

7/19

COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY

SCOTTISH REGIONAL GROUP

NINTH REPORT, 1954.

PART I - COMMITTEE REPORTS

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CONTENTS

- I. Report of the Executive Committee.
- II. Report of the Committee of the Scottish Field School of Archaeology.
- III. Report of the Committee of the Scottish Summer School in Archaeology.
- IV. Report of the Film Strips Committee.

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

1st January, 1955.

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## FALKIRK BURGH MUSEUM.

## GLASGOW ART GALLERY &amp; MUSEUMS.

## HUNTERIAN MUSEUM, UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW.

## NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ANTIQUITIES OF SCOTLAND.

## PAISLEY MUSEUM &amp; ART GALLERIES.

I. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee has pleasure in submitting the report for 1954.

Membership. 22 Societies and 8 Museums are members of the Group. This is one Society less than last year, Aberdeen University Archaeological Society having been disbanded. The death of a University Society is not altogether unusual, and we hope to hear of its resurrection before the next report.

Summer Excursion. A two-day excursion, based on Ayr, was held on the week-end 29th-30th May, in collaboration with the Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society. The Edinburgh section stopped first at St Bride's Church, Douglas, where the minister, the Rev. A. Salmond Smith, spoke on the Church and its medieval monuments. At Kilwinning Abbey, Mr J.B.M. Harvie described the remains, lunch was taken and a fleeting contact was made with the Ayrshire Society in full cry after a reported discovery at Beith. Having supplied them with two experts and full of admiration for Ayrshire's attitude to antiquities the Edinburgh (plus two from Glasgow) party proceeded to Dean Castle, Kilmarnock. By courtesy of Lord Howard de Walden and his factor, Mr D. Stratton a most enjoyable tour was made of this fine restored castle under the guidance of Mr Calderwood. At Ayr the forces were united in visits to Loudon Hall and St John's Kirk, where Mr W.J. Dillon spoke. In the evening, the Ayrshire Society entertained the party at a most enjoyable reception in a local hotel. On Sunday, the first visit was to Dinvin earthwork, the various theories concerning it being expounded by Mr J.C. Wallace; thence to Crosraguel Abbey, where Mr John Dunbar spoke and lunch was taken. At Straiton Church, the minister the Rev. J.F. McCallum spoke, arousing considerable interest in his church's medieval tomb. The day ended at Culzean Castle.

Sincere thanks are due to the speakers and organisers, the proprietors of Dinvin, Messrs J.G. Chrystal, and to the Ministry of Works; and in particular to Mr Forsyth, Secretary of the Ayrshire Society.

Unfortunately despite one of the finest weekends of the summer and an interesting programme, the excursion was not a financial success. In 1955 it is proposed that the Group should revert to a one day excursion. The venue will be north Fife, and Societies will be given earlier notice than formerly.

Library. The Group Library of pamphlets, reprints and other archaeological publications is held by Mr Alastair MacLaren, Lorn, Braid Hills Approach, Edinburgh, 10, and any member wishing to borrow should apply to Mr MacLaren; if the requisite books are held, they will be lent on payment of postage. Members are reminded that the Library is an excellent repository for any offprints they may have.

On several occasions during the past year the Secretary has been asked by libraries for copies of the early numbers of the Report. Unfortunately this could not be complied with since Parts 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 are out of stock. Members who have these numbers and are willing to part with them, can help by sending them to the Secretary.

Representatives Lunch. Many of the representatives lunched together at an hotel after the Annual General Meeting, and it is hoped that this pleasant and useful gathering will be repeated on January 29th, 1955.

## Activities of the Year.

### Aberdeen Natural History and Antiquarian Society.

Our members' interests are divided between Natural History and Antiquarian subjects and we do not have much to report on actual activities. Lists of scheduled Ancient Monuments in Aberdeenshire and Kincardineshire have been issued to those members who were interested and all the items in Kincardineshire and a number in Aberdeenshire have been examined. A list of additional interesting features is being compiled for the consideration of the Ministry.

### Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.

No new discoveries have been made, but a Field Study Group, given the task of investigating the existence of a supposed "Roman Road" in south Ayrshire, have traced it for 17 miles between Loch Doon and Ayr, but as yet have found no conclusive evidence as to its origin. The second volume of the Society's "Collections" was published in October 1953 and was issued in separate form for public sale as "The Royal Burgh of Ayr", edited by Dr A.I. Dunlop (Oliver & Boyd, 12/6d). The third volume of the "Collections" has been published. (See Bibliography in Part II).

### Falkirk Archaeological and Natural History Society.

Details of the activities of the Society's Field Group appear in Part II.

### Glasgow Archaeological Society.

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In the comprehensive, printed "Report by the Council" reports on Excavations and Discoveries by members (see Part II) and notes on four excursions during the year. Volume XIII of the Society's Transactions has been issued (see Bibliography in Part II). A committee has been set up to make preliminary arrangements for the approaching centenary of the Society.

### Hawick Archaeological Society.

The monthly lectures continue to be well supported by the public, and a further series has been arranged for 1954-55. The annual Transactions were published in April, containing articles mainly related to the district. The annual excursion was to Stirling Castle, where the members were conducted over the buildings by Mr Amess and Mr Atterson of Stirling. There has been no fieldwork or discoveries of note during the past season. Closer contact has been established with the neighbouring societies - the Eskdale and Liddesdale Archaeological Society and the Selkirkshire Antiquarian Society - which should prove of mutual benefit to all. Wilton Lodge Museum continues to be well supported.

### Hunterian Museum, University of Glasgow.

A recent new activity on the part of members of the Hunterian Museum staff has been that of cine photography. Three films have by now been completed - The Scottish Summer School in Archaeology, Dumfries, 1953 (15 mins.), The Scottish Summer School in Archaeology, Aberdeen, 1954 (15 mins.) and The Roman Fort at Castledykes (30 mins.). These are suitable for showing on 16 m.m. silent film projectors. Requests for showing any of these films may be addressed to Miss Anne Robertson, Hunterian Museum, The University, Glasgow, W.2. Miss Robertson wishes to emphasise that these are purely amateur films, made with limited resources, but they may be of interest as records of archaeological activities with which the Scottish Regional Group was in some degree associated.

The University has published a Handbook to the Cultural Collections (including the Roman collection) of the Hunterian Museum, price 2/6d.

National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland.

The Act setting up a Board of Trustees for the Museum came into operation during the year. The most notable purchase has been the Galloway Mazer, the 16th century maple and silver-gilt drinking vessel, whose export after sale by auction was stopped by the Export of Works of Art Committee. The Museum is grateful to the National Art-Collections Fund, the Pilgrim Trust, the Society of Antiquaries and to private persons, whose contributions, along with a special Treasury grant, made the purchase possible. During the Prehistoric Society's visit to Scotland, a loan exhibition of "Prehistoric Tools, Toys and Ornaments" was held.

Selkirkshire Antiquarian Society.

During the past year our speakers have included Miss Marian McNeill, Mrs Piggott, Mr Stormonth Darling, Dr James Handley, Miss Jane Oliver, Lord Mathers, Dr Agnes Mure MacKenzie, Mr Angus Graham, Dr Oliver, and a pre-excursion lecture on Hadrian's Wall by the Rev. J.L. Cotton. Our first excursion was to the Eildons; the annual Summer excursion went to Hadrian's Wall, and three others took place to Haremsoss, the Rink Fort and Traquair House.

