

X

NOTES

1. A RECORD OF THREE GROUPS OF LEADEN SEALINGS IN 1890 FROM BROUGH-UNDER-STAINMORE AND SOUTH SHIELDS

IN THE summer of 1890 Robert Blair,¹ the notable Secretary and, from 1884, Editor of this Society made plaster casts of the obverse and reverse of twenty-five leaden sealings. He sent these casts in a small wooden box to F. J. Haverfield, who was then an assistant master at Lancing College, Shoreham, Sussex. The box arrived during the summer holidays, and was forwarded to him on 20 August 1890 from Shoreham, Sussex, as indicated by the postmark on the box. After Haverfield's death on 1 October 1919 this box was transferred to R. G. Collingwood with other epigraphic material, and in due course Collingwood handed it over to the present writer in March, 1941.

Blair's three groups

No correspondence has been preserved with these casts, so it is not clear whether Haverfield asked Blair for a series of casts or Blair volunteered this material. In 1888 Mommsen had invited Haverfield to compile the next supplement of Romano-British inscriptions in continuation of Huebner's third *additamenta* to *CIL* vii, published in *EE* iv in 1879. Haverfield was then committed to full-time teaching of the Classical Sixth at Lancing, and in his introduction to *EE* vii he observed that he had an arduous assignment in examining new discoveries and digesting the mass of archaeological publications. He completed the work promptly and the third fascicule of *EE* vii, including Haverfield's 81 pages of *additamenta quarta*, left the press in Berlin on 31 March 1890. The volume was completed by the issue of its fourth fascicule in 1892, which has no British material. For the leaden sealings in *EE* vii he confined himself to single items from Richborough and Chesters and two alleged to be from Risingham (Bruce) or High Rochester (Blair), but more likely to be from Brough-under-Stainmore (*Verterae*). He reported that there were two groups of these in museums, seventeen in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, and eight in the Yorkshire Museum, York. Others were in private hands and differed little from the substantial number already published and illustrated mainly by C. Roach Smith and H. Ecroyd Smith and incorporated by Huebner² in *CIL* vii and *EE* iii and iv.

In Group A as a selection Blair cast one single and four pairs of the leaden sealings which he had recovered from the excavations at South Shields and in due course had presented to this Society. One³ of these now provides very helpful evidence, because the original had been mislaid from the case in the Black Gate Museum,

before that material was transferred to the Museum of Antiquities, Newcastle upon Tyne.⁴

In Group B Blair cast eight pairs of sealings to which he gave the code letter F, presumably indicating Richard S. Ferguson (see below). They had been presented in 1880 to the Yorkshire Museum by the Rev. James Simpson, LL.D., F.S.A., Vicar of Kirkby Stephen till his death in 1886. In 1929 R. G. Collingwood drew seven of these in that Museum, where the present writer cast them in 1941. Three of Blair's group are additional to Collingwood's seven, as if they had been mislaid between 1890 and 1929. One records *c(ohors) II L(ingonum)*, with *T M O* on the reverse. A similar item from this unit is in the British Museum, but with a blank reverse. A second one, reading *c(ohors) VII Tr(acum)*, is matched⁵ by five in the British Museum. A third one is rectangular and of legionary type.

In Group C the twelve sealings, mostly in pairs, were labelled C or CL. It was accessioned in 1944 as 10/44 in the Yorkshire Museum. The label of Professor E. C. Clark, LL.D., Regius Professor of Civil Law in the University of Cambridge, reads: "These leaden seals came from Brough and were formerly in the collection of old Mr. Simpson of Kirby (*sic*) Stephen. They were given to me by Chancellor Ferguson of Carlisle." He was Richard S. Ferguson, F.S.A., 1837–1900, Chancellor of the Diocese of Carlisle. On the death of Clark's son, Lieut.-Col. E. Kitson Clark, in 1943 the objects passed to the Yorkshire Museum.

Summary of the study of leaden sealings between 1890 and 1956, the closing date for the discovery of items due for incorporation in Volume II of the Roman Inscriptions of Britain

Haverfield in 1913 recorded in *EE* ix 1296 *a-d* four sealings from Corbridge, in 1296 *e* one from Newstead, in 1297 one from Silchester and in 1298 one from London.

