII, 2). Two small areas of verandah cobbling were found outside rooms C and K. There was no trace of the stone columns which supported the verandah, but remains of such columns and their bases have been found incorporated into the walls of later barracks.² Outside the west end of the barracks a channel, 2 ft. 6 in. across and some 1 ft. 6 in. deep, had been cut through the natural rock 2 ft. from the outside face of the building; in the filling of this channel, which must have been the drain along the east side of the *via principalis*, was found the only pottery definitely assignable to the opening of period I (cf. p. 290, below).

While the work of 1960 revealed sufficient of the earliest barrack to allow a confident reconstruction of its plan to be attempted, little has been added to the evidence for period II found in 1959 and discussed in the interim report (AA4 xxxviii 62f.). In 1960 two further *contubernia* walls of period II were found, assignable to that period since they are clearly not original and were out of use in period III; furthermore, they have belonged to a building which, although modified

² Cf. AA2 xxv 232, fig. 18; AA4 xxxviii 64.

in details, was very similar in plan to the L-shaped barrack of period I. The short length of period II north wall, traced in 1959, was built on an alignment 1 ft. further north than its period I counterpart, while the positions of the *contubernia* walls suggest an increase in their size to approximately 26 ft. by 16 ft. In view of the paucity of evidence, especially in the centurion's suite, it would be rash to attempt a reconstruction of the whole barrack in period II, though certain other features of the internal arrangements may provisionally be assigned to that period. Thus, the more easterly of the hearths in room C was on a higher level than the other and was built of stone, not tiles; it had passed out of use before period III, when a far more elaborate hearth was built almost exactly on top of it. A hearth of very similar construction, and so presumably also of period II, was found in association with a small area of clay floor in room I.

The thorough demolition carried out by the builders of period III had the effect, not only of removing much of the earlier structural evidence, but also of destroying all traces of the earlier floors which might otherwise have yielded useful deposits of stratified pottery. The only period for which it was possible to arrive at a firm date is period III, opening in the beginning of the fourth century: nothing discovered in 1960 weakened this conclusion, already arrived at on the basis of finds made in 1959. As to periods I and II, the case is not so strong. The original barrack, almost identical in its dimensions with those at Flavian Fendoch,³ must undoubtedly represent the original Hadrianic construction, though in 1960 only a small amount of period I pottery was found, to add to the hearth deposit already cited, while only one item, the ring-handled cooking-pot from the channel by the side of the *via principalis* (fig. 1, 1), is assignable to the time of Hadrian himself. It is clear that the barrack underwent a major reconstruction between Hadrian's day and the opening of period III, and period II must most probably be assigned to the Severan rebuilders, in the early years of the

³ Cf. PSAScot. lxxiii 114, fig. 2 and 134f.

third century, whose work at Housesteads is attested by fragments of a fine inscription, some found in 1898 and others in 1931.⁴

(b) *Periods III and IV.*

The third period of the barrack differed considerably in plan from the first and second, the L-shaped type being replaced by a series of individual units separated from one another by eavesdrips averaging 18 in. in width (cf. folding plan).

In place of the centurion's accommodation of the earlier barrack, a room (plan 2, room 1) measuring internally 29 ft. by 30 ft. was built; its north, east and south walls were on the same lines as the walls of the earlier building (pl. XXII). A doorway 5 ft. wide in the N.W. corner served as entry; inside, considerable remains of a stone-flagged floor were found, laid upon a thick layer of debris from the earlier buildings. No trace of a partition or subdivision of any kind was found in this room. To west of it was a smaller room (plan 2, room 2), inside which was a similar stone floor but in a far better state of preservation, each stone carefully worked to fit in with those adjoining. A hearth, formed from two large stones, each 2 ft. square, was set in the centre of the room at 8 ft. from the inside face of the south wall; one of these stones was set on its end, with two pairs of sockets for a gridiron on its upper edge. The surface of the stones was discoloured by fire, and judging from the size of the room (20 ft. by 11 ft.) and the prominent position of the hearth, it is likely that this was the kitchen and workroom for the occupants of room 1, where no trace of any hearth or other cooking facility was found (pl. XXIV, 1 and 2).

The next 100 feet of the barrack were occupied by six units (plan 2, nos. 3-8), built separately with eavesdrips between each pair; internally they measured on average 34 ft. by 12 ft., the increase in width over the L-shaped barrack being obtained by enclosing the verandah within them. All

⁴ AA4 ix 233 no. 5, cf. pl. xxiv 1.

had suffered by stone-robbing on the north side, and in none of them was any trace of a north wall; thus it seems likely that on that side they were closed by wooden screens. All the units had stone-flagged floors, but far inferior to those in rooms 1 and 2. In room 4 were the remains of a threshold, partly of whinstone; on the whole, however, little whinstone was used in the walls of this period, although it occurred not infrequently in the floors (which must have needed renovation at fairly regular intervals). The east walls of units 3, 4 and 5 illustrate the use of *contubernia* walls of an earlier barrack in the construction of the period III units: their southern ends were built on the foundations of the three known *contubernia* walls of period II, but their northward continuations were on a more westerly alignment, as if with the intention of providing an eavesdrip passage sufficiently wide to allow access through to the rear part of each unit, which would not have been possible had the period II line been followed for the whole length. It was not possible to determine whether there was a doorway into the rear part of each unit at some point along the eavesdrip passage, since the walls were too badly robbed where traces of such entrances might have been found. Stone platforms, raised above the floors to heights varying from 6 in. to 1 ft., were found at the south ends of units 5, 6 and 7, while a stone bench fronted by a revetment extended across the south end of unit 3. The excavations of 1960 revealed that a similar feature at the south end of unit 4, described as a bench in the interim report (AA4 xxxviii 63, fig. 1), is in fact part of a reconstruction belonging to period IV.