Several papers were given by members during the winter, on such diverse subjects as Roman Coins; the Financial Aspect of the Selkirk Guilds; and 50 years occupancy in Selkirk shops! We hope with increasing funds to start printing our proceedings.

The Society also raised the necessary funds, by a quite un-antiquarian whist drive, to once again repair Mungo Park's Cottage, which was partially restored by us three years ago.

Our membership increases steadily and the attendance at all lectures was excellent.

St Andrews University Archaeological Society.

Our policy has been not to undertake digs, but to help members to take part in other people's digs. This a few members did; unfortunately a number were thwarted for varying reasons. Lectures have been well attended - much better than our membership would suggest, for we had nearly two hundred at one meeting.

Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

The National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland Act, which became law in the Spring, relieved the Society of its responsibility for the management of the Museum, but relations with the Museum remain close and the Society is represented on the new Board of Trustees by the President, ex officio, and four Fellows.

During 1954 the Society made grants for excavations as follows :

Mrs Nugent Young.	Dun Cuier, Isle of Barra.	(£75)
Miss Henshall and Mrs Stewart.	Clach na Tiompan, Wester Glen Almond.	(£25)
Dr K.A. Steer.	West Plean, Stirlingshire.	(£75)
Miss D.M. Hunter.	Medieval Kiln, Stenhouse.	(£20)
Mr C.S.T. Calder.	Cairns and houses, Whalsay, Shetland.	(£100)
Mrs C.M. Piggott.	Iron Age Crannog, Milton Loch, Kirkcudbrightshire.	(£40)
	(work done in 1953)	
Scottish Field School for the maintenance of non-Scottish University students.	(£50).	(not taken up)

Rhind Lectures. The lectures for 1954 are being delivered by Dr H.J. Flenderleith of the Research Laboratory, British Museum, on "The Scientific Laboratory in the Service of Art and Archaeology". In 1955 Dr G.H.S. Bushnell of Cambridge University will be the lecturer.

In accordance with the terms of the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland Act 1954, the Secretary of State asked the Scottish Regional Group to propose a member for the Museum's Board of Trustees. The name of Lieut.-Colonel R.L. Hunter, T.D., B.Sc., M.I.Mech.E., F.S.A., F.S.A.Scot., our immediate past-President, was submitted to the Secretary of State after the member societies had been consulted, and he has been duly appointed a Trustee.

The C.B.A's Memorandum on the Preservation of Ancient Monuments has been circulated to all members, and comments on its application to Scotland can be made at the Annual General Meeting.

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 Webster for invaluable secretarial assistance.

C. Carter, President.  
Mrs M.E.C. Stewart, Vice-President.  
Stuart Maxwell, Hon. Secretary.

## II. THE SCOTTISH FIELD SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY: REPORT FOR 1954.

Sites. The Committee of the Scottish Field School of Archaeology arranged for students to be accepted, in limited numbers, on the following sites during 1954:

1. The Iron Age Site at West Plean, Stirlingshire (August 2-20, 1954)  
Director of Excavations: Dr Kenneth Steer.
2. The Roman Site at Castledykes, Lanarkshire (June 26-July 10, 1954)  
Director of Excavations: Miss Anne S. Robertson.
3. The Training Excavation at Corbridge, Northumberland (June 28-July 17, 1954)  
Directors of Excavations: Professor I.A. Richmond, Mr E. Birley and Mr J.F. Gillam.

In addition, the Field School Committee sent an advanced student to the excavation conducted by Professor Richmond on the site of the legionary fortress at Inchtuthil, Perthshire.

The Field School Committee wishes to record its appreciation of the co-operation of the Directors of these excavations. This made it possible for students to gain experience on excavations of particular interest.

Finance. The Universities of Glasgow and St Andrews contributed £48 and £8 respectively. These sums were used for the maintenance of students from the Universities of Glasgow and St Andrews respectively. The rate of maintenance was, as before, £4 per student week. As a sum of £16 was required for the maintenance of St Andrews University students in 1954, and as £8 was standing to the credit of that University with the Field School from 1953, a sum of £8 only was applied for from St Andrews University for 1954. As a sum of only £4 was required for the maintenance of an Edinburgh University student in 1954, and a balance of £52 was standing to the credit of Edinburgh University with the Field School from 1953, the sum of £4 was taken out of the balance of £52, and no application was made to Edinburgh University for 1954. As no Aberdeen University students applied for training in 1954, and no students from other sources than Scottish Universities were sent by the Field School Committee to the above-mentioned sites, no applications for grants were made to Aberdeen University and to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland during 1954.

In the past, it has been the policy of the Field School Committee to use grants only for the maintenance of students prepared to spend at least a fortnight on an excavation selected by the Committee, as experience has shown that little or no benefit is derived from a shorter period of attendance. This year, however, two students with considerable excavating experience to their credit already, wished to spend one week each at Corbridge and Castledykes respectively, and to spend further periods at certain other excavations. In their case, the Committee felt justified in providing maintenance grants for one week only.

Students who attended one or other of the sites mentioned above were distributed as follows :

Edinburgh University	: 1 student for 1 week, Corbridge
Glasgow University	: 2 students for 5 weeks, West Plean
	1 student for 1 week, Castledykes
	2 students for 4 weeks, Corbridge
	1 student for 2 weeks, Inchtuthil
St Andrews University	: 2 students for 4 weeks, Castledykes
Total	: 9 students for 17 weeks.

Reports on Students. The Directors of Excavations have provided the Field School Committee with reports on the students sent to them. These show that all the students benefited from the excavating experience given, and also made a useful contribution to the work of excavation. All showed considerable promise, and would repay further training. One in particular, Mr Charles Scobie, has now several years' excavation work to his credit, under different Directors of Excavations, and is now competent to supervise a small-scale excavation on his own.

Donation. The Field School Committee records with pleasure the gift of a sum of £6 from the Aberdeen University Archaeological Society. The reason given for this donation was that so many members of the Aberdeen University Archaeological Society had enjoyed excavation experience under the auspices of the Scottish Field School of Archaeology.

It is gratifying to the Field School Committee to be able to record that, although the total number of students accepted was smaller than usual, the quality was higher, and the reports on students were uniformly excellent.

J.D. Mackie, Chairman.  
Anne S. Robertson,  
Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

### III. SCOTTISH SUMMER SCHOOL IN ARCHAEOLOGY: REPORT FOR 1954.

The third Summer School was held in Aberdeen during the week-end of 23 - 28 July 1954. The theme was "The Scottish Castle", on which lectures were delivered by Mr Brian Hope-Taylor, Mr S.H. Cruden, Dr W. Douglas Simpson and Professor J.D. Mackie. Excursions were arranged to Craigievar and Lumphanan, Balbegno and Edzell, Dunnottar, Harlaw and Inverurie, Kildrumny, Huntly, Dundarg and the Moray coast. Evening receptions were provided by the University of Aberdeen, the City of Aberdeen, and the Summer School committee.

About 200 members and others assembled in Aberdeen, and the School was an outstanding success. It seems probable that the accounts (to 31 December 1954) will show a slight loss on the year's workings, but there will be no need to call upon any of our guarantees, and the financial position is sound. It may be noted again that the School is no charge upon the funds of the Group.