R. G. Collingwood in 1929 drew seven of the sealings cited above in the Yorkshire Museum. In *CW*² xxxi (1931) 81 he illustrated six Brough sealings in the Craven Museum, Skipton. In *AA*⁴ xi (1934) 83 I. A. Richmond recorded sealings from South Shields. In *CW*² xxxvi (1936) 104–25 he published his monumental study of all the sealings from Brough-under-Stainmore, including 96 stored in the British Museum. E. Birley in *CW*² lviii (1958) 41 quoted H. Ecroyd Smith's report on his visit in 1865 to Brough-under-Stainmore with details about the scrap-heap from which the sealings were being retrieved.

In *CW*² liv (1954) 102–104 R. P. Wright recorded a new leaden sealing, *P(rovincia) B(ritannia) I(nferior)* from York and five sealings acquired by Lieut.-Col. L. A. D. Montague and bequeathed to the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter.

The present writer in 1959 and 1960 and again in 1972 cast 115 sealings, mainly from Brough-under-Stainmore, in the British Museum to complete the recording of those known to have been found before 31 December 1956 for inclusion in *RIB* II.

R. P. WRIGHT

2. A SETTLEMENT ON BOGGLE HILL, THORNEYBURN (NY 783862)

It is not the tradition with respect to a local *bogle* or ghost which prompts this brief note but rather the exorcism of a minor yet haunting spectre of archaeological omission.

Bogle or Boggle Hill camp was already extremely denuded when Henry Maclauchlan visited the site some one hundred and twenty years ago.⁶ Even so, there were

BOGGLE HILL

(54)

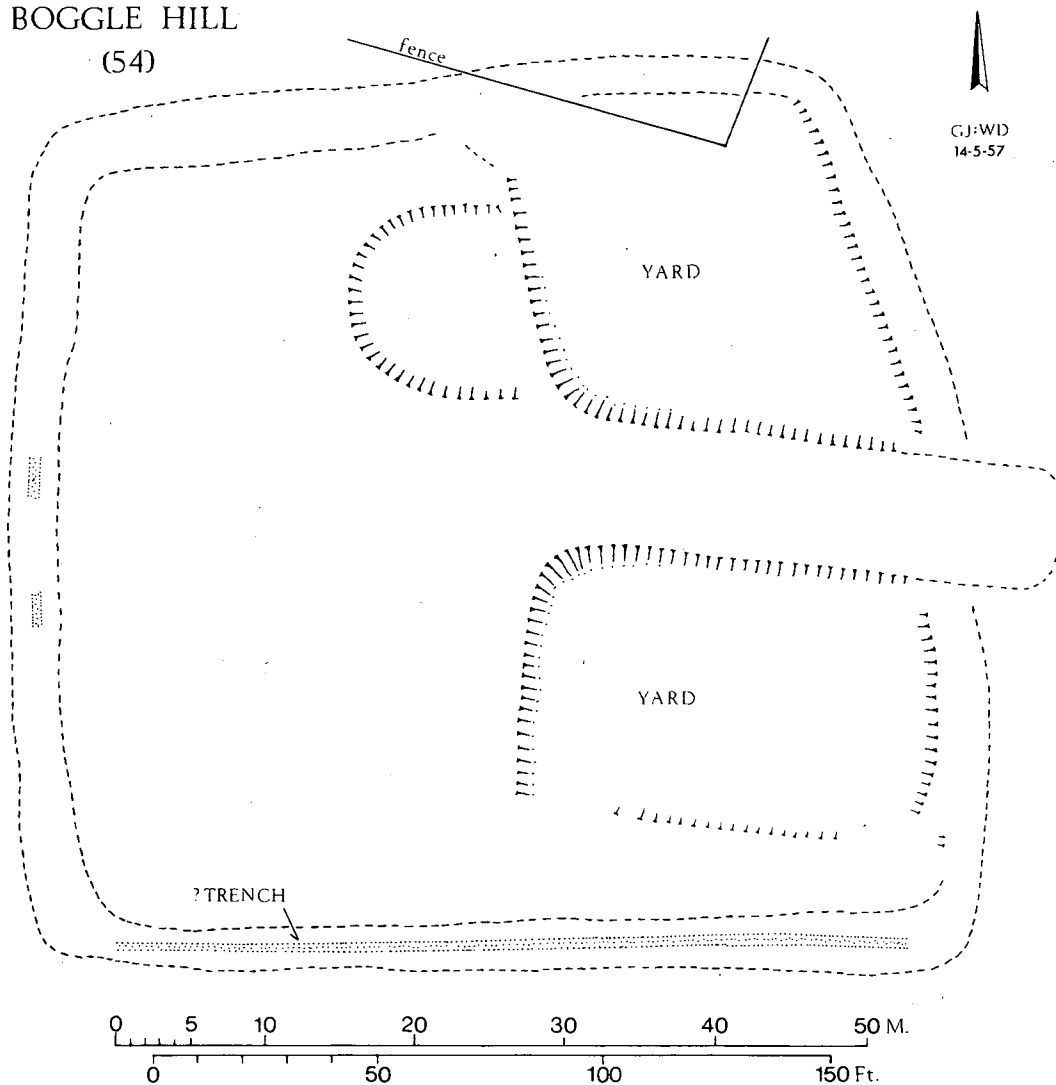


Fig. 1.