Outside the westernmost unit, a small lean-to structure was found (plan 2, no. 9), shown on Bosanquet's plan as a late construction, outside the W. end of the rectangle of barrack xiv. Traces of stone flagging were found against the inside face of its south wall, and the remains of some kind of bench or platform built against the outside of the west wall of unit 8. To judge from the quantities of iron waste, and the staining on the flags, the building served as a workshop or

armoury. Traces of flagging outside the room to the south suggest that it was an open working area.

One of the more interesting problems connected with the barracks of this period is the treatment of their upper parts; in general, Bosanquet's view seems best (AA2 xxv 234):

"I am inclined to believe that the original barracks were wooden huts raised on stone foundations, and that, at some period after the principal buildings had been ruined, the barracks were restored in stone."

His "original barracks" can be equated with the L-shaped buildings of periods I and II in no. xiv; there is nothing to show that their superstructures were not of timber on stone sleeper-walls although, as he noted, some features—such as the verandah pillars—were of stone. For periods III and IV what evidence there is suggests greater use of stone, to judge from the amount of debris from the upper levels, including a quantity of facing-stones, some half-dozen fragments of carved window-heads and some rectangular columns, about 3 ft. 6 in. long, which had probably been door lintels. The roofs were of stone slates, quantities of which were found, in contrast to the tile roofs of the earlier periods. The period III walls were of markedly inferior construction, the courses very irregular and some of the facing-stones only roughly dressed; many of them had been reddened by burning, suggesting that they had been retrieved from the ruins of earlier barracks.⁵

Few traces of Roman levels were found in the areas excavated outside the barrack. At the east end a small area of cobbling of the *intervallum* road was found, its surface yielding a small group of early fourth-century coins. A large whin boulder was set in the ground outside the N.E. corner, its outer face grooved as though by the wheels of passing carts;⁶ the siting of it shows that it was associated with period

⁵ The re-use of pillar-bases from the verandah in the period III walls was noted in 1959: AA4 xxxviii 64.

⁶ Cf. Bosanquet's observations, AA2 xxv 248.

III at earliest, since it lay directly across the line of the verandah guttering of periods I and II.

At a later stage in the fourth century the barrack units of period III underwent a series of modifications, the purpose of which is not in every case clear. Walls were built across them, towards their south ends, with the apparent effect of dividing them into inner and outer compartments; the changes are seen most clearly in units 4 and 7. In room 1 there was a small area of flagging at a higher level, indicating that the floor of the room had been relaid at some period: it may well be that this was at the same time as the period IV modifications to the barrack units. In room 2, a wall was built across the north end, reducing its size somewhat; it was clearly secondary, being built over the period III stone floor, parts of which still projected from beneath its outer face. In unit 3 an E.-W. wall was built over the flagged floor, stopping short some 18 in. from the east wall: it is not clear whether the intention was to reduce the occupied area by creating a smaller room in the northern half of the original period III unit, or merely to sub-divide the unit into two separate compartments. The former explanation seems to apply in units 4 and 7, the latter in units 3, 5 and 6. No trace of any such modification was found in unit 8.

The dating of period III to the Constantian reconstruction c. A.D. 300, based on the pottery evidence found in 1959, has been confirmed by further discoveries in 1960. A second almost complete "pipeclay" mortarium was found in clay packing beneath the stone floor of unit 6 (fig. 2, 11), while the latest coins from beneath a period III floor were of Claudius Gothicus (A.D. 268-270), one each in 1959 and 1960. A number of barbarous radiates, of types assignable to the latter part of the third century, were also found beneath the floor levels of period III.

Considerable quantities of fourth-century pottery were present amongst the upper levels and surface debris. There was no stratified deposit which could supply a date for the beginning of period IV, but bearing in mind the great number

of types represented which regularly occur in Wall-period IV levels and no earlier, the case for associating these modifications with the restoration of the frontier by count Theodosius is very strong.

Across the north side of unit 5, traces of a post-Roman structure were found, consisting of some large roughly dressed stones set on an alignment to form a building with internal measurements approximately 18 ft. by 10 ft. (cf. plan 2).