The Honorary Director records his grateful thanks, for much help and support, to the two Honorary Secretaries, to the Summer School Committee and especially to its Chairman, Col. R.L. Hunter, to the Lecturers and especially to Dr Simpson to whom the School's great success is largely due, to Mr Charles Carter, indefatigable Local Secretary upon whom so much depended, to the members of the Local Committee, to the University and the City of Aberdeen for financial support and hospitality in great measure, to Baillie Hogg and Mr W.S. Angus, to Miss Anne S. Robertson, whose film of the second School was so enthusiastically received, to the Ministry of Works and other owners of castles visited, to Banff County Council, to Aberdeen Education Committee, to the Deeside Field Club, to all who so willingly gave assistance, and to the members of the School who brought with them the perfect blend of enthusiastic interest and helpful co-operation.

A full report on the proceedings of the Aberdeen School, written by Miss Beatrice de Cardi, has appeared in The Archaeological News Letter for September 1954 (Vol. 5, No. 5). And preparations are being made for the publication of a volume under the title of The Scottish Castle.

Plans are well in hand for the fourth School which will meet in Edinburgh in 1955. The theme will deal with the prehistory of Scotland.

F.T. Wainwright.  
Hon. Director.

### IV. FILM STRIPS COMMITTEE.

No meetings of the Committee were held during the year. The Group's members have continued to advise on the archaeological content of film strips used in schools.

Stuart Maxwell.  
Hon. Secretary.



CORRIGENDA

The new Secretary of the INVERNESS SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY and FIELD CLUB (Part I, page 2; Part II, page 4) is JOHN F. BARRON, Esq., M.A., LL.B., Solicitor, 19 UNION STREET, INVERNESS.

"THE PROBLEM OF THE PICTS"

The proceedings of the first Summer School (Dundee, 1952), under the above title, will be published early in 1955. Requests for information (on postcards) should be addressed to the Honorary Director, S.S.S. in Archaeology, University College, Dundee. Dr Wainwright will not acknowledge them as they arrive, but the publisher's announcement will be sent to enquirers.

TENTH REPORT, 1955.

The form which the Report is to take in future will be discussed at the Annual General Meeting in January. In view of the fact that changes may be made, please do not send money with this order.

To The Hon. Secretary, Scottish Regional Group, Council for British Archaeology, National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland, Queen Street, Edinburgh, 2. (BEFORE 1st DECEMBER 1955)

copy  
Please send me ----  
copies

of the TENTH REPORT of the Scottish Regional Group, Council for British Archaeology.

NAME IN BLOCK CAPITALS . . . . .

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CONTENTS

- I. Discovery and Excavation, 1954.
- II. A Scottish Bibliography for 1954.

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### PAISLEY MUSEUM & ART GALLERIES.

DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN 1954.

The following reports have been received :

ABERDEENSHIRE.

From Mr Michael APTED.

Kildrumny Castle.

The preservation and excavation of Kildrumny Castle, begun by the late Colonel J. Ogston and Dr W.D. Simpson, has been resumed by the Ministry of Works. The castle was placed under the guardianship of the Ministry by Colonel and Mrs Yates in 1948.

The 1954 programme of preservation was confined to the north-east corner of the castle, i.e. the Warden's Tower, the 'kitchen' and the dog-leg passage between the two. In the Warden's Tower the missing southern section of the ground plan was recovered. The castle was surveyed and a detailed photographic record begun.

The associated excavation proved the topsoil to be much disturbed and material finds of archaeological interest were few, but exposure of foundations added considerably to the known structural history of the castle. It was confirmed that little of the internal building is contemporary with the curtain wall, although following the lines of the original ground plan. The hall in its present form is a rebuild, perhaps of the fifteenth century, which was abandoned while the castle was still in occupation; it was a single storey structure without cellars. The original south wall of the chapel was demolished and rebuilt in alignment with a range of rooms built against the south wall of the hall, and the south facade of the Elphinstone Tower. The area between these buildings and the gate-house is cobbled.

Work will be resumed in 1955.

From Mr William KIRK.

Sands of Forvie.

Investigations continued during the year in this complex sand-dune area at the mouth of the Ythan estuary, twelve miles north of Aberdeen. In the zone, at present mantled by wind-blown sand, traces of past human occupation have now been found extending from the time of the Litorina (Early Post-Glacial) raised beach formation to the late medieval period when the last major northward extension of the sand seems to have occurred.

In the southern extremity of the sands raised beaches occur at 8 - 30 feet above present sea level, and in some instances terminate against well-developed shingle bars and storm beaches. Their hard, compacted surfaces have functioned as refuse horizons for flint industries over a long period of time. The dominant types of the items so far collected, however, are narrow, unretouched blades and associated cores, and similar forms were discovered in October 1954 interstratified with Early Post-Glacial beach deposits on the south bank of the Ythan estuary. These and later forms of steeply-flaked, round scrapers, leaf-shaped, and tanged and barbed arrowheads are wrought in the excellent multi-coloured raw material abundant in the neighbourhood.

In the central zone of the Sands further work has been done on clearing and mapping the sites first reported in Aberdeen University Review, XXXV 1953, pp. 150-171. The floors of some dozen adjacent hut circles are now seen to constitute a hamlet of the Early Iron Age. The entrances to the huts face seaward and are usually paved. Some floors are also partially paved or show traces of an original compacted clay covering of the sand on which the huts were built. The round huts appear to have had a timber superstructure and at least one stood within an outer palisade. Saddle querns have been recovered from small working places both inside and outside the huts. Fire fractured stones, and sherds of hard, coarse, undecorated pottery are found in profusion.

Other finds include a bone needle, a segment of a lignite armlet, a triangular shaped bead, stone basins, and animal bones from the middens. The full extent of the hamlet has still to be determined. Another group of huts is located a short distance to the north, while further in the same direction a solitary example has been found. The latter hut is on the southern fringe of the northern zone of the Sands where sand has mounted the cliffed coastal plateau of Buchan. The main feature of this zone is a fossilized medieval landscape. Further long rectangular hut foundations have been located in this zone, while aerial reconnaissance has revealed a pattern of open fields lightly mantled by the sand.

Upper Cairns, Memsie.      Grid Ref. 973622 Sheet 30, 1" O.S.

Small stone cist discovered during ditch cutting in glacial outwash gravels to south of Memsie kame series. The floor of the cist was composed of pebbles and sand. There was no capstone, and carbonized wood deposits on top of side stones and in bands outside suggest a timber lid which had subsequently collapsed allowing wet sand and gravel to fill the cist. No bones remained but a number of decorated beaker sherds were recovered.

Report in preparation for PSAS.

ANGUS.

Newhouse (Glamis).      NO. 377469.      xxvii. SE.

Dr F.T. Wainwright reports the discovery and rifling of a short cist. A subsequent excavation revealed the structure of the cist and produced a few fragments of bone. Report forthcoming.

Castleton (Eassie and Nevay).      NO. 331465.      xxvii SW.

Dr F.T. Wainwright reports the excavation of what promised to be a souterrain. It wasn't.

Lethem Grange (Arbroath and St Vigean).      NO. 623458.      xlvi NW.