sufficient diagnostic traces still visible on the ground in 1957 to warrant its inclusion in a list of probable Romano-British settlements of rectilinear form in the county of Northumberland:⁷ the hitherto unpublished plan, made at the time, should demonstrate the propriety of this interpretation (fig. 1). The settlement lies near to the top of a gentle ESE facing slope at an altitude of *c.* 167 m (550'). The almost square enclosure contains traces of a central causeway in the east, running between two depressions which are undoubtedly the usual frontal yards. No unequivocal remains of round timber or stone-built houses are visible in the rear or western half of the site, but a semicircular scoop behind the northern yard could mark the position of one former house, of which there would normally be three or four in an enclosure of this size. The line of the enclosure wall, if such it has been, is barely perceptible for much of its course, and there are no longer any traces of an outside ditch, though a ditch is normal where these settlements are located on drift material rather than rock⁸. In May, 1957, however, linear features marked by a combination of slight grooves and differences in the herbage were visible within the line of the low spread of the perimeter on the south and for two short stretches on the west. This phenomenon was at least consistent with the presence of a construction trench for a timber-built palisade or stockade, though at the time such an interpretation did not have the support of parallels on this type of site elsewhere in the area.

More recent excavations on stone-built Romano-British settlements in North Tyndale have demonstrated that at least five of these settlements have had one or more timber-built precursors of similar rectilinear form, a structural sequence which by radiocarbon dating or by inference would give some of these settlements a respectable pre-Roman, Iron Age ancestry. The implications of the sequence have been discussed elsewhere,⁹ but this possibility of a sixth example being present on Boggle Hill was overlooked—a lapse which has been remedied in the pursuit of local folk-lore rather than archaeology.

G. JOBEY

3. A NOTE ON THE "MODIUS CLAYTONENSIS"

The bronze dry-measure found at Carvoran, which has long gone by the name of "Modius Claytonensis", has a number of remarkable features. This note is concerned with the line of inscription on the vessel which proclaims that it holds $17\frac{1}{2}$ *sextarii*.¹⁰

The Roman *modius* contained 16 *sextarii*. It is difficult to believe that a vessel holding $17\frac{1}{2}$ *sextarii* can have been used to measure out large quantities of wheat. It can hardly have been used, for example, to measure out the large quantities of wheat obtained from British farmers by the system of compulsory purchase.¹¹ It seems more reasonable to suggest that $17\frac{1}{2}$ *sextarii* is the precise measure of a particular quantity, required for a specific purpose. The figure does not at first sight seem readily divisible. But then one notices that it can be divided—by seven:

division by seven gives $2\frac{1}{2}$ *sextarii*. Could $2\frac{1}{2}$ *sextarii* represent a daily ration, and $17\frac{1}{2}$ *sextarii* therefore the ration for a seven-day week?

A figure for a soldier's rations is given by Polybius.¹² According to him, Roman and allied foot soldiers received "about" two-thirds of an Attic *medimnus* per month: he is careful to specify that his figures are only approximations ("μάλιστα πως"). Since the Attic *medimnus* equalled six *modii*, this gives a monthly ration of, very approximately, four *modii*. But if in fact the rations were issued on a weekly basis, this is a weekly ration, again very approximately, of about a *modius*. The 16 *sextarii* of the *modius* are not of course divisible by seven. But Polybius's figures fit very well a weekly ration of $17\frac{1}{2}$ *sextarii*, especially if the basis of calculation is $2\frac{1}{2}$ *sextarii* per day.

