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COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY

SCOTTISH REGIONAL GROUP

FIFTH REPORT, 1950.

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National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland,
Queen Street,
Edinburgh, 2.

1st January 1951.

I. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. The Executive Committee has pleasure in submitting its report for 1950:-

Membership. During the year the Dundee Art Galleries and Museums joined the Group. The membership now comprises 18 Societies and 7 Museums.

Annual Report. The Fourth Report of the Group was issued in January 1950. Later in the year it was printed in the form of a 16 page booklet, the cost being met by a liberal grant from the Russell Trust and the generosity of an anonymous donor. In order to ascertain whether a sufficient number of copies of the next Report, the Fifth, would be required to cover the cost of printing it at a price of 6d. per copy, an order form was distributed with the printed Fourth Report to every member of the Group. The response has shown that there is a demand for 124 copies. This number cannot be printed economically, but can be produced at 6d. per copy by duplication.

Summer Excursion. The Annual Excursion took place on 10th June, 1950. Culross and Dunfermline were visited, and about 100 members attended. At Culross the Rev. J.M. Gow and Dr W. Douglas Simpson spoke on the history and the architectural features of the Abbey, Mr C.S.T. Calder described the Palace, and Mr J. Westwood acted as guide in a walk through the burgh. At Dunfermline Dr Douglas Simpson spoke of the many historical connections of the Abbey and the associated buildings, and Dr J.M. Webster outlined some of the history of the Abbey Church. Mr R.C. Reid, who organised the excursion so successfully, and the speakers who co-operated with him to ensure that success, were cordially thanked by the members of the Group for their efforts.

Field School. All the Scottish Universities and certain other bodies continue to support the Scottish Field School of Archaeology. Four field schools were held during the year; summaries of the work done are included below.

Preservation of Ancient Monuments. The question of the preservation of certain cup-and-ring stones near Killin, Perthshire, which are within the area of operations of the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board, is under discussion with representatives of the Board.

The attention of H.M. Inspector of Ancient Monuments was drawn to a local expression of anxiety that the ruins of Auchterarder Castle, Perthshire, should be protected from possible deterioration. As a result, H.M. Inspector of Ancient Monuments has announced that the ruins have been recommended for scheduling.

Air Photography Exhibition. The exhibition of 'Air Photographs of Castles and Religious Houses', produced by Messrs Kodak with the co-operation of Dr J.K. St Joseph, was shown in 1950 under the auspices of the Group in the Art Gallery and Museum, Perth, the Art Gallery and Industrial Museum, Aberdeen, the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland, Edinburgh, and the Burgh Museum, Dumfries. The Group has also arranged for its display at the Art Gallery and Museum, Dundee, from July 21st to August 24th, 1951.

Travelling Bookstalls. The Council for British Archaeology has put into operation a service of travelling bookstalls. They have been on exhibition at conferences and meetings in many parts of the country, and when it was not practicable to display a bookstall on such occasions, the Council provided a list of appropriate archaeological publications including the journals of national societies.

Poster /

Poster. Plans for the distribution of a poster urging the public to report the discovery of archaeological remains are nearing completion. Specimen designs were examined by the sub-Committee on Popularisation, and a poster was selected. It was designed by Mr B. Hope-Taylor, F.S.A., whose specialised knowledge of the Council's requirements has added greatly to the intrinsic value of the poster.

Visual Aids Leaflet. The Visual Aids leaflet, listing films, film-strips, charts and photographic collections of archaeological subjects is in course of preparation. This, and a brief pamphlet on the recognition of archaeological sites and finds, to be prepared by Mrs Jacquetta Hawkes, F.S.A., will be published in conjunction with the Conference on Local History of the National Council of Social Service.

Film-Strips. The Director of Education, Edinburgh Corporation, has kindly presented seven film-strips to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, each with a book of notes suitable for lecturers. The titles of the strips are (1) The Romans in Britain, (2) Life in Roman Britain, (3) The Mildenhall Treasure, (4) The Sutton-Hoo Treasure, (5) Digging for History, (6) The Chantry of Richard Beauchamp, Warwick, and (7) The Field of the Cloth of Gold. The last named is in colour, the rest are in black and white.

Travelling Exhibitions. Steps have been taken by the Council of British Archaeology to organise two travelling exhibitions in conjunction with the Victoria and Albert Museum. It is proposed to circulate one exhibition of archaeological material illustrating either Prehistory in wide terms or Roman Britain, as the first of a series of specialised exhibitions, the choice depending largely on the material available. This exhibition will be circulated to museums and art galleries. A second exhibition, composed of photographs of archaeological interest, has been designed for display in public libraries and by organisations where facilities for display are limited. The work of collecting and designing the exhibitions will be lengthy; it is expected that they will be ready for circulation by the middle of 1951.

Activities of the Year. The Abertay Historical Society is planning to publish a series of essays on local historical and archaeological subjects. It is proposed that each publication shall be separate, and the aim is to produce sound and scholarly accounts which are at the same time attractive, non-technical and readable.

The Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society is to be congratulated on producing the first volume of the second series of Collections, a 262-page volume containing numerous articles and illustrations of great and varied interest. The Society hopes that, by doubling its membership at the existing rate of subscription, it will be possible to publish another such volume every other year. The Society is at present engaged in the preparation for Ayr Town Council of a volume commemorative of the 750th anniversary of the granting of a Royal Charter to the Burgh of Ayr, which it is intended to publish in 1952.