(c) *Conclusions.*

The examination of barrack xiv has in general shed fresh light upon the history of the fort at Housesteads as a whole and, more particularly, has confirmed many of the tentative conclusions put forward by R. C. Bosanquet on the basis of his brief examination of all the barracks in 1898 (AA2 xxv 228-235). It has already been noted that the earlier L-shaped barracks closely resemble those in the Agricolan timber fort at Fendoch in Perthshire, even down to the dimensions of the *contubernia*; both forts were evidently built to house the same type of unit, a milliary cohort which was not part-mounted (*equitata*). The barracks of period III differ radically in plan but still indicate some form of military organization: the centurion's end of the L-shaped block is replaced by a structure which still preserves the principle of larger accommodation for a superior officer, but the other ranks are now housed in separate buildings.⁷

Period IV, assignable to the Theodosian reconstruction, involved no more than modifications to the units of period III. Our picture of the Wall-forts in their last period of occupation is of fortified villages, with the whole population dwelling within their walls; the need for more living-room is reflected by the adaptation of the *principia* at Chesterholm (AA4 xiii 225f.) as well as at Housesteads itself, where in addition the granaries seem to have been converted for the same purpose (AA4 ix 224). Excavations in the *vicus* at

⁷ For comparable accommodation at Greatchesters cf. AA2 xxiv 22; at the outpost fort at High Rochester, NCH xv (1940) 86, fig. 17.

Housesteads confirm the evidence from inside the fort; they have as yet produced not a single piece of pottery assignable to Wall-period IV, thus confirming Bosanquet's hypothesis (AA2 xxv 241) that after 368 the population lived entirely inside the fort. It had been hoped that some traces of this change might have been revealed in block xiv, such as an increase in the total living-accommodation; the alterations of period IV may indeed represent such an increase, but stone-robbing had been so drastic that it was impossible to obtain a full enough plan to show whether that was in fact the case.

(d) *The finds.*

(i) POTTERY (figs. 1 and 2).

Periods I and II (fig. 1). The amount of pottery representing the first two periods of occupation was not great. Except for no. 1, the pieces here illustrated were found in the debris and disturbed levels beneath the stone floors of period III:

1. Wide-mouthed jar with ringed handles; smooth grey fabric; similar to Gillam type 174, assigned to the period 120-160. From the filling in the N.-S. channel on the east side of the *via principalis*.

2. Cooking-pot in coarse grey fabric, with lattice decoration. Cf. Gillam type 138, assigned to 180-250.

3. Cooking-pot in coarse, dark grey fabric, with an internal ledge for a rim. Two examples of this type (Gillam 151, assigned to 190-260) were found, both sealed beneath period III floors.

4. Dish in light grey fabric. This is an early example of a type which emerges about the middle of the second century and lasts well into the fourth.

5. Dish with rolled rim in smooth, bluish grey fabric. Cf. Gillam type 313, assigned to 190-240.

6. Mortarium in smooth, hard, orange fabric, buff in fracture and with black grit. This type, which Mr. Gillam informs me is of East Midlands manufacture, emerges in the third century and continues into the fourth.