This of course all depends on the date at which the seven-day week may have come into general use. It certainly cannot be dismissed as a merely Judaeo-Christian phenomenon: neither Jews nor Christians would have given the days of the week the pagan names which they still have. The origins of our seven-day week are in fact extremely obscure.¹³ It was a system which established itself slowly, but it did so because it was simple, advantageous and convenient, and by a gradual process of acceptance, not because it was ever ordained by any governmental decree. But it is clear that it was already recognized and in use before the date at which the Carvoran measure was inscribed. Not least is this clear from inscriptions from Pompeii (which necessarily date before Sept., A.D. 79) of which one significantly lists the seven days in their modern order, under the heading *θεῶν ἡμέρας*, "the days of the gods".¹⁴ In another, a day in A.D. 60 appears as *dies Solis*, that is Sunday.¹⁵ The use of the seven-day week may well go back to the time of Augustus.¹⁶

If this is so, then we have an explanation of the Carvoran measure's $17\frac{1}{2}$ *sextarii*: it represents a week's ration for a Roman soldier.

J. C. MANN

4. A NOTE ON INSCRIPTIONS FROM CARVORAN

In 1757, in visiting Carvoran, the Revd. B. Peile saw an inscription which he recorded, without further details, as

COH : BARVORVM

He did not, however, publish his find. It lurked unseen, only to emerge in 1887.¹⁷ The inscription was probably a recent find, since it is not recorded by Horsley. We may call this inscription [1].

In 1774,¹⁸ William Hutchinson visited Carvoran and saw an inscription which he recorded as follows:¹⁹

COH VI
VORVM FSTI

The spacing is carefully indicated in his drawing. In particular, the first line is inset, so that the C lies exactly over the R of the second line. He also clearly shows that the stone, although apparently broken off to the right, was not decorated in any



Fig. 2.

way. In this respect the stone is clearly distinguished from his drawings of what are now *RIB* 1817 and 1822, where he is careful to attempt to draw the ansate surround to the lettering. This stone clearly has no ansate decoration. The reading is repeated by Gough, using Hutchinson's drawing, in successive editions of Camden's *Britannia*.²⁰ We may call this inscription [2].

In 1807, Lingard recorded at Carvoran a stone for which he gave the reading²¹

COH I BATAVORVM F

This stone we can call inscription [3].

Hodgson²² dutifully recorded the two stones of which he had knowledge. For inscription [3] he gives the form

COH I BATA
VORVM F

and noted that it was built into the east end of the stable at Carvoran in 1810. Bruce gives inscription [3], using the same drawing both in his *Roman Wall*²³ and in his *Lapidarium Septentrionale*.²⁴ He reads

COII·I·BAT
VORVM F

and carefully indicates the ansate surround to the lettering. He also indicates that the inscription was not broken off in any way.

Watkin,²⁵ giving Hutchinson's reading of inscription [2], commented that Hübner equated (*CIL* VII 777) this with inscription [3]. It seems evident from this that neither Watkin nor Hübner had looked very closely at what had been recorded about the two inscriptions. In 1887, the Stukeley Papers were published.²⁶ Watkin²⁷ recorded Peile's reading of inscription [1] without comment, as more surprisingly did Haverfield.²⁸ But neither had had the advantage of studying R. G. Collingwood's careful drawing of inscription [3], reproduced in *RIB*,²⁹ for a look at this drawing makes it plain that what Peile produced in 1757 (inscription [1]) is merely a badly read version of inscription [3]. The numeral with bar has become, the ligatured TA, with the A tucked under the arm of the T, has become R, and the F has been simply omitted. Inscription [1] has been given a separate number in *RIB* (1824), but it is quite evident that *RIB* 1823 and 1824 are in fact the same stone. Only a series of mischances has prevented this from being seen. *RIB* 1824 was only seen once, and the reading had been hidden for long after *RIB* 1823 achieved a spurious separate existence.

This would seem to leave the number 1824 surplus to requirements. But a reconsideration of Hutchinson's drawing (inscription [2]) suggests, contrary to what Watkin and Hübner claimed, that this stone is in fact a different stone altogether. It is quite possible that it ought to be read

COH VI [ner]
V[i]ORVM F[ec]I[t]

Although Hutchinson was very poor at reading inscriptions, his careful drawing of this stone makes it almost certain that what he recorded was not *RIB* 1823/4, nor any other inscription of *coh. I Batavorum*.