The Council of University College, Dundee, has equipped and, by an annual grant, is maintaining an 'archaeological rescue unit.' The unit is manned by students and is under the direction of Dr F.T. Wainwright; it investigates reports of sites and finds in the area Angus, Fife and Perthshire. Landowners and farmers have already helped to make the scheme a success by their co-operation. The primary object is to investigate and record, but not to excavate. Special attention will be directed to sites which are in any danger of destruction. Reports from the area will be welcomed by Dr Wainwright, Department of History, University College, Dundee.

Material for a map of Britain in the Dark Ages (800-1066) is being collected for the Ordnance Survey by Dr Wainwright, who will be glad to receive reports of finds or of sites which may merit inclusion on the map, which will not be exclusively archaeological.

Mr A.E. Truckell, Curator of the Dumfries Burgh Museum, reports that, despite the exceptionally wet season, the Museum has been able to accomplish parts of its programme of field work at Carzield, Wardlaw and other sites in Dumfriesshire; reports will be published in the Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society.

The ruins of the cottage at Foulshiels, Selkirk parish, Selkirkshire, which was the birthplace of Mungo Park, have been rescued from decay by the efforts of members of the Selkirkshire Antiquarian Society, aided by public subscription.

Mr J.G. Scott, Curator of the Department of Archaeology, Ethnography and History at Glasgow Art Gallery and Museums, Kelvingrove, reports that the Antonine Wall display case, which has been on view since June 1950, will when completed contain models at scale of 20 ft. to 1 in. of the forts of Old Kilpatrick, Balmuildy, Cadder, Bar Hill, Rough Castle, Castlecary and Mumrills. The first four named have already been completed. Below the models the entire course of the wall is marked on the appropriate sheets of the 6 in. Ordnance map, illuminated from behind in such a way that it stands out from the remainder of the map. In addition, photographs of sculptured panels from the Column of Trajan in Rome serve to illustrate the work of the Roman army about a generation prior to the building of the Antonine Wall, enabling visitors to form a picture of the troops who built and manned the wall.

A member of the Falkirk Archaeological and Natural History Society, the Rev. W.B. MacLaren, M.A., F.S.A.Scot., has written a guide to Larbert and district, which has been published by Stirling County Council.

Rhind Lectures. It is hoped that the 1951 Rhind Lectures will be delivered in Edinburgh by R.E.M. Wheeler, Esq., C.I.E., M.C., M.A., D.Lit., D.Litt., F.B.A., F.S.A., Professor of the Archaeology of the Roman Provinces, University of London; the provisional title of the series is "The Discipline of Field Archaeology."

Sixth Report. Any one who would like to receive the next Report of the Scottish Regional Group, Council for British Archaeology, to be issued on January 1st, 1952, should send an order, with remittance, by 1st December, 1951. Details will be found at the end of this Report.

Thanks. In conclusion, the Executive Committee wishes to thank the Keeper of the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland for permission to use the rooms of the Museum, and Miss A. Webster for invaluable secretarial assistance.

J.M. DAVIDSON, President.
K.A. STEER. Joint Hon. Secretaries.
R.W. FELCHEM.

II. THE SCOTTISH FIELD SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY. Annual Report for 1950.

Training Sites. The Committee of the Scottish Field School of Archaeology selected as sites suitable for the training of students in field archaeology during 1950 the four following:

1. THE BROCH AT TORWOODLEE, SELKIRKSHIRE.
 Director of Excavations: Professor Stuart Piggott, B.Litt., F.S.A., F.S.A.Scot.
 Duration of Excavations: From 19th June to 14th July 1950.
2. THE IRON AGE FORT AT BONCHESTER HILL, ROXBURGHSHIRE.
 Director of Excavations: Mrs C.M. Piggott, F.S.A., F.S.A.Scot.
 Duration of Excavations: From 19th June to 14th July 1950.
3. THE ROMAN FORTS AT MILTON, BEATOCK, DUMFRIESSHIRE.
 Director of Excavations: John Clarke, M.A., F.S.A.Scot.
 Duration of Excavations: From 17th July to 19th August 1950.
4. DUNDARG CASTLE, ABERDEENSHIRE.
 Director of Excavations: W. Douglas Simpson, D.Litt., F.S.A., F.S.A.Scot.
 Duration of Excavations: From 1st to 21st August 1950.

Grants. The Field School Committee received grants for the training of students from the Scottish Universities, from the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, and from the Education Committees of Aberdeenshire, Dumfriesshire and Selkirkshire. The Committee decided to use these grants only for the maintenance of students prepared to spend at least a fortnight at a Field School training site, as experience has shown that little or no benefit is to be derived from a shorter period of training.