7. Castor ware beaker with barbotine pattern decoration.

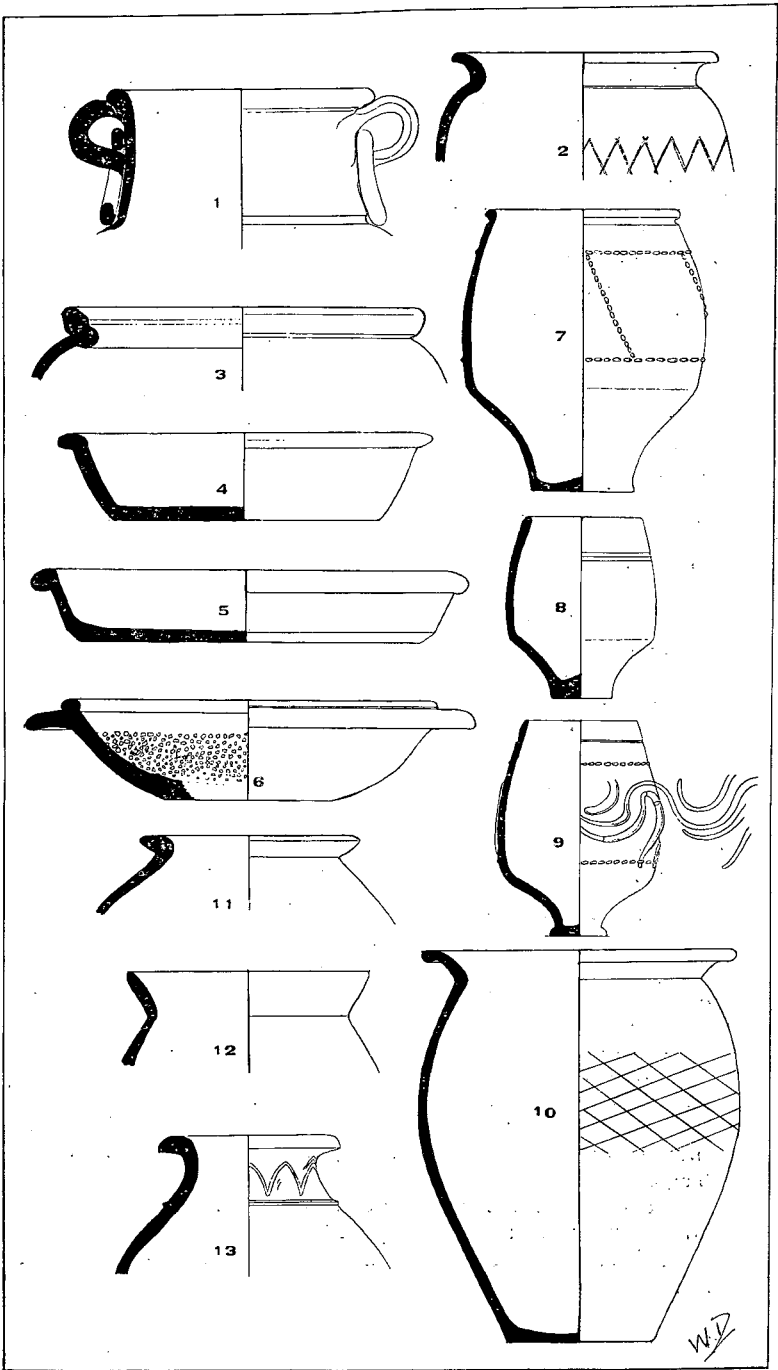


FIG. 1. POTTERY OF PERIODS I AND II. (1/4).

Similar to Gillam type 89, assigned to the first half of the third century.

8. Small Castor ware cup, with two incised lines $\frac{7}{8}$ in. below the plain rim. Small cups of this type seem to have been used mainly in temples and shrines; compare Mr. Gillam's observations in his report on the pottery from the Carrawburgh Mithraeum (AA4 xxix 80ff.). Our example is of his class A, fig. 10 no. 16 in that report, assignable to the third century.

9. Castor ware beaker with barbotine decoration. Gillam type 80 (an example from Housesteads *vicus*), assigned to 200-270.

10. Cooking-pot in black fumed fabric, with lattice decoration. A late development of the type, assignable to the late third or early fourth century.

The following three vessels are also from beneath floor-levels of period III:

11. Rim of globular jar in smooth grey fabric, buff/pink in fracture.

12. Rim of "poppy-head" jar in smooth grey fabric.

13. Narrow-necked jar in soft, brownish grey fabric, light grey in fracture.

Periods III and IV (fig. 2). Considerable quantities of pottery of the later periods of occupation were found amongst the debris over the stone floors of period III. The following are a selection of the types represented:

1. Large cooking-pot in calcite-gritted ware, with incised decoration on top of rim and on the shoulder; cf. Hull, plate ii 3. Cooking-pots in this ware, both with and without the internal grooving of the rim, were very common in the debris of the later barracks.

2. Carinated vessel in smooth, soft grey fabric. Gillam type 178 (another Housestead *vicus* specimen) is similar, though its base is restored in his drawing. C. 290-350.

3 and 4. Crambeck ware, straight-sided flanged bowls; hard, smooth grey fabric, no. 4 having marked grooves below the flange.

5 and 6. Dishes in calcite-gritted ware, their sides very uneven and badly finished; the type is rare in this fabric on Hadrian's Wall. No. 5 has an internal undercut rim; cf. Hull type 31, p. 246.