J. C. MANN

5. AN ANGLO-SAXON SMALL-LONG BROOCH FROM CLEADON,
TYNE AND WEAR (fig. 3)

In December 1983, the upper half of a bronze small-long brooch was very kindly donated to South Shields Central Museum by the finder, Mr. E. W. Seaton, who reported it as having been discovered near Cleadon, Tyne and Wear earlier that year (NZ 4387 5601). Were it not for the great rarity of objects of the Anglo-Saxon period from the real North of England, its incompleteness and condition would hardly justify comment, for the lower half below the bow has broken away in antiquity, the face is pitted, and the arms chipped. Its surviving length is only 44 mm, with traces of iron corrosion around an incomplete pin-swivel, and though now badly worn, two concentric circles enclosing a central dot are still plainly visible within each of the expanded arms and at the centre of the headplate.

This discovery, so close on the heels of that of the small-long brooch from Hylton,³⁰ encourages the hope that more material from the 5th and 6th centuries may await discovery.

ROGER MIKET

6. A BEAKER FROM TWIZELL, NORTHUMBERLAND (fig. 4)

Notwithstanding the use of a J.C.B. for stone-clearance and levelling at Twizell Farm, North Northumberland, an intact beaker was recovered from dumped soil by Mr.

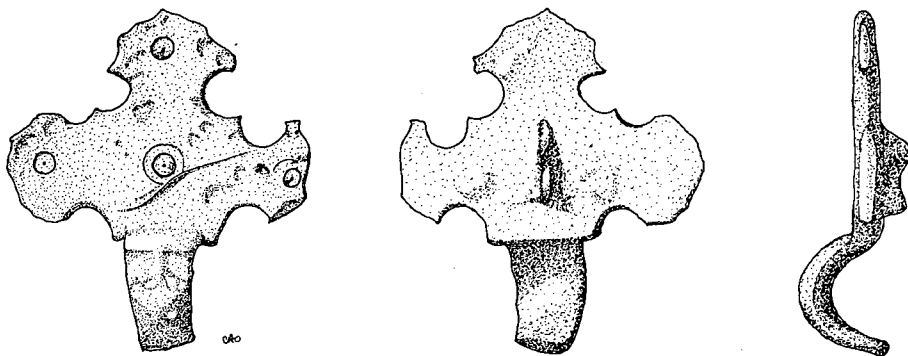


Fig. 3.

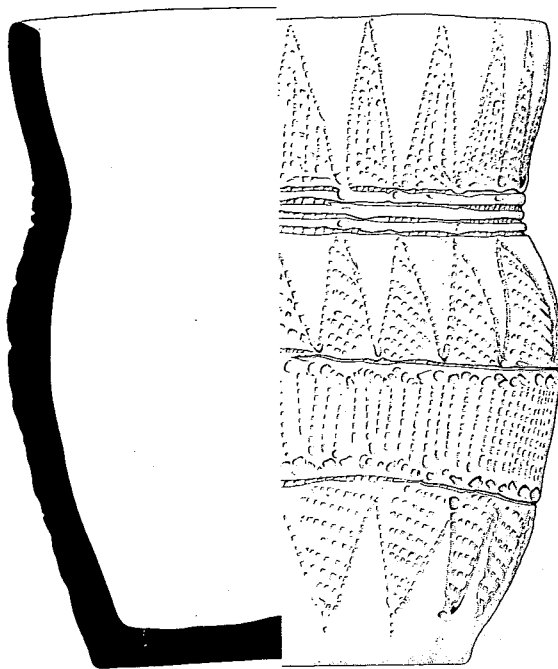


Fig. 4.

Lawrence Spours (NU1220 2903). Following an interval of five years obscurity in the pantry at Twizell Farm, the beaker was eventually identified through the kindness of Mrs. Joyce Spours, and it is a pleasure to thank them for the generosity and interest which has enabled this record to be made.

The beaker is in an exceptionally fresh condition, and is marred only by a fine hairline fracture within the rim, and some localized scaling that perhaps indicates that it had lain for some time on its side. The vessel stands to a height of 168 mm, with a rim diameter of 140mm, and a basal diameter of 98 mm. Decoration covers the vessel from base to rim, and is divisible into four equal zones defined by incised horizontal lines; four incisions emphasize the junction between neck and body, with a single line just below the shoulder and another between this and the base. The two zones above the shoulder contain a regular series of comb-impressed triangles filled with oblique lines of comb-impression. The uppermost triangles also contain three lines of vertical impression. The lower zone likewise carries comb-impressed triangles enclosing oblique lines, but here now pointing downwards towards the slight foot. The zone directly above this carries only vertical comb-impressions that markedly emphasize the use of a comb with teeth of decreasing size. These close-set vertical impressions are flanked above and below by short, alternating oblique impressions. The fabric is light reddish-brown in texture, containing a few grits.