Students. Students who spent a fortnight or more at a Field School training site were distributed as follows:

| University | Torwoodlee | Bonchester | Milton | Dundarg | Total |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Aberdeen | - | - | 5 (14 weeks) | 8 (26 weeks) | 13 (40 weeks) |
| Edinburgh | 1 (4 weeks) | 7 (18 weeks) | 1 (3 weeks) | - | 9 (25 weeks) |
| Glasgow | 1 (3 weeks) | 1 (2 weeks) | 6 (16 weeks) | 2 (6 weeks) | 10 (27 weeks) |
| St Andrews | 2 (7 weeks) | - | 1 (2 weeks) | 3 (8 weeks) | 6 (17 weeks) |
| Other Sources | 1 (3½ weeks) | 1 (3 weeks) | 1 (2 weeks) | 1 (3 weeks) | 4 (11½ weeks) |
| Total | 5 (17½ weeks) | 8 (23 weeks) | 14 (37 weeks) | 14 (43 weeks) | 41 (120½ weeks) |

II. THE SCOTTISH FIELD SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY (Contd.)

Accommodation. Milton students were accommodated and fed in Beattock School, by kind permission of Dumfriesshire Education Committee, and Dundarg students were accommodated and fed in New Aberdour Parish Hall, by kind permission of New Aberdour Parish Committee. Torwoodlee and Bonchester students were accommodated and fed in private lodgings.

Reports on Students. The Directors of Excavations on the four Field School training sites have provided the Field School Committee with individual reports on their students. These show that, with a few exceptions, all the students benefited from the training given, and at the same time made a useful contribution to the work of the excavation. A few of the best and most experienced students have already undertaken a little independent excavation work on their own responsibility. In addition, several other advanced students have been given responsible work on the training sites under the general supervision of the Directors.

Conclusions. It is satisfactory to be able to report that students have come forward from all the four Scottish Universities, as well as from certain other sources, to attend Field School training sites. It is noteworthy too that the number of students who received training during 1950 was double the number of such students during 1949.

J.M. DAVIDSON, Chairman.

ANNE S. ROBERTSON, Hon. Secretary & Treasurer.

III. DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN 1950.

Where known, a publication in which a full report of the discovery or excavation will appear, is given after each item.

ABERDEENSHIRE. Dundarg Castle. 38/895648. ii.SW.

Excavations directed by Dr W. Douglas Simpson and by Dr F.T. Wainwright were carried out at Dundarg Castle, Aberdour, during August 1950, under the auspices of the University of Aberdeen, the Scottish Field School of Archaeology and the Buchan Club.

The excavations were favoured with very good weather. In the remains of the mediaeval castle evidence of its double reconstruction in 1308 and 1334, as attested by record, was revealed. An interesting feature was the way in which earthwork had been employed by Henry de Beaumont in his hurried reconditioning of the castle, before the siege of 1334, to close the breaches in the frontal curtain and in the great tower which had been made by Bruce in 1308. In front of the inner gatehouse the bed of a sleeper joist was exposed, out in the rock. It appears to have belonged to an earlier timber construction on this part of the site.

Evidence was obtained of a partial restoration of the castle in the 16th century, probably during the 'War of the Rough Wooing.' In this reconstruction the inner gatehouse was pierced for cannon.

In the outer court of the castle a prehistoric kitchen midden was exposed, and part of it was sifted. It yielded limpets, periwinkles and other shell-fish, fish and animal bones and artefacts. A report on the contents of the midden is awaited from the Natural History /

III. DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN 1950ABERDEENSHIRE (Contd.)

History Department, University of Aberdeen.

The excavations yielded no prehistoric pottery. The bone tools possess affinities with those from the brochs, and the approximate dating thereby suggested may be confirmed by the presence of an enamelled stud, apparently a stray from the Roman Province. Large quantities of mediaeval pottery and other relics from this period were recorded. The pottery dates mainly from the 13th and 14th centuries; the coin record from the site extends from Edward I to the 18th century.

Dr F.T. Wainwright directed the investigation of the banks and ditches which straddle the neck of the promontory outside the castle.

ANGUS. Ardestie. 37/503343. li. SW.

Dr F.T. Wainwright, Head of the Department of History in University College, Dundee, reports that excavation of the souterrain complex, upon which work was begun in 1949, was completed in June 1950. During the winter of 1949-50 curious geological formations near the site were examined by trenching, and their relationship to the site was explored. It was discovered that the annual flooding of the souterrain, caused by a layer of clay evidently unsuspected by the builders, had led to the construction of a drain, which had proved to be ineffective. It is clear that the souterrain was deserted after a comparatively short occupation. The story of the site, which is now known in some detail, will be published when the excavations at Carlungie (infra) are completed.

Carlungie. 37/511359. li. SW.

Dr Wainwright commenced excavation in June 1950 at another souterrain, one mile from Ardestie, which had been discovered in October 1949. A series of structures not unlike those at Ardestie was revealed; there was a similar long paved and corbelled souterrain, but at Carlungie there were several smaller passages leading from the main passage, and it may be that these will throw light upon the purpose for which the main underground structure was used. As at Ardestie, there were traces of surface dwellings but these, nearer the present ground surface than those at Ardestie, have been much disturbed by the plough. Quantities of pottery, querns and animal bones were found, and it appears that the site was occupied for a considerable period.

Other souterrain sites in Angus have also been reported. Dr Wainwright intends to check these, perhaps by trial trenches, and may publish a list of Angus souterrains with the reports on the excavations of those at Ardestie and Carlungie.

ARGYLLSHIRE. Iona. 17/2824. civ.