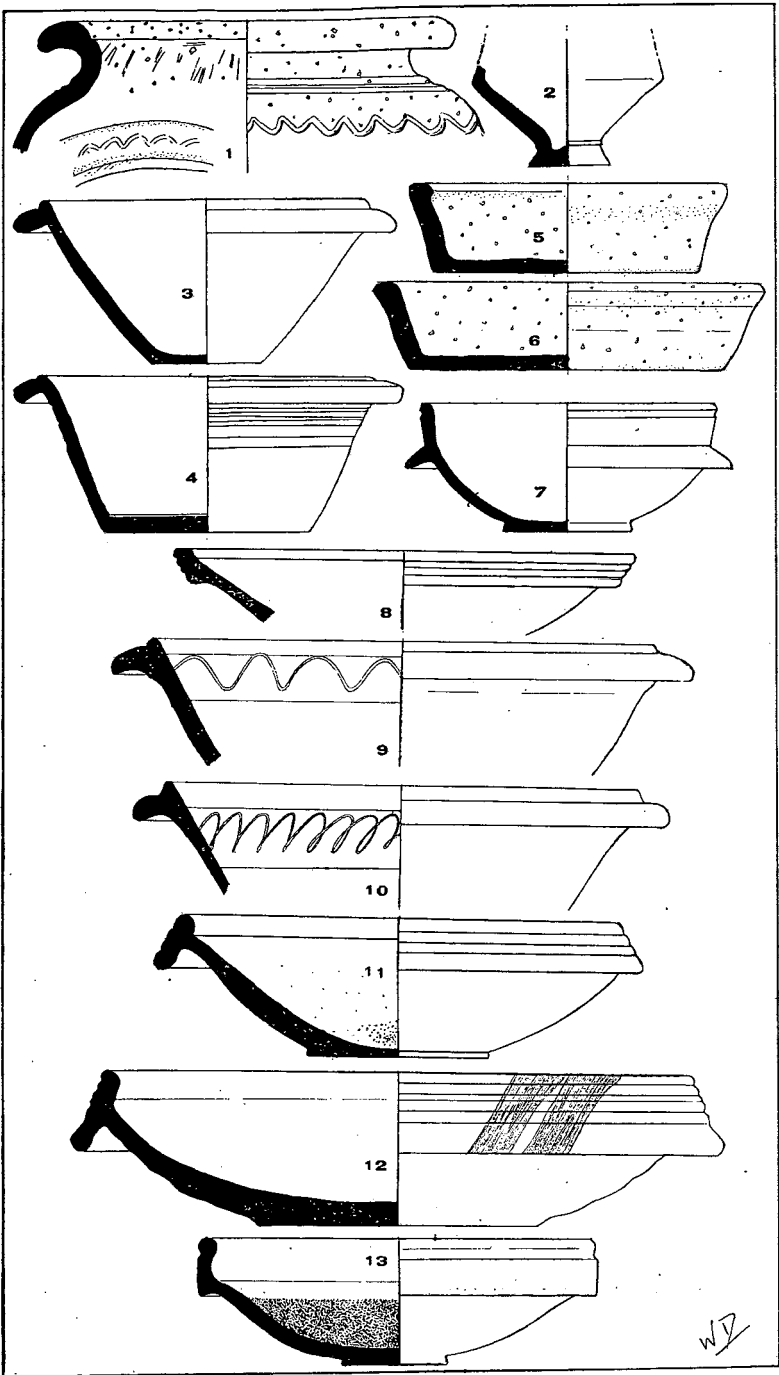


FIG. 2. POTTERY OF PERIODS III AND IV. (4).

7. Bowl in pink and cream fabric, its external flange imitating samian form 38. Cf. Corder type 5a, assigned to 360-400.

8. Hemispherical bowl in hard cream fabric, with external grooving on the rim. Corder type 9.

9 and 10. Straight-sided flanged bowls, each with internal wavy line on an unpolished band approximately 1 in. below the rim. Corder type 1a, Gillam type 232, characteristic of Wall-period IV.

11. Hammer-head mortarium in "pipeclay" fabric with fine black grit. Gillam type 283, assigned to 290-370.

12. Similar mortarium, with pairs of broad bands of red paint obliquely down the rim. Gillam type 284, 300-370.

13. Straight-sided mortarium in coarse pinkish yellow fabric, with very fine grit; badly burned, but traces of painted decorations are just to be seen. Corder type 7, 370-400.

The type-references are to the following works:

Gillam type: J. P. Gillam, "Types of Roman coarse pottery in Northern Britain" (AA4 xxxv, 1957, 180ff.).

Hull: M. R. Hull, "The pottery from the Roman signal stations on the Yorkshire coast" (*Arch. J.* lxxxix, 1933, 220ff.).

Corder type: Philip Corder, "A pair of fourth-century Romano-British pottery kilns near Crambeck" (*Antiq. J.* xvii, 1937, 392ff.).

(ii) OTHER SMALL FINDS (fig. 3).

With the exception of nos. 1 and 2 none of the objects listed below was found in a stratified context:

1. Bronze fibula, Collingwood's type T. This is an example of the fully developed crossbow type, with large knobs, assigned to the late third/early fourth century. It was found on the semicircular hearth in the western division of the centurion's quarters (plan 1, room B).