In form the vessel falls within step 4. (Lanting, J. N. and van der Waals, J. D.

1972), having the characteristic short barrel neck and rather pronounced shoulder, only marred at one side by some sagging. It is a form that may justifiably be compared with those from North Sunderland, Glanton, The Sneep, Roseborough, Norham, High Buston, Dilston Park, Old Rothbury, and a recently re-discovered vessel from Belford (Tait, J. 1968, nos. 51, 56, 57, 58, 60, 66, 74, 75 and 81; Haslegrove, C. C. and Hibbs, J. L. forthcoming).³¹ The decorative element is most strikingly approximated upon the Old Rothbury beaker, although here executed solely through incised lines. On current radio-carbon chronologies the vessel should fall somewhere within the four centuries centering upon 2000 B.C., and it remains a matter of some regret that the original context of this particular beaker is now beyond recovery.

ROGER MIKET

NOTES

¹ See J. Oxberry *AA*³ xx (1923) 187–204. The box from Blair was jointed, with lid nailed on; it measures 4·7 by 3·1 by 2·5 inches, and is stored in our *RIB* archives.

² *CIL* vii 1269 nos. 1–31, and *addit.* p. 313 nos. 32–40. *EE* iii has seven more from Brough and *EE* iii and iv have eight from South Shields.

³ *CIL* vii 1269, 17. Roach Smith *Coll. Ant.* vi, pl. XVI, 2. Blair *AA*² viii (1880) 57 pl. facing p. 57 no. 4. Sought in vain by R.P.W. in 1946.

⁴ In addition to the sealings discussed in this article the Museum at South Shields possesses several acquired by T. Vint and others. They have been described by Lindsay Allason-Jones and R. Miket in this Society's Monograph no. 2, *The catalogue of Small Finds from South Shields Roman Fort* (Newcastle, 1984).

⁵ *CIL* vii 1269, 17. Richmond *CW*² xxxvi (1936) 117 fig. 1 A 6.

⁶ *Notes not included in the memoirs of Roman roads in Northumberland* (1867), 69–70. Maclauchlan gives Bogle, the O.S. maps Boggle.

⁷ *AA4 XXXVIII* (1960), 1–38. Listed as site no. 54.

⁸ *AA5 V* (1977), 35 & fig. 14.

⁹ *AA5 VI* (1978), 24–7.

¹⁰ The vessel is described by Haverfield, *AA3 XIII* (1916), 85–102 and fig. 1. I have nothing to add on the problem of whether there is any discrepancy between what the vessel held and what the inscription claims that it held. I am only concerned here with what it was supposed to be measuring.

¹¹ The notion that there was a “corn-tax” during the principate is a modern myth. I hope to deal with this elsewhere.

¹² 6, 39, 13.

¹³ See especially F. H. Colson, *The Week*, 1926, a most agreeable little book.

¹⁴ *CIL* IV 5202. The same order appears in IV 6779 and 8863.

¹⁵ *CIL* IV 4182—the same day also in IV 6838, while *diem Iovis* (Thursday) occurs in IV 8820.

¹⁶ A. Degrassi, in *Atti del terzo congresso internazionale di epigrafia greca e latina* (1957), 95–104, on a fragment of the Fasti found near Nola listing the seven-day week (= *Année Epigraphique* 1959, 253), which, like the similar fragment from the Sabine country, *CIL* I² p. 218, can hardly date later than the Augustan period.

¹⁷ Stukeley Papers iii (Surtees Soc. LXXX, 1887), 137.

¹⁸ As Eric Birley pointed out to me, on the evidence of Hutchinson's *Excursion to the Lakes*, 1776.

¹⁹ W. Hutchinson, *A View of Northumberland*, 1778, i 18 and fig.

²⁰ 1789, ii pl. xvi, fig. 3; 1806, iii pl. xxix, fig. 3.

²¹ Recorded by R. C. Bosanquet, *AA4 VI* (1929), 155 transcribing the Lingard Mss. in the possession of the Society.

²² *NCH*, II iii, 141, §III.1 (= inscription [3]) and §III.3 (= inscription [2]).

²³ Third Ed., 1867, 244.

²⁴ 1875, no. 331.

²⁵ *Arch. Jour.* xxxiii, 1876, 260.

²⁶ Note 17 above.

²⁷ *Arch. Jour.* xlv, 1888, 168.

²⁸ *EE VII* 1065.

²⁹ No. 1823.

³⁰ *AA5 X* (1982), 209–10.

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