Dr F.T. Wainwright reports the location (with much assistance from Mr and Mrs J. Wilson) of the site of a souterrain found about a hundred years ago and subsequently lost. Details forthcoming.

Lochhead (Forfar).      NO. 483512.      xxcix NW.

Dr F.T. Wainwright reports the discovery and destruction, during quarrying, of a short cist. The exact site, now quarried away, has been plotted.

Lochhead (Forfar).      NO. 483512.      xxcix NW.

Dr F.T. Wainwright reports the discovery of a stone axe during quarrying operations. No details were available. The axe is deposited in Dundee Museum.

ARGYLLSHIRE.

From Mr James WHITTAKER.

Kilellan Farm, Kilnave, (west shore of Loch Gruinart), Islay.

This report refers to one small excavation, one bigger excavation, and some days of surface searching entirely by the writer. The sites, which form a series of bunkers lie on a line slightly east of north about 200 yards north of Kilellan Farm. The ground is solid sand: very fine and apparently wind-blown. For convenience sake I have marked the sites as A, B and C, A being nearest to the farm. These bunkers lie on a slightly undulating slope, where the machair is broken (and is breaking) up. Here the ground slopes gently down to merge with a raised beach, then there is a short sharp drop of about 15 to 20 feet to the western shore of Loch Gruinart. The height of the raised beach is estimated at 30/40 feet. It would appear that all the finds made were actually on the edge or very close to this ancient beach. Site A. This yielded the most promising finds. Here, in the side of the bunker, and about 30/34 inches below present ground level were found:  
a. A flat slab of the local green slate-like stone. On this stone were some scattered charcoal and in the charcoal were found 15 pieces of what appear to

be some kind of stone amulets. Two are clearly marked with pictographic lines. b. Some 6 inches west of this find lay a complete hearth. The stones were in situ (diameter of fire 14 inches) and the embers lay apparently undisturbed. c. Round this hearth, almost equally disposed, lay the following: some flints; some fragments of incised pottery; an axe head made from the local green slate-like stone; a round stone with the cutting edge perfectly ground at an angle of 45 degrees on each face, (this was made from a very hard beach pebble of fine grey stone); two ovoid stones - beach pebbles (they looked like polishers); a stone "point" of very soft stone, (this has been very carefully shaped). It represents half of some original object, but could not have been a tool of any description - the material is much too soft; an animal's tooth (? horse); a piece of what appears to be deer antler. Site B. Here, again about 34 inches below ground level and in the open bottom of the bunker, the writer found the hip-joint of a large animal a few inches below an ancient midden layer. This layer, about 3 feet long and about 8/10 inches at its thickest consisted almost entirely of cockle shells. No mussel shells were noted, and only a few limpets. The rest of the skeleton was not disturbed and was left in situ. In this site many minute fragments of pottery were seen, and also a beautiful long "hammer". This is made from a beach pebble of fine, hard grey stone. The point has been ground on one side, and a start made to grind the opposing face. Another find was the half of a hoe-like instrument. This seems to be fashioned from a yellowish white limestone. It was also in this site that the writer picked up 3 large fragments of a heavily "encrusted" jar. It is the ribbed type often found in Ireland. Scattered nearby were about another dozen fragments seemingly from the same vessel. All these fragments were found in the surface sand. Some flints were found here. Site C. In this site were seen, as in the others, hundreds of tiny fragments of pottery, tiny fragments of flint, and minute fragments of carbonised material, and a perfect "limpet" hammer lying loose in the sand. It appears to be of basalt. Some flints were found here.

It certainly appears that in the area between Kilellan Farm, the Well of Neil the Curious (Tobar Nial Neonaich) and Tayvullin - which lies a little further north - there lies much to merit professional attention. The three sites discussed here are scattered with many minute fragments of carbonised material, flints, and tiny fragments of pottery. Fire shattered beach-stones lie everywhere on these sites. In the sides of the "bunkers" may be seen middens and layers of carbonised material. In all cases the middens, carbonised layers, and all finds lie at a depth of something like 32/36 inches from the present ground level.

Mr A.D. Lacaille has kindly offered to examine all the finds mentioned above and to pass an opinion on them. Until this is done the writer, who is not a professional archaeologist, prefers not to make any suggestions as to the date of this site.

#### AYRSHIRE.

From Miss A.S. ROBERTSON.

##### Roman Fort site near Loudoun Hill.

The Roman fort site near Loudoun Hill, Ayrshire, is being rapidly quarried away by operators of the Alexandra Transport Company, and by arrangement with the Company any Roman material turned up by the quarrymen is handed over to the Hunterian Museum. Recent finds have included a fine cache of Roman iron objects which were said to have been almost all contained in two great amphorae. The objects included two complete iron tyres for chariot or cart wheels (these were not of course actually inside the amphorae), over two dozen hub rings from wheels (one of these rings having a bronze collar round it), clamps, a pickaxe, a lever, a hammer, a spearhead and an axe blade, all in fine condition.

For his friendly services in helping to collect these interesting Roman finds and in transporting them to the Hunterian Museum, the Museum is greatly indebted to Mr Edward Henderson of the Ayrshire Archaeological Society. Mr Henderson's patience has also enabled him to find and piece together fragments of the greater part of one of the amphorae.

DUMFRIESSHIRE.

From Mr A.E. TRUCKELL.

Redkirk Point.

Mr Cormack, Junior, of Lockerbie discovered what is believed to be a dug-out canoe, made visible by erosion, on the foreshore. It contained much corroded fragments of iron, one of which may have been a sword. Publication will be in "T.D. & G. Nat.Hist. & Ant.Soc."

Gatelawbridge. From Mr J.C. WALLACE.

During the first week of August 1954, I excavated a mound having the appearance of a bowl barrow. The site was 600 yards south of the deserted farmhouse of Highlands on the farm of Townfoot, near Gatelawbridge, in the parish of Closeburn. [Nat. Grid Ref. 914958 - sheet 84 - 1" O.S.]

The barrow, on sloping ground, varied in height from a few inches to three feet, and was some 23 feet in diameter. It was surrounded by a ditch, whose outer edge was 32 feet in diameter and concentric, but whose width varied from 5 feet to under 4 feet, and depth from 16 inches to 10 inches, the profile being irregular. Excavation indicated that the mound had been built of turf laid on the old ground surface and covered with glacial sand and gravel quarried from the ditch and elsewhere in the vicinity. There was no trace of a cist. Any cremation or inhumation was probably placed on ground level (cf "Excavation of 15 Barrows in the New Forest 1941/2" by Mrs C.M. Piggott - P.P.S. New Series, Vol.IX pp.1-27). It appeared that, at some time, the barrow had been robbed, as there was a deep depression in the top. This opinion was strengthened by the discovery that the centre of the turf mound had been removed and refilled with disturbed glacial drift probably from the original covering of the barrow. Further, this same material thickly overlay the silt of the ditch, presumably thrown there by the spades of the excavators. It is thus not surprising that no trace was found of human remains, nor of grave goods.

Carronbridge. From Mr John S. CLARKE.