2. Bronze pendant: found beneath a period III floor in 1959.

3. Bronze ferrule or terminal with moulded decoration.

4. Bronze terminal, possibly the butt of a javelin.

5. Bronze foot of a cauldron.

6. Bronze hook, with decoration.

7. Bronze stud—found by the Ministry of Works staff, unstratified, near the north gateway of the fort.

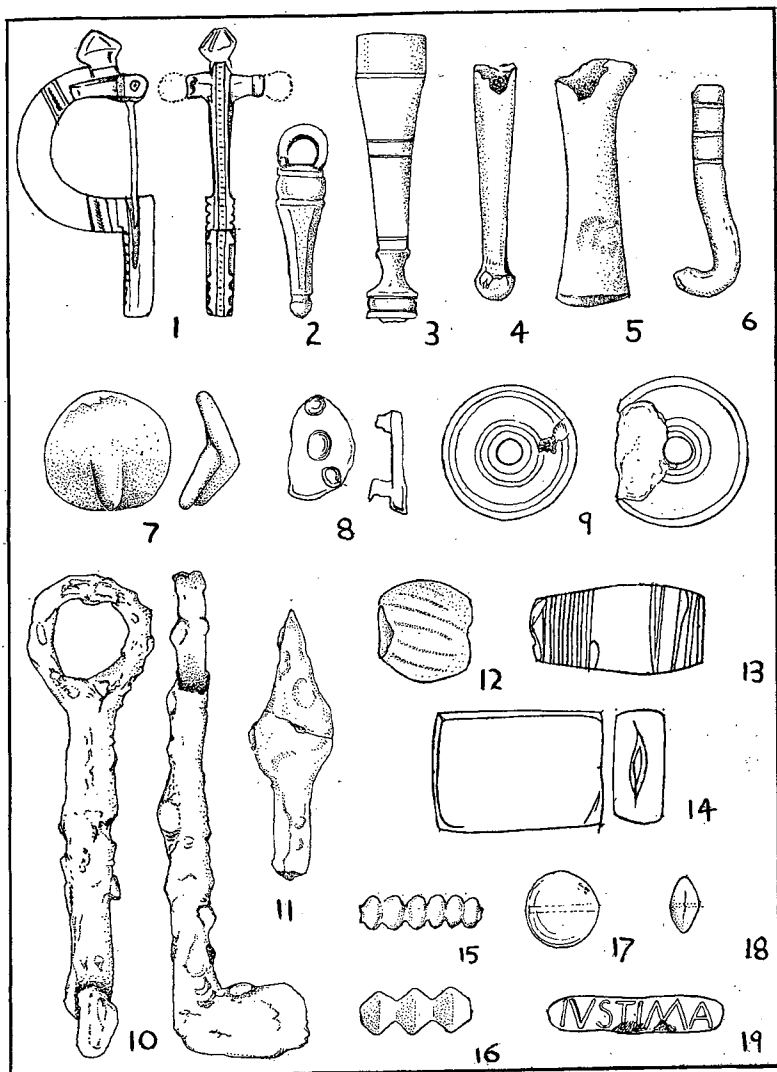


FIG. 3. SMALL FINDS. NOS. 1-11 (♂); 12-19 (♀).

8. Lead stud or plug, perhaps for repairing pottery.
9. Jet spindle-whorl, worked and polished. About a dozen spindle-whorls made from samian ware, coarse pottery and mortaria were found.
10. Iron key.
11. Iron arrow-head with shaft socket.
12. Ribbed melon bead in blue paste, cf. *Richborough IV*, pl. lv 240; a Richborough example comes from a pit dated 90/130 (*op. cit.*, 149).
13. Barrel-shaped bead in dark brown glass with cream spiral.
14. Moulded rectangular bead in blue glass, with unfinished surface.
15. Segmented bead in green glass.
16. Segmented bead in jet.
17. Spherical bead in highly polished mauve glass.
18. Flattened bead in ultramarine glass.
19. Dr. 31, potter's stamp IVSTIMA of the Lezoux potter, assignable to the second half of the second century.

(iii) THE SCULPTURED STONES. BY JOHN LEACH.

1. A sandstone plaque, 14 in. long by 13 in. high, carved in relief showing three female figures seated in an *aedicula*, the room of which is formed by three arches (plate XXV, 1). There can be no doubt that we have here a reproduction of the well-known *deae matres*. The goddesses are dressed alike in long robes beneath which their feet can just be seen. The bodice of each robe seems to be gathered in above and below the bust, and the shoulders and arms appear to be bare, though this may be due to lack of skill on the part of the sculptor. The hair has been gathered up on the top of the head and presumably brushed back with a centre parting. The coiffure of the central goddess may have been taller than those of the outer pair, but the state of preservation precludes certainty on this point. Each goddess holds in her lap a bowl-shaped object, probably the usual basket of fruit. The folds of the robes are shown in a formalized style and the sculptor has experienced a certain



1. RELIEF OF THREE MOTHER GODDESSES.



2. UNSCRIBED ALTAR WITH CRUDE RELIEF OF A HEAD
ON ITS CAPITAL.

Photos. C. Chaplin

amount of difficulty in the positioning of his trio: in the case of both the outside goddesses the head has had to be moved a few millimetres to the left, along the shoulders, in order to coincide with the centre of the superimposed arch. The features of the goddesses have not been preserved, but the general impression is of a youngish trio of benevolent appearance.

Though representations of the *matres* are common from Gaul and Germany, I can find no striking parallel to the Housesteads relief in Espérandieu's corpus of sculptured stones from those provinces. From Britain two parallels may be cited:

(a) On the relief dedicated to the *Matres tramarinae patriae* found in Newcastle though possibly originally from Carlisle (CIL VII 499, Lap. Sep. 12, AA2 xv 324), the goddesses are seated in three separate niches in a similar position to those from Housesteads, but they appear to be wearing cloaks over their long robes and have nothing in their hands.

(b) On a relief from Lincoln, now in the British Museum (*B.M. Guide to the Antiquities of Roman Britain*, 1951, pl. xix 3), the goddesses are seated beneath a triple-arched roof, but appear to hold respectively an animal, a child and a fruit-basket.

One other relief of the *matres* has been found at Housesteads, as well as two altars dedicated to them, and five separate seated female figures.

2. A small crude uninscribed sandstone altar, 8 in. high by 5 in. wide and $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. from front to back, with a head and neck roughly carved in a frame beneath the round focus and between the volutes (pl. XXV, 2). This recalls a similar figure on the large altar to Mars and the two Alaisiagae from the shrine at the bottom of the hill,⁸ and it may be that this portable altar was a copy of it. Alternatively, we may have here another monument connected with the Celtic cult of the human head,⁹ or a representation of an unidentified deity.

⁸ Cf. AA2 x 148, and Mr. R. E. Birley's report elsewhere in this volume.

⁹ Cf. Anne Ross in PSAScot. xci 10, and her paper elsewhere in this volume.