While making a drain on the site of the monastic buildings at Iona in August 1950 two workmen discovered a quantity of Anglo-Saxon silver coins adhering to one another in a lump. These have now been cleaned, and claimed by the Crown from the finders who have received a reward. Study of the coins has been begun in the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland where the greater part will be permanently housed. /

III. DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN 1950. ARGYLLSHIRE (Contd.)

housed.

They number over three hundred, and range from Athelstan (925-939) to Aethelred II (979-1016) and it would seem that the hoard was buried, or at least formed, just before 1000 A.D. This was the time when vast sums were being paid to the Vikings as Danegeld. But more than half the coins, which are all silver pennies, belong to the reign of Eadgar (959-975); and few if any coins of the reigns earlier than Aethelred II are found in the many huge hoards known in Scandinavia.

Along with the coins are part of a simple silver bracelet of Viking type and a scrap of stout gold wire. There is also a small diamond-shaped silver ornament decorated with pellets of gold and having in the centre a green glass bead; it may be Anglo-Saxon work.

P.S.A.S.

BERWICKSHIRE. Cumledge. 36/783566. x.SE., xvi.NE.

A Bronze Age cist was discovered in Auchencraw Park on the Cumledge estate, near Duns, by Mrs Wilson-Smith on 29th May 1950. An investigation carried out immediately by Mr C.S.T. Calder revealed that the cist consisted of slabs set on edge with cover-stones, and measured 3 ft. 7 in. in length, 2 ft. 6 in. in breadth and 1 ft. 9 in. in depth. It contained a skeleton, in a crouched position, and a small perforated jet disc.

P.S.A.S.

DUMFRIESSHIRE. Broadlee. 35/219747. lviii.NW.

A 'henge' monument has been discovered from the air by Dr J.K.S. St Joseph at Broadlee.

P.S.A.S.

Broomholm Knowe. 35/377814. liii.NE.

A Roman fort, of which one corner can be seen on the ground and much of the rest as a crop mark on aerial photographs, has been discovered on Broomholm Knowe by Mr R.W. Feachem.

T.D.G.S.

Milton. 36/0901. xvi.SE., xxiv.NE.

Mr John Clarke, who once again excavated the Roman site at Milton under the organisation of the Scottish Field School of Archaeology, reports that the waterlogged condition of the central area made it impossible to reach any conclusions about the period of construction of the 'oblique' fort mentioned in the 1949 report. Work had to be diverted to those areas where the condition of the ground made excavation possible. The results may be summarised thus:-

1. The ditch of the oblique fort had been utilised later as an annexe to the west of North Fort II.
2. The western defences of the oblique fort, consisting of a rampart 22 ft. in width and a ditch of irregular form, had been obliterated after a considerable amount of rampart-wash had accumulated in the ditch.
3. A palisade enclosure of polygonal form, of a late Flavian date at the earliest, lay within the oblique fort. It measured about 500 ft. by 600 ft.

4. /

III. DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN 1950. DUMFRIESSHIRE (Contd.)

4. The original nature of the enclosure which is attached to the southern defences of North Fort II remains doubtful. That it served as an annexe to the fort is certain, but whether it had any previous history is not. Its defences possess certain features which suggest that, at one time, it was in part at least a separate structure.

5. The road serving the Antonine fortlet was proved to have branched from and to have rejoined the road which runs across the site, and not the one which by-passes it to the west.

6. A camp of a temporary nature, with a ditch 7 ft. in width and no trace of a rampart, appeared in the southernmost field on aerial photographs kindly made available by Dr J.K.S. St Joseph. Before the ditch had been artificially filled, a few inches of silt had accumulated in the bottom of the ditch. T.D.G.S.

FIFEESHIRE. Balfarg. 37/282032. xix.SE.

A 'henge' monument has been discovered at Balfarg by Dr K.A. Steer. P.S.A.S.

Lochore. 36/166962. xxvi.SE.

Mr E. Henderson, F.S.A.Scot., Glenoraig, has dug trenches through the earthworks at Lochore, which have long been popularly supposed to be of Roman origin. The work may be said to have disproved this supposition. The site, which is subject to flooding, may soon be overwhelmed by a coal bing.

INVERNESS-SHIRE. Cuier, Barra. 08/666022. lxiv.

Sir Lindsay Scott reports that excavation has been begun at a farmstead near Cuier in Barra, where there is a farmhouse with free-standing outbuildings and a farmyard wall. The site is listed in R.C.A.M., Vol.9, No.459, where it is described as "a dilapidated cairn, possibly chambered, overgrown with grass. The name Tigh Talamhanta, given to it on the O.S. map, is apparently the same name as Tigh Talamh used for earth-houses in Skye and North Uist, and suggests that, when it received this name, there had been a house-like structure within the mound, doubtless the burial chamber."

The farmhouse is proving to be of the aisled roundhouse type, similar to that at Clettraval (P.P.S., 1948, 46). A second house on a smaller plan, a degenerate example of the same type, had been built within the first and of its stones. Opening from a doorway in the wall of the original house, and down two steps, was a souterrain cut shallowly in the rocky subsoil; it was built up above ground level with drystone walling crossed at intervals by heavy humped lintels, which presumably supported a ridge roof of timber and thatch. The timber - and also that of the collapsed roof of the house - has been identified by Mr M.Y. Orr as spruce. This echoes the question, raised by Mr Calder's excavations in Shetland in 1949, whether the material was driftwood or whether it was brought by the builders.