Further excavation during the summer of 1954 at the site revealed by air-photography at Carronbridge aimed at elucidating further the complex of temporary and semi-temporary camps, apparently of Roman origin, and at discovering something of the nature of a separate complex of sharp-cornered entrenchments adjoining. The temporary camps were, this summer, satisfactorily fixed by excavation and their relation to one another and to the semi-permanent work defined. In addition the existence of another temporary camp of considerable extent was established, making three in all. The complex of sharp-cornered entrenchments proved to be related in part at least to a round wooden house roughly of the Scotstarvit type. This house had had two phases of existence and is presumed from the total absence of Roman material to ante-date the Roman period. An attempt was made unsuccessfully to trace the return from the river of the massive wall found last summer. A feature of the excavation on this site has been the extreme paucity of finds of any kind which makes dating conclusions most difficult.

Though so indefinite so far in dating evidence, the site is unusually significant in that it contains a series of semi-permanent military works which may ultimately be datable, and in that it contains both purely native occupation and also occupation by people conversant with the Roman military tradition of building.

DUNBARTONSHIRE.

From Mr J.G. SCOTT

Walton Farm, Cardross. Dunbartonshire NXVIII S.W. 26/363782.

Between 29th May and 5th June, 1954, a trial excavation was carried out at what appeared to be a ruined cairn of Clyde-Carlingford type situated at a height of about 450 feet, overlooking the Clyde, on Walton Farm, near Cardross.

There was evidence of recent disturbance near the site, and little of the cairn remained, but two portal stones, one very massive, together with two presumed side slabs, appeared to indicate a burial chamber some 15 feet long with an entrance facing south. The side slabs were visible on the west side only, and the excavation was an attempt to trace what was believed to be the eastern side of the burial chamber. The attempt was unsuccessful; no side slabs were discovered, and the presence of bedrock less than 2 feet below the surface at the northern end seemed to show that orthostatic side slabs could never have been erected. Nevertheless, in what was presumed to be the burial chamber there was discovered a deposit, which can hardly be other than ritual, of at least fifty quartz pebbles closely packed together whilst definite proof of the age of the site was forthcoming when the butt of a broken axehead of polished stone was found. A preliminary examination has shown that the axehead consists of greywacke, and it is hoped that further study may enable the origin of the rock to be traced. It is clear that this addition to the by no means numerous neolithic sites in the Clyde valley merits further excavation.

EAST LOTHIAN.

From Miss A.S. HENSHALL.

Craig's Quarry, Dirleton. Nat. Grid Ref. 508836.

At the end of June, 1954, workmen clearing the overburden preparatory to blasting discovered three long cists inside the area of the Iron Age fort previously reported by Professor and Mrs Piggott. (PSAS.LXXXVI). One grave was destroyed, but the other two were excavated and produced complete skeletons which were submitted to Dr Wells of the Anatomy Department, Edinburgh University. The graves had been dug into a midden and a ruined wall. This area is being excavated by the University of Edinburgh Archaeological Society during the autumn in order to gain more information about the history of the fort.

FIFE.

From Mr P.R. RITCHIE.

Clatchard Craig, Newburgh.

During the course of the year rescue excavations were carried out at Clatchard Craig, Newburgh, by the Ministry of Works. The site comprises a series of fortifications of Iron Age date; at least three phases of fortification are present on the hill.

Excavation was confined to the phase represented by multiple-rampart defences. On the south-east side of the fort three ramparts have been constructed of rubble and earth. The outer two have low revetting walls running along the front of the ramparts. At one point a rock-cut ditch has been quarried between the two outermost ramparts. A series of hearths underlies the middle rampart and pottery has been recovered from these. A fragment of a shale armlet was also found in the make-up of this rampart. The innermost rampart is a complex structure which has not yet been fully excavated. A timber laced wall, with some of the timbers still in situ, has been replaced at a later date by a glacis rampart. Many burned timbers 3-4 inches in diameter and about 18-24 inches long have been found in the latter, but their significance has yet to be determined. Other finds include quantities of animal bones and a saddle quern.

INVERNESS-SHIRE.

From Mr William KIRK.

Bught Park, Inverness. Nat. Grid Ref. 656437 [Sheet 37, 1" O.S.]

Clay-lined stone cist with contracted inhumation sunk into terrace gravels 30 feet above sea level in Bught Park on the southern outskirts of Inverness.



The capstone had been lifted by the roots of an overturned tree during bulldozing operations and the contents of the grave much disturbed. They included, however, the skeletal remains of an adult male and a rivetted knife dagger. No pottery was recovered. [Report in preparation for PSAS.]

From Mrs Alison YOUNG. Dun Guier, Isle of Barra.

Excavation of this Dun proved it to be contemporary with the later stages of the nearby farm-house, Tigh Talamhanta, though the material suggests occupation extending beyond the lower dating of that site. Among the pottery was one sherd incised in the manner of the stag sherds from Coll, worked bone including pins, gaming pieces and the remains of three combs, also raw materials, antler and whalebone. Saddle and rotary querns were recovered and there was evidence of metal working. Within the upper walling of the Dun, laid on the stone infill was a lime built wall, three sides of a rectangle, built from the Dun material. The remains of a clay pipe of 18th century and fragments of craggan pottery date this intrusive structure.

From Mr and Mrs RAE. Aviemore.

Total excavation was made in July 1953 of a bowl barrow (one of a hitherto unrecorded group of four) situated two miles north-east of Aviemore, about 200 yards east of the river Spey. The barrow (diameter 24 feet from bottom of ditch, height 18 inches from modern turn) covered an inhumation at full length in a pit (robbed), two small empty pits and five fire-sites. No grave goods were found, but there was evidence that date was not earlier than Iron Age. A stone 5 feet 6 inches high had been erected beside the burial pit, and projected above the barrow's top, with no inscription. The sequence of construction and its materials suggest that a secondary barrow may have been imposed on a primary one, the earlier being of Iron Age date and perhaps under Scandinavian influence of the migration period.

#### KINCARDINESHIRE.

From Mr William KIRK.

Nether Criggie, Dunnottar. Nat. Grid Ref. 838823 [Sheet 51,

Although this short stone cist was discovered during quarrying operations only a side stone was disturbed. Located 5 feet below the surface of a natural mound of well-drained fluvio-glacial gravels the contents were in a good state of preservation and included the skeletal remains of a young woman and newly born child, along with three beakers (two C<sup>a</sup> type and one small C<sup>b</sup> type), a flint scraper and knife. [Report in preparation for PSAS.]

#### KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE.

From Mr A.E. TRUCKELL.

Auchenreoch Loch.

Two reported crannogs proved to be small artificial islands of rounded stones or clay quite unlike the natural foreshore.

#### LANARKSHIRE.

From Mr C.A. Raleigh RADFORD.

The preliminary survey was made of a Roman road across Tinto Hill in conjunction with Mr R.C. Reid and others. See Bibliography for publication.

From Miss A.S. ROBERTSON. Castledykes.

In June-July 1954, Miss Anne Robertson conducted a brief fortnight's excavation on the Roman site at Castledykes, Corbiehall Farm, under the auspices of the Hunterian Museum. The paid labour force of two workmen was supplemented by four students who attended by arrangement with the Scottish Field School of Archaeology, which provided funds towards their maintenance,

and by three other volunteer assistants.