3. A small uninscribed sandstone altar, 13 in. by 8 in. by 5 in. Instead of having the usual focus and volutes, the top is corrugated as are the wider top and bottom portions on face and sides alike.

(iv) THE COINS. BY J. P. C. KENT.

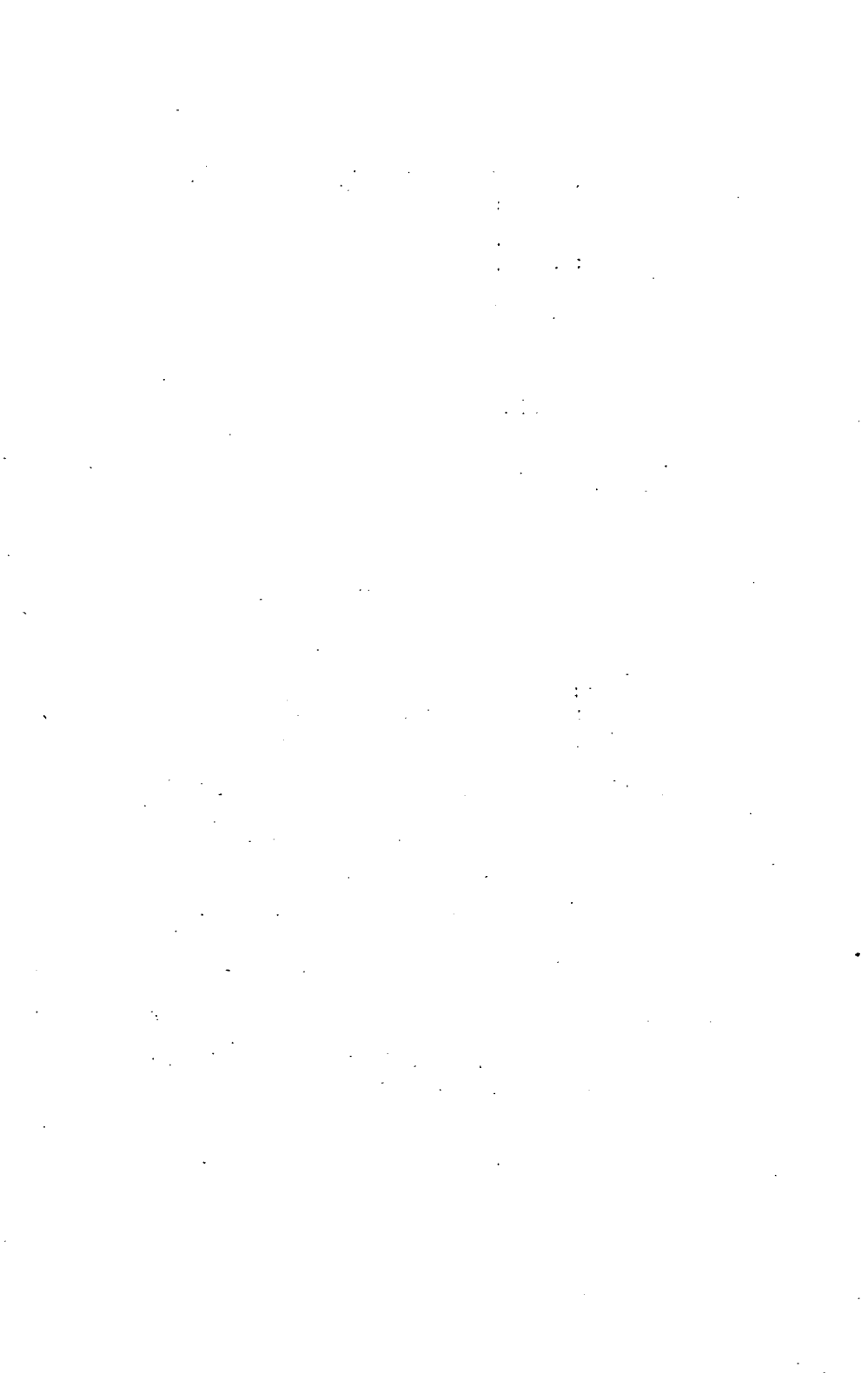
1. Legionary denarius of M. Antonius 31 B.C.
cf. Sydenham 1215.
2. First century As, illegible.
3. Illegible denarius first-second century, perhaps Trajan
(98-117).
4. Faustina I deified, sestertius c. 141-161.
5. Faustina II, denarius c. 147-161.
Obv.: FAVSTINA AVG PII AVG FIL RIC
Rev.: CONCORDIA seated. (Pius) 502.
6. Severus, denarius. 210.
Obv.: SEVERVS PIVS AVG RIC 233.
Rev.: PM TR P XVIII COS III PP
7. Claudius II deified. c. 270.
Obv.: DIVO CLAVDIO RIC 259
Rev.: CONSECRATIO altar.
8. probably Claudius II.
Obv.:
Rev.: VICTORIA AVG as RIC 104.
9. Allectus. 293-6.
Obv.:
Rev.: SALVS AVG $\frac{S|P}{ML}$ London mint RIC 42.
10. perhaps Allectus. 293-6.
Obv.:
Rev.: VIRTVS AVG $\frac{|}{QL}$ London mint.
11. Illegible radiate, late third century.
12. Galerius (Caesar). c. 300.
Obv.: MAXIMIANVS NOB bust cuirassed.
Rev.: GENIO POPVLI ROMANI unmarked but in style
of the London mint.
13. Constantius I (Caesar). 293-305.
Obv.: FL VAL CONSTANTIVS NOB c large laureate
head.
Rev.: GENIO POPVLI ROMANI $\frac{A|}{-TR}$ Trier mint.