Preliminary examination of the pottery suggests that the house was slightly later than the Clettraval farm, and was inhabited in the 1st century A.D. The techniques and patterns compare most closely with the pottery of the Lingro and Ayre farms (P.P.S., 1948, 103) in Orkney and, in the south, with Meare. The second house was probably not much later, but has not yet been closely dated.

KINROSS-SHIRE. /

P.S.A.S.

III. DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN 1950 (Contd.)

KINROSS-SHIRE. Rumbling Bridge. 36/0299. xxv.NW.

A hoard of about 140 denarii, ranging in date from Nero to Commodus, has been found near Rumbling Bridge. P.S.A.S.

LANARKSHIRE. Castledykes. 26/927440. xxvi.SW.

During August, 1950, Miss Anne S. Robertson carried out excavations on the site of the Roman fort at Castledykes, near Lanark, under the auspices of the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow University. The paid labour force of four workmen was supplemented by eight students from Glasgow University, and two from Durham University. The site is on the east-west Roman road linking the two main Roman routes into Scotland, and some information about its history had already been obtained from excavations carried out there in 1937-1939 with the support of the Glasgow Archaeological Society.

There had been a large Antonine fort on the site, with an internal area of about $6\frac{1}{2}$ acres, defended by a turf and earth rampart, 30 feet wide, by two ditches on the east side, and by three ditches on the north and west sides. The number of ditches on the south side is not yet known, as the southern part of the site has not so far been available for excavation.

The Antonine fort was damaged at some time and subsequently repaired. The north gateway, for instance, after being destroyed, was rebuilt with a much reduced frontage, and the roads leading from the east and west gateways, together with the intervallum streets, were relaid over debris and rubbish of the first Antonine occupation.

In 1950, the site of the Antonine Headquarters Building was located. It was, like the Antonine fort itself, of generous proportions, covering an area just over 100 feet square. Its clay-and-cobble foundation walls were 4 feet wide. The Headquarters Building faced south, and had a row of three rooms at the back, with two large halls or courtyards in front. The central room in the back range, the sacellum, had had its back wall increased in width to 6 feet at some time, doubtless at the beginning of the second Antonine period, when the other repairs and alterations were made to the Antonine fort.

The Antonine fort had not been the earliest Roman structure on the site. Evidence was obtained, both in the excavations of 1937-1939, and of 1950, that the Antonine fort lay over an earlier Flavian fort which had an internal area almost as large as that of the Antonine fort, and a very elaborate ditch system. This ditch system was partly re-used by the builders of the Antonine fort.

In the 1950 excavations, yet another Flavian ditch was found, lying far out on the north and east sides of the fort. Flavian pottery only was found in it. On the east side there were two openings in this outer ditch, but neither bore any relation to the east entrance of the Flavian fort. This fact, combined with the outlying position of the ditch, suggested that it belonged, not to the $6\frac{1}{2}$ acre Flavian fort, but to another Flavian structure, possibly a temporary structure laid out before the Flavian fort was built. Further excavation, however, would be required in the hitherto inaccessible /

III. DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN 1950.CASTLEDYKES (Contd.)

inaccessible southern part of the site to determine with certainty the purpose of the outlying Flavian ditch.

The pottery found in 1950 was almost all of Antonine date, but much first century pottery was obtained from the 1937 and 1939 excavations. The most remarkable find in 1950 was a squared building stone from the Headquarters Building, bearing on its face the carved figure of a capricorn, the emblem of the Second Legion. In what capacity men of that Legion were present at Castledykes, whether as builders of the fort, or as members of its garrison, further excavation may tell.

PERTHSHIRE. Ambathie, Scone. 27/170260. lxxxvi. SE.

The Archaeological Section of the Perthshire Society of Natural Science reports that an Iron Age hut circle at Ambathie was investigated during the summer. The interior was roughly paved, and was surrounded by a turf and stone wall, the interior face of which was lined with contiguous boulders. Near the centre of the hut circle was the outline of a possible hearth, but no sign of ash. The wall opposite the original entrance showed a fair admixture of brilliant red soil among the brown loam infilling between the wall faces. The red soil may indicate the destruction by fire of some wattle structure. Subsequently to the primary occupation of the hut circle, the entrance had been blocked by one side of an oval grave, bordered with small boulders. Within the grave there were cremated adult male bones and carbonised wood.

Bochastle. 27/613079. oxiv. SE.

Mr W.A. Anderson reports that excavations during the second week of April 1950 at the Roman Fort at Bochastle enabled the course of the south rampart to be traced to the point where it passes under the railway embankment. The parallel north rampart, lying mostly in an area still subject to floods, was only faintly traceable, at its west end. A major discovery was the north rampart of a second fort, on a line parallel to the River Leny, apparently connected to the east/west ramparts of the first fort. The outer of these two ramparts had been damaged by the river, and a second had been built on 'occupied' ground 8 ft. behind it. Some evidence of a similar, matching, rampart was uncovered at the south side, but further examination was stopped by the plough. Mr Charles Taylor shared the work and supervised the filling in.