The excavations took place on the natural ridge lying to the east of the site of the Roman fort. Exploratory trenching on this ridge in 1953 had revealed a ditch running north and south. This ditch was followed and was found to delimit an enclosure lying, detached from the fort, on the eastern ridge. Only the north, south and west sides of this enclosure have been located. There was not time to discover the fourth (east) side.

The enclosure appears to have measured about 500 feet across N-S and at least 300 feet E-W. The enclosure ditch was about 8 feet wide and 5 feet deep. On the inner side of the ditch, at a distance of about 17 feet from it, two postholes were found, one in the northern sector of the west side of the enclosure, and one in the southern sector of the same side. These may possibly have held the posts of a palisade on the inner side of the ditch. Or perhaps the ditch itself had held a palisade. One entrance gap was found in the enclosure ditch, in the west side, with a well-cobbled road passing through it. This road was continuous with the road running out of the east gate of the Antonine fort, so that the enclosure appears to have been related in some way to that fort. The enclosure ditch, however, went out of commission before the end of the Antonine occupation of the site. It was full of occupation debris, and at one point, on the west side of the enclosure, a Roman oven had been built just west of the ditch, and the ditch used as a stokehole and ashpit for it.

A long trench cut obliquely across the enclosure from its west ditch eastward revealed no trace of definite structures, but only a number of irregular holes and pits, containing in most cases broken potsherds and iron shoe-nails. Probably these were rubbish pits into which had been thrown worn-out shoes, the leather parts of which had disintegrated, leaving only the nails.

The pottery found in the enclosure was all Antonine, but although the date of the enclosure is thus established, the indefinite nature of its internal features leaves its purpose still obscure. It may have been an encampment for men building the Antonine fort, or else a civil settlement, not attached to the fort as was usual, but detached from it in order to occupy the naturally strong ridge east of the fort.

#### MIDLOTHIAN.

From Mr and Mrs RAE.  
Cramond House.

Excavations were made in the grounds of Cramond House during the summer, with students of Moray House and guidance from Dr K.A. Steer, in an attempt to locate the north rampart of the fort believed to underlie the Manse and Church. An unfortified Roman suburb was found to occupy the area between the north wall of the churchyard and the west drive of the house. Samian and coarse pottery were of the second century; a coin of Trajan was in the lowest level. Work to find the fortifications is continuing.

From Miss A.S. HENSHALL. Park Burn, Lasswade. Nat. Grid Ref.  
296674.

At the end of August workmen at the Park Burn sand quarry discovered two long cists with well-preserved skeletons. Investigation has shown these to be part of an extensive cemetery of such burials covering at least an area of 120 x 140 feet, which probably also extends further into the nearby wood and fields. The cemetery seems to have been in use over a long period as many of the graves have been cut into earlier ones. A total of 104 have been found so far. The finds include part of a jet armlet, a piece of iron probably part of a knife and pieces of four querns. The skeletal remains, which include men, women and children, are being studied by Dr Wells of the Anatomy Department, Edinburgh University, who will publish a report in PSAS.

PEEBLESSHIRE and SELKIRKSHIRE.

From Mr Angus GRAHAM.

New evidence has been found bearing on the course of the Roman road from Newstead by Lyne Water to the Clyde valley. A paper in PSAS. will review the subject.

PERTHSHIRE.

From Mrs M.E.C. STEWART and Miss A.S. HENSHALL.  
Clach na Tioman, Wester Glen Almond.

This chambered long cairn (Nat. Grid Ref. 27/831329)(PSAS.XLV, 96-100) was examined during the spring and late autumn with the permission of Major General Sir John Whitaker, Bart., and the sanction of the Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Scotland. Three megalithic cists, visible in the denuded cairn, were excavated. No relics were found, the cists or chambers having been rifled at the end of the last century and much damaged in the process.

The cairn, about 190 feet in length, lies east and west on a river terrace some distance above the present bed of the Almond. The eastern end is broader and higher than the western, but no trace of structure was found in a trench dug across it. Thirty-five feet westward a large segmented chamber with two septal slabs and portal was disclosed. The portal gave on to the southern side in the middle of a facade of slabs along the edge of the cairn material. The main axis of all three cists was N-S, at right angles to the main axis of the cairn. Twenty feet further to the west a second chamber with two septal slabs was found. This, and a third chamber lying 40 feet east of the western end, had been much destroyed and the portal entries were not found. The fourth chamber formerly recorded in the cairn had been totally destroyed.

One hundred and forty-three feet south-east of the eastern end of the cairn a single standing stone was proved by excavation to be the last stone of a small circle of four standing stones which had stood on the periphery of a cairn of waterworn boulders 15 feet in diameter.

The long cairn belongs to the Clyde-Carlingford class of chambered tomb and should be associated with similar structures at Rottenreoch, near Crieff, and Kindrochat, near Comrie.

RENFREWSHIRE.

From Mr F. NEWALL.  
Whitemoss Farm, Bishopton.

The eastern half of the retentura of the Roman fort was explored. As at the principia, the first buildings had sleeper foundations, and comprised a barrack block adjacent to the south intervallum with, to the north of it, a building of different character.

The barrack block is 157 feet x 25 feet, within walls, and is divided into ten contubernia, all  $12\frac{1}{2}$  x 25 feet internally, except for the third and tenth rooms from west, which are  $13\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide; and an officers' block at the east end, 25 x 21 feet. To the north at a distance of 25 feet lies a building 25 feet wide at extreme west, but reduced after 40 feet to the east at most, to 23 feet. To the east its vestiges are obliterated due to marshy soil and later levelling. It is, however, at least 140 feet long. Internally, a corridor 5 feet wide at west and narrowing with the building to 3 feet wide further east, ran along the south side. Three consecutive internal divisions outline rooms 20 x  $11\frac{1}{2}$  feet, 20 x 21 feet, and 20 feet square respectively. The third is entered from the corridor through a  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide doorway. Thirty feet east of the third compartment was another entrance  $4\frac{1}{2}$ -5 feet wide. In view of the difference in character of these buildings, it is possible that they are barrack and stable. If so, two of

the contubernia in the barrack would accommodate officers, increasing the space allotted to them to 25 x 46 feet, a more reasonable figure.

In the second period, after site levelling by reduction, twin buildings occupied the sites of those of the first period, that to the south following as a blue-print the plan of the preceding, but that to the north disregarding at several points the previous layout. Where discovered, internal postholes coincide with cross-sleepers, but are not so frequent as to allow a calculation of number or dimensions of rooms. The officers' quarters were founded on clay and cobble sills, a recognition of the marshy nature of the ground. That to the south measured at least 30 x 25 feet. The block to the north was indeterminate but internal divisions were noted.

In the third period the site was levelled up, and as in the case at the principia and behind the east rampart, apparently after a period of abandonment considerably lengthier than that which separated the first and second periods.

The street plan which overlaps the south walls of the previous buildings to the north, left building spaces of 170 x 30 feet to the north and 163 x 35 feet to the south. The north area was entirely cobbled, clay and cobble surviving patchily alongside the struts suggesting sill wall or stone construction. Though much disturbed by the plough, several postholes, penetrating the cobbling, have survived. The area to the south was uncobbled. Traces of clay flooring survive, and numerous traces of small clay "benches" associated with small hearths, all disturbed. Pieces of slag, iron - both bar and rod - and broken tools suggest workshop activity in this area.