14. Constantine I. c. 317-318.
 Obv.:
 Rev.: SOLI INVICTO COMITI U | London mint.
 cf. Kent 71 iii PLN
15. House of Constantine. 318-319.
 Obv.: |
 Rev.: VIRTVS EXERCIT PLON London mint.
 cf. Kent 81-84 ii
16. Crispus (Caesar). 324-6.
 Obv.: CRISPVS NOB CAES |
 Rev.: PROVIDENTIAE CAESS SMHA Heraclea mint.
 cf. CHK I 868.
17. "Constantinopolis" usual type TR·S | Trier mint cf. CHK I 66.
18. Constantius II or Constans. 340-5.
 Obv.: D Trier
 Rev.: [VICTORIAE DD AVGG] Q NN [TR]P mint.
 cf. CHK I 145f.
19. Magnentius. 352.
 Obv.: bare bust with A behind.
 Rev.: two Victories without column below
 Vota shield.
20. Gratian. 367-375.
 Obv.: [DN GRATIANVS AVGG AVG]
 Rev.: GLORIA NOVI SAECVLI OF III Arles mint.
 cf. CHK II 503ff. CON—

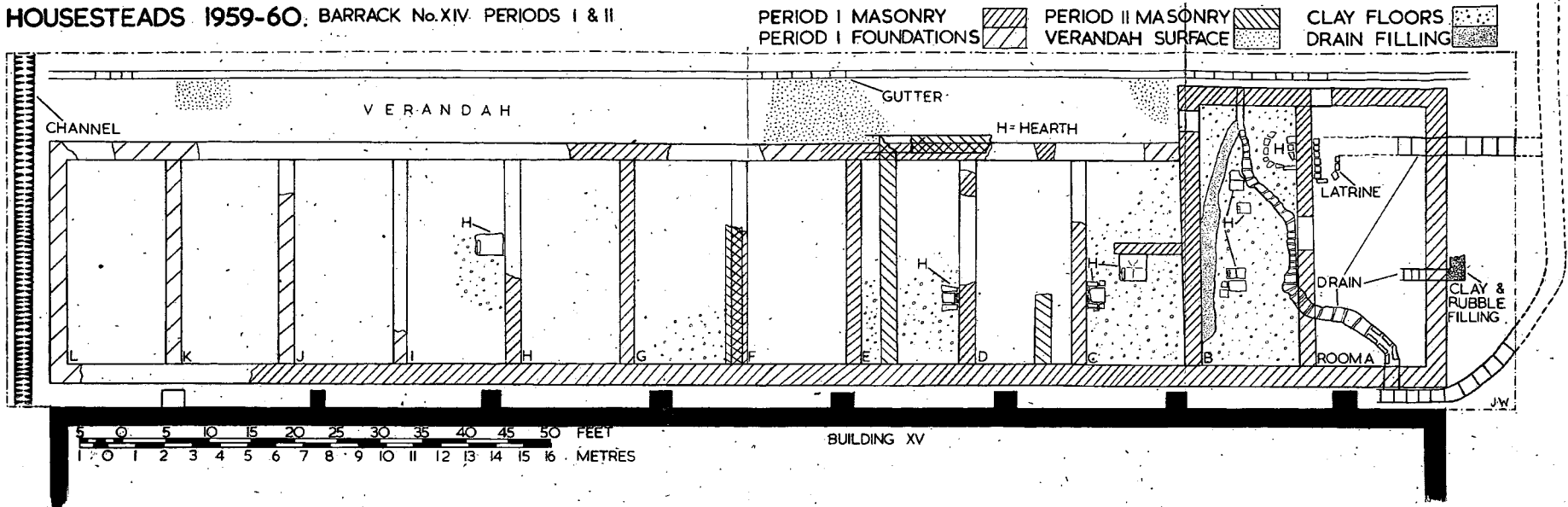
In addition nine coins of the later third century or early fourth were found which, owing to the poor state of preservation, could not be assigned to particular emperors.

References are to the following works:

- Sydenham: E. A. Sydenham, *The Roman Republican Coinage*, London, 1952.
 RIC: *Roman Imperial Coinage*, eds. Mattingly, Sydenham, Sutherland and Carson.
 Kent: J. P. C. Kent, *The Pattern of Bronze Coinage under Constantine I, 306-324*, Num. Chron. 17, (1957) 16-77.
 CHK: R. A. G. Carson, P. V. Hill, J. P. C. Kent, *Late Roman Bronze Coinage, 324-498*, London, 1960.



HOUSESTEADS 1959-60. BARRACK No. XIV. PERIODS I & II



HOUSESTEADS 1959-60 BARRACK No. XIV PERIODS III & IV