Carpow. 37/2017. oxi. NW.

Mr W.A. Anderson reports that aerial photographs of this Roman fort, taken by Dr J.K.S. St Joseph and kindly made available by him, provided a basis for a search and reconnaissance of the site which was undertaken in the third week of August 1950. The east and south sides of the fort, which showed on the photographs, are in fields under cultivation, but it was possible to check the presence of rampart material at the point where the east side crossed a field boundary, and to trace its course by a clay spread in a turnip field. Numerous trenches were dug in a grass park in an attempt to locate the west side of the fort, but without success. Under the grass, all this area is covered by a spread of rubble, tiles, mortar and bricks from the ruined bath-house which has already been excavated. It is not clear whether the present field has been 'landscaped' or has been tidied up after previous digging.

RENFREWSHIRE /

III. DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN 1950 (Contd.)RENFREWSHIRE. Whitemoss. 26/418721. iii. SE.

Mr Frank Newall, M.A., of the Glasgow Archaeological Society reports that a small excavation at the Roman fort at Whitemoss (see 4th Report, p.10) revealed the location of the northern defences which had not appeared on the aerial photograph of the site. In addition, another system of defences, running approximately north and south, was encountered to the northwest of the fort. A small amount of pottery typical of the Antonine occupation was obtained.

ROXBURGHSHIRE. Bonchester Hill. 36/595117. N.xxv.

Excavations were carried out in June and July by Mrs C.M. Piggott on behalf of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, with volunteers and with student labour provided by the Field School of Archaeology, and in close collaboration with the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments (Scotland).

The excavations were conducted as part of a planned examination of Scottish Iron Age fortifications begun in the Lowlands in 1948 with the excavations at Hownam Rings (P.S.A.S., lxxxii (1947-48), pp.193 ff.) and continued in 1949 with Hayhope Knowe (P.S.A.S., lxxxiii, forthcoming).

Results. The sequence of construction of the numerous earthworks and walls was found to be as follows:

Phase I. A stone wall enclosing the top contour of the hill. In Ia and Ib two additional walls were built parallel to I on the north side only, where is the easiest natural approach. On analogy with Hownam Rings this phase should date probably from the first century A.D., and it is to this period that the ring-headed pin found by Dr Curle in 1910 (P.S.A.S., xliv (1909-10), p.235, Fig.3) should belong. Incorporated in the wall was the upper stone of a quern similar to one found in a pit at Newstead with coins of Vespasian. The end of this phase must have come with the Agricola campaign. No Roman objects were found.

Phases II and III. Both phases are probably post-Roman and at present are not datable. All the surfaces of the hut floors were eroded away, and no pottery was found. The latest phase may have been a cattle enclosure rather than a true fort, and it contained interesting structural details including a double stockade set into the top of a rampart. It should be possible to date this more closely when other comparable sites have been excavated.

P.S.A.S.Woden Law. 36/769124. N.xxvi.

Excavations carried out in September by Professor I.A. Richmond and Dr J.K.S. St Joseph showed that the earthworks on the east side of the native fort on Woden Law represent Roman siege-works, dug during manoeuvres.

P.S.A.S.SELKIRKSHIRE. Torwoodlee. 36/464384. lv. SW.

Excavations were carried out in June and July by Professor Stuart Piggott on behalf of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, with /

III. DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN 1950. SELKIRKSHIRE (Contd.)

with volunteers and with student labour provided by the Field School of Archaeology, at the Broch and hill fort at Torwoodlee.

The excavations were conducted as part of a planned examination of Scottish Iron Age fortifications begun in the Lowlands in 1948 (see *supra*, ROXBURGHSHIRE, Bonchester Hill). It was known, from the results of digging carried out in the 19th century, that at Torwoodlee Roman material of the 1st century A.D. had been found in a ruined broch which itself impinged upon a hill-fort; and so a fixed dating-point was presumably to be obtained in any sequence recovered.

Results. Attention was directed (a) to the relationship of the Roman material to the broch, and (b) to the relationship of the broch to the hill-fort. The sequence was fortunately obtained in an economical series of cuttings, and was as follows:

Phase I. The fort, and probably some timber and wattle structures within it which perhaps formed a roughly circular hut. The upper stone of a quern, likely to date from early in the first century A.D., came from the primary silt of the inner ditch of the fort.

Phase II. Roman occupation, with abundant glass, Samian and other pottery of the first century A.D. (Samian forms 18 & 27). Two pits or large post-holes are referable to this phase, but the Roman material occurs under the lowest courses of the broch wall and is therefore the earlier.

Phase III. Construction of the broch, with an encircling ditch which could be shown stratigraphically to cut into the partly-silted inner ditch of the fort and therefore to be of later date. The broch ditch had hardly collected any silt before it was filled with the stones of the broch, many of great size, tumbled in a way that could only result from deliberate slighting. This can hardly be other than Roman work, but of an unknown date after the first century. A burial in a rough cist was found in the slighting debris, with no grave-goods or other evidence of date or culture.

P. S. A. S.

SHEPHERD. Gruting. N.41/2749. xlvi.