Over the entire explored area third period occupation earth is preserved only in hollows over drains and pits of the preceding periods, where subsequent subsidence in the overlying third period level has preserved it from the plough. Such as the evidence is it suggests no transitory phase in the site history. There is no trace of an earlier Roman period as was observed at the principia and behind the east rampart, and the 'period' there must be assigned to the fort builders. A pre-Roman occupation of the site was, however, attested by two hearths which produced hazel shells, much heavy gritty pottery, two pounders and other stones.

As always Mr Harry Sinclair was unstinting in his support as co-director, and Miss Anne S. Robertson and Mr John Clarke visited the site to my advantage. To them I am deeply indebted.

The following sites have been discovered by Mr Newall's Group of the Glasgow Archaeological Society :

1. Small tumulus approximately 200 feet west of junction of Quarry Road and Kilmacolm-Bridge of Weir Road and on the north side of the latter. Ref. : 26/364679.
2. Rectangular forced earth bank with no trace of ditch, north side of Shaws Water, 200-300 yards west of Smithston Institute, Greenock. Ref. : 26/249749.
3. Hollow way and quarry pits, 20-30 feet in diameter, along east edge of Lurg Moor and near upper Kilmacolm-Greenock Road. Ref. : 26/305730 to 26/307723.
4. Settlement of 3 hut circles, several rectangular enclosures and at least one artificial mound on south side of Gryfe Reservoir and extending for approximately 200 yards. Ref. : centre about 26/281715.
5. Denuded round cairn, 98 feet diameter, S.E. of Eaglesham Golf Course Club House. Ref. : 26/552519.
6. A curious site - probably old open-cast workings, but encircled by a discontinuous ditch : east side of secondary road. B769, from Glasgow, via Pollokshaws, to Stewarton. Ref. : 26/507541.

SHETLAND.

From Mr L.G. SCOTT.

Mr Scott reports the discovery of 23 Neolithic House Sites, 5 Cairns and 7 Burnt Mounds, all on the Mainland of Shetland.

The House Sites are sometimes found in groups and sometimes singly. They are oval in shape and are always built on sloping ground. They vary in size, the average being about 45 feet x 35 feet and the walls are very thick, usually 8 feet or more. The old dykes surrounding the field enclosures connected with the House Sites are circular, not rectangular, and show that these old crofts were very much smaller than the modern croft.

Four of the Cairns are circular and one heel-shaped. They vary in size from 20 feet to 37 feet in diameter.

The Burnt Mounds also vary in size from 34 feet to 50 feet in diameter.

When Mr C.S.T. Calder was in Shetland he very kindly visited most of these sites and took notes for the purpose of recording them. He also planned some of them and surveyed some of the field systems.

From Mr John STEWART.

Mr Stewart, who is carrying out a place-name survey of Shetland, reports numerous unrecorded sites.

Norse Houses.

1. "Sturatafts" near Bighton, Westing, Unst. Grid Ref. 574057.
2. N. of Fjel, Westing, Unst. 574061.
3. Sands of Sandwick, Unst. 619023.
4. Sands of Breckin, Yell. 529052.

All are mere foundations, 50 to 60 feet long, about 12 feet inside width, and have traces of outbuildings.

Heel Cairns.

1. Vord Hill, Fetlar. Two cairns, 621936, 622937. Inventory 1215. These are heel-shaped, with passage and chamber traceable, and in one case 6 lintels remaining.
2. Cruens, Fetlar. 657892. Two cairns revealed during the War. The chamber of one was used as an air-raid shelter. A shallow bowl (from drawing, of Unstan type) was found.

Square Caitn.

1. Northmaven, N. of Mucklawater. 225792.

Defensive Building.

Holm of Califf. Circular, but not a proper broch. 451458. A rubbing stone and half a stone cup were found. A large rectangular house of later appearance occupies most of the rest of the islet.

Cairns.

1. Near Mill Burn, Lunnasting. 507663.
2. Near Whitefield, Whalsay. 551625. A large cist is near.
3. Below Hockland, Bixter. 301515. A large burnt-mound is near.
4. Burraness, Yell. 555955.
5. East Sandwick, Yell. 548975.
6. "King's Houses". 435649 and another 436640. Right bank of Seggie Burn, Laxo.

Late Neolithic Oval Houses, or Cairns.

1. Setter, Yell. 493915.
2. Foula Wick, Olnafirth. 370651.
3. Mossbank-Graven Road. 432735.

Two Shetland Inventory items need correction. The structures on the Kame of Isbister (1375) are not fishermen's lodges, but prehistoric. The Chapel, Hillside Cottage (1237) was an ordinary Wesleyan chapel.

At Brough, West Burra (N.G.R. 379350) the midden of a broch was revealed by a water scheme. The catholic menu included 40 foot whale, gray and common

seal, swan, solan-geese, raven, pony, cattle, two kinds of sheep, pigs of all sizes with tusks up to 4 inches, red deer, cod, oysters of large size, mussels, periwinkle, limpet and cockle.

The rune stone given to Mr Stewart by its finders at Papil, West Burra (379350) has already been recorded in PSAS. Vol.LXXXVI.

From Mr C.S.T. CALDER.

Pettigers Field, Island of Whalsay. Nat. Grid Ref. HU 585652.

On behalf of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland an investigation was undertaken with the assistance, for part of the time, of Mr John Stewart who, over a period of several years, had dug into the interior portion and had laid bare part of the inner faces of a curving wall in which two recessed apartments were constructed. The fuller excavations this year disclosed the entire foundations of a large house mainly of oval shape, but having the unique distinction of a concave facade prolonged at each end into a horn enclosing a roughly semi-circular forecourt. Overall, on the long and short axes respectively, the dimensions were 68 and 42 feet, and the walling which was built in three casings varied from 8 feet at the sides to 16 feet at the ends. The structure comprised a single chamber, about 20 x 17 feet, from which four recesses opened. An entrance passage, 16 x 3 feet, penetrated the south-eastern end and opened off the forecourt in the middle of the facade. The flags with which it was paved acted also as cover-stones for a drain running from the inside of the chamber. Relics included trough querns and molars, hammerstones, hundreds of rude stone implements and many fragments of pottery. It was deduced that the house belonged to the latest phase of the Stone Age, and while "horned cairns" are known, it would appear that this is the first example of a horned house to be discovered. The excavations were left incomplete, but it is hoped that the work will be continued next season and a report will be published in PSAS.

Mr Calder also discovered and noted the sites of several other houses of the period, and confirmed the existence of additional ones brought to his notice by Mr Laurence G. Scott and Mr Peter Moar. These will eventually also be recorded in PSAS.

From Mr J.R.C. HAMILTON.

Clickhimin Broch. (See Inventory (Shetland) 1946, p.64, no.1246, and official Guide to Brochs of Mousa and Clickhimin, 1951).

In 1953/4 conservation work undertaken by the Ministry of Works allowed archaeological investigation of the site partially excavated in 1861. The object was to control the sequence of cultures observed at Jarlshof, 22 miles to the south, where four cultural phases were distinguished covering the first seven centuries of our era.