Mr C.S.T. Calder, A.R.I.A.S., F.S.A.Scot., discovered a group of five unrecorded house-sites at Gruting, and carried out an excavation of one of them. The much wasted foundations of a house, oval on plan, were revealed: they measured 48 ft. and 39 ft. on the axes, and contained a single oval chamber with axial dimensions of 25 ft. and 19 ft. with an apse-like extension at the inner end roughly 9 ft. square. The wall, which averaged 8 ft. in breadth, was reduced to its lowest course. The continuity of the faces was broken, but where preserved they showed stones on end or edge as a revetment to a rather loose core. A ragged break in the wall indicated the former entrance, from which the floor sloped upwards with the lie of the ground at an angle of 8° to the horizontal. The floor was rough and uneven, but here and there attempts had been made to level it with small pieces of paving stones. Peat ash and a few fragments of pottery were found against the inner face, but no constructed hearths were seen. An oval setting of postholes which lay from 2 ft. to 3 ft. in front of the inner face may be regarded as secondary. The finds included many scrapers, cores and chips of quartz and about 130 stone implements, whole or broken.

The /

III. DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN 1950. SHETLAND (Contd.)

The other foundations of the group appeared to be of similar shape and size, and all may tentatively be assigned to the late Bronze Age. P.S.A.S.

Beorgs of Uyea. N.41/3389. xiv.

Mr Calder examined other sites, and one, on the Beorgs of Uyea, Northmavine, showed the degenerate cruciform chamber of a cairn, but no external outline of the structure was traceable. The chamber, however, suggested a classification in the heel-shaped cairn category.

Another site, near the last, had a subterranean gallery or chamber 10 ft. in length, from 2½ ft. to 4 ft. in width, and about 4 ft. in height. One side was built of masonry, and the ends were rounded to butt against a porphyritic dike which traverses the Beorgs and constitutes the other side of the chamber. The whole structure was completely covered by 11 lintel-stones at ground level, and access was, and must always have been, gained by removing two of the smaller ones. The floor was covered to a considerable depth with cores and chips of the porphyritic rock, and it is suggested that the chamber had been a workshop for the manufacture of some such stone artefacts as Shetland knives or 'flensers.' P.S.A.S.

Jarlshof. N.41/3909. lxvii.

Mr J.R.C. Hamilton has continued to supervise excavation at Jarlshof undertaken by H.M. Ministry of Works. The following summary of the work has been sanctioned by the Ministry.

Field work at Jarlshof undertaken by H.M. Ministry of Works in 1950 was aimed at completing the excavation of the Norse settlement situated on the landward slope of the great mound close to the West Voe of Sumburgh. Whereas the previous seasons' excavations were concerned with the establishment of an internal chronological sequence of deposits and buildings covering the period 800-1200 A.D., this season's work was concentrated to the areas immediately surrounding the settlement and in close proximity to the underlying broch and wheelhouse complex. The latter was partly explored by Mr John Bruce at the beginning of the century.

No further buildings belonging to the Viking period were discovered. Evidence, however, was found of pre-Viking occupation in the form of two circular huts. The use of upright stones for a foundation course in their construction resembles the technique applied in the older so-called passage houses of post-broch date. In one case the occupation refuse was sealed at walltop level by a Viking hearth while in the other a slate with incised intertwined pattern of Viking style was found in the sand and stone infill.

A stratigraphical sequence of deposits was established from this pre-Viking level to the base of the broch wall. At this lower level a painted pebble (similar in style to those found in the Keiss broch, Caithness) was recovered together with stone pounders and pottery of broch type.

The /

III. DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN 1950. SHETLAND (Contd.)

The most important discovery was the continuation of the outer broch wall forming an oval courtyard within which the wheel-house complex had been erected at a later date. The wall standing to a height of over 8 ft. was in an excellent state of preservation. Its inner face carried a scarcement course and in the section close to its junction with the main broch wall a doorway some 4 ft. wide was discovered.

Excavation in this particular area was extremely restricted owing to the foundations at ground level of an outhouse attached to the late mediaeval Old House of Sumburgh. In 1951 it is hoped to remove these late foundations and subsequently to expose the outer broch wall in its entirety together with the enclosed courtyard and wheelhouse complex.

Whalsay. N.41/5865. xxxix.

During recent summers Mr John Stewart, F.S.A.Scot., has examined a complex of sites at Pettigarsfield, Whalsay, Shetland. No. 1 is a typical heel-shaped cairn with a partly paved trefoil chamber 8 ft. wide. It contained disintegrated pottery, ash and vivianite. No. 2, on a slightly lower level and 27 ft. from No. 1, is a cist which measures about 4 ft. by 2 ft. 6 ins in a ruined cairn. The capstone had tilted into the cist and no relics remained. No. 3, 32 yds. from No. 1 and on a lower level, consists of two stones set at an acute angle to each other in the face of the hill, so as to form a "chair-back" recess, flanked on each side by three stones in the form of wings. The setting, which is 21 ft. long, may be the remains of a larger enclosure. No. 4, The Bunyie Hoose, 150 yds. downhill from No. 1. This is a horseshoe-shaped erection, partly dug into the hill, constructed internally like other Bronze Age Shetland sites, though the facade and passage resemble those of a Neolithic tomb. The lower levels here have furnished what may be Neolithic pottery, resembling the Unstan ware of Orkney. Other finds include stone implements in the tradition of Wiltrow and Stanydale, quartz implements, two pieces of flint, a whorl, trough querns of Shetland type, steatite vessels, pumice bone-sharpeners and vivianite. No. 5, 95 yds. from No. 4 and sixty from the cliff-edge, is a cairn for which no affinities have been so far discovered in Shetland: in describing it as a "lobster-claw" type no attempt is being made to link it with Irish cairns, the epithet being merely descriptive. From a cusp-flanked entrance a short passage leads obliquely to the right into a hexagonal forecourt, at the other side of which the main doorway leads to a passage 22 ft. long. Fragments of what may have been cinerary and overhanging rim urns were found at a high level. The forecourt and a side-chamber had been utilised as a dwelling by the people of the nearby site, and there was the same range of implements.