Excavation of the Clickhimin broch floor showed the broch-dwellers had been preceded by settlers related to the Iron Age A people, who built pre-broch round huts at Jarlshof. On the gravel surface of the islet there lay a brushwood platform; analysis showed the presence of spruce, yet another occurrence of it on Iron Age sites along the NW seaboard. The broch was found to have a series of postholes within it which argued for some internal timber gallery or structure giving access to the broch staircase beginning at first floor level. The primary pottery is similar to the two classes found in Jarlshof broch, an alien ceramic representing immigrants from Orkney and a "native" pottery with heavy steatite backing. The large forework, and part at least of its encircling wall belong to this period.

The defences, as at Jarlshof, declined until the arrival of new settlers with pottery related to the wheelhouse people at Jarlshof. They reduced the height of the broch and erected a large wheelhouse inside. The interior appears to have supported a loft, only the postholes of which remained.

Access was gained from the loft to the original broch staircase, which ascended to wall-top level. The rotary quern was now used and other finds include steatite beads, crucibles, a bronze buckle and part of a coiled finger-ring of bronze. Occupation of this dwelling must have covered many generations for deep middens accumulated in the outer courtyard and small outhouses were built and rebuilt, while the pottery remains constant. This long quiescent period is paralleled at Jarlshof.

The site was an islet in a loch which at first was approached by boat, and there was a landing stage outside the main entrance through the ring wall. Later the straight was silted up and a stone-lined causeway built. At the islet end one stone bore the pecked impression of two feet with a cupmark between the toes and heels. In the final phase a thin native pottery derived from the wheelhouse ware was in use, similar to the latest post-broch ware at Jarlshof. No Viking relics were found, suggesting that the site was abandoned prior to Norse penetration in the 9th and 10th centuries A.D.

The sequence fully confirms that established at Jarlshof and shows that the islands were open to three waves of immigrants in the Iron Age. First came the Iron Age A settlers in the last century B.C. These were followed by bands of colonists from Orkney who were responsible with native labour for the erection of the broch towers. Eventually in the 2nd or 3rd century A.D., a large scale invasion occurred of 'wheelhouse' folk whose descendants mixed with older elements were in occupation of the islands when the Vikings arrived in the early 9th century.

#### STIRLINGSHIRE.

From Miss D.M. HUNTER.

Stenhouse, near Carron Iron Works, Falkirk.

During the past year, members of the Field Group of the Falkirk Archaeological and Natural History Society carried out first salvage during pipe-laying, and later excavation, on a medieval kiln site. A kiln, drying hearth and fireplace were discovered, besides pits and scattered deposits of waste material, and minor unexplained features. Another kiln and drying hearth were probably broken up by the pipe trench; from the latter were recovered three jars, the only complete specimens found during the excavation. No trace of a building was found, and it is highly probable that the site extends much further.

The kiln was built in a pit. A low wall of unmortared stones had apparently supported a domed renewable roof of clay and twigs. The floor (which was highest in the centre of the kiln, and was laminated in a way that suggested patching or renewal) had been laid after the walls. There was a stokehole at the W. end, and a flue opposite; the whole forms an irregular rectangle 7 feet x 3 feet 6 inches, with a stokehole 2 feet 3 inches x 1 foot 4 inches. There was a small, much-burnt pit in front of the stokehole, and another (unexcavated) beyond the flue. Some evidence was found of a floor between fire and pottery, supported presumably on stones (or bricks) not set into the kiln floor. This kiln is not the oldest on the site, as sherds were found in the making of the floor. It is for various reasons probable that there was a group of small kilns working on the site, not necessarily all synchronous.

The finds, almost all wasters, were considerable. They have been deposited in Falkirk Burgh Museum.

From Dr H. FAIRHURST.

Meikle Reive Fort, Cambsie. 26/639789.

Investigations by the Glasgow Archaeological Society commenced in July and were continued for three weeks in broken weather. The main enclosure

about fifty yards in diameter, lies on the flat top of a small hill overlooked by the Campsie immediately to the north. Excavation showed that this enclosure was surrounded by a stone wall 12 feet thick; the revetments were formed of large slabs and blocks, apparently with a filling of smaller stones between, though a section has not been cut. The wall had been sited so that there was a distinct platform between the outer revetment and the steep slope down the hill. Surface indications suggested two entrances, one in the S.E. and one in the west. The latter was found to consist of a passage way extending obliquely down the hill well beyond the wall; the sides were rather badly ruined, but it is clear that the inner end was only 3 feet 2 inches wide. Well worn stone steps formed part of the pavement. Immediately inside the enclosure were the foundations of part of a circular hut in such a position as seriously to impede the entrance way. The slope of the hill to the north of the entrance passage was scarped to form two and possibly three platforms, which converged upon the revetment of the passage.

The approach to the hill from the north formerly consisted of a neck of higher ground which thus formed a weak flank; this had been strengthened by three ramparts and three ditches, crescentic in plan. A section was cut outwards from the wall, across the platform, and as far as the outer side of the middle rampart. The ramparts themselves were smooth banks of earth and stone, but on the summit of the inner one very large boulders were found to be spaced closely along the top as an additional defence. The inner ditch was in the form of a narrow V, 11 feet deep at the section; the inner side was almost vertical and had been strengthened by dry stone walling between large boulders in situ, but this revetment had slumped down into the ditch.

Clear evidence of occupation was everywhere apparent. Carbon, slag and coal appeared frequently and proof was obtained that coal was used as a fuel. Of pottery there was not a trace, and a crude stone lamp and a spindle whorl were the only manufactured objects recorded. Two pieces of stone, probably dressed to a shape, were too much of a puzzle to be anything more than tantalising. So far there is nothing to suggest more than one period of occupation.

Tumulus at West Carlestoun, Torrance. 26/624.747.

Early editions of the 6" O.S. map state that an urn containing human bones was found at West Carlestoun where there is a roughly square mound covered with trees. This was investigated in 1953 with the co-operation of Mr and Mrs J.G. Scott. The mound seems to have been formed by tree roots preventing soil wash, presumably during the last two centuries or so, but within this area there had been preserved part of a roughly circular tumulus about 50 feet in diameter, and only about 18 inches high. It was made of earth plentifully mixed with small boulders, and was otherwise featureless. In the centre at original ground level, was an irregular depression with traces of fire. A few fragments of what was probably a cinerary urn, and small pieces of burnt bone were the only relics obtained.

From Dr K.A. STEER.

West Plean, near Stirling.

Further excavation of the Early Iron Age homestead at West Plean disclosed evidence for two distinct structural periods. In the initial period of occupation, the farmhouse was set precisely in the centre of a circular, ditched enclosure some 86 feet in internal diameter. The house was a timber-framed structure consisting of a ring of posts, 23 feet in diameter, with a central post to support the roof. The ditch, which was primarily a drainage-trench, was 3 feet deep and varied from 6 feet to 11 feet in width: it had two entrances, both on the E. arc, one of which served the house, while the other opened into a slightly sunken and cobbled courtyard. The only other building within the enclosure stood on the S.E. side of the house and was probably a byre.



In the second phase a larger farmhouse, 37 feet in diameter, was built on the site of the earlier one. It was supported on two concentric rings of posts, the outer ring being bedded in a continuous trench, and had its entrance in the E. side and a hearth in the centre. At the same time a new paving of sandstone slabs was laid over the whole of the interior of the enclosure, and also at the approaches to the two gates. The only significant relic recovered this