STIRLINGSHIRE. Murrills. 26/9179. xxx.NE.

Lieut.-Colonel Hunter reports: (a) Attempts to find the Roman road running north from Camelon at several points in the Househill area were unsuccessful. (b) A small excavation was conducted in the back garden of a house in Laurieston, which lies within the area of the Roman Fort at Murrills. Cobbled areas and patches of hard compacted gravel were found and numerous pieces of pottery, including a Samian bowl bearing the stamp of the potter Riginus /

III. DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN 1950. STIRLINGSHIRE (Contd.)

Riginus were recovered from some pits. This pottery is now under examination and so far is all of Antonine date. Other finds included a number of nails and other articles in iron, parts of two bronze brooches and a piece of lead from the bottom of a crucible.

WIGTOWNSHIRE. St Ninian's Cave. 25/423359. xxxv. SE.

Excavations were carried out at St Ninian's Cave, Glasserton, by the Ministry of Works, under the direction of Mr C.A. Raleigh Radford. The pavement uncovered in 1884, and then left exposed, was proved to be of comparatively modern date. Two levels of occupation were found under this pavement, both characterised by frequent small fires and large quantities of shells and bones. The upper was shown to be not older than the 19th century and the lower appeared to be identical in character. These levels represent the use of the cave by smugglers or gatherers of shell fish in modern times. At the base of the occupation levels was a layer of large blocks of rock fallen from the roof. All early Christian remains were shown to have been found re-used in modern structures and it was clear that the mediaeval levels had been destroyed. One unrecorded fragment of the head of a cross of late 10th or 11th century date was found. P.S.A.S.

Chapel Finnian. 25/278489. xxxv. SW.

Chapel Finnian, on the coast 6 miles west of Port William, was excavated for the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society by Mr C.A. Raleigh Radford and Mr R.C. Reid. The remains of a small rectangular building, 28 ft. by 16 ft., were found standing within an irregular quadrilateral enclosure. The building, which had three buttresses on each of the long sides, was well constructed of mortared masonry and had originally been plastered within and without. The enclosure wall was dry built. No datable objects were found, but structural analogies suggest a date in the 10th or 11th century and a connection with Ireland. T.D.G.S.

THE ROMAN PROVINCE

Dr J.K.S. St Joseph reports that recent aerial reconnaissance besides greatly increasing knowledge of certain well-known Roman stations, has revealed numerous unrecorded sites, among which are the following:-

Large forts at Dalswinton (Dumfriesshire) and Glenlochar (St. of Kirkcudbright).

Small fort at Gatehouse of Fleet (St. of Kirkcudbright).

Marching camps - six in Nithsdale: four or five at Glenlochar: three at Camelon: two at Dunblane: and others - near familiar sites, in gaps along the eastern margin of the highlands, in Banffshire and possibly farther north. P.S.A.S.

IV. EXCAVATIONS PROPOSED FOR 1951.

(1) Excavations are to be continued at the following sites:-

ABERDEENSHIRE /

IV. EXCAVATIONS PROPOSED FOR 1951 (Contd.)

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| ABERDEENSHIRE | : Dundarg Castle. | (Dr W. Douglas Simpson) |
| ANGUS | : Carlungie. | (Dr F.T. Wainwright) |
| DUMBARTONSHIRE | : Duntocher. | (Miss Anne S. Robertson) |
| INVERNESS-SHIRE | : Cuier, Barra. | (Sir Lindsay Scott) |
| LANARKSHIRE | : Castledykes. | (Miss Anne S. Robertson). |
| PERTSHIRE | : Arnbathie. | (Mrs M.E.C. Stewart) |
| SHETLAND | : Jarlshof. | (Mr J.R.C. Hamilton) |

(2) New excavations are planned for the following sites:-

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| INVERNESS-SHIRE | : Corriemony, Chambered Cairn. | (Professor Stuart Piggott) |
| SELKIRKSHIRE | : Oakwood, Roman Fort. | (Dr K.A. Steer) |
| WIGTOWNSHIRE | : Glenluce Sands. | (Mr R.J.C. Atkinson) |

V. A SCOTTISH BIBLIOGRAPHY. This section has been compiled by Mr R.B.K. Stevenson.

The following abbreviations are used:-

| | |
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| CBA. | Council for British Archaeology. |
| Coll. AANH. Soc. | Collections of the Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society. |
| PSAS. | Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. |
| TDGS. | Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society. |

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Scottish Regional Group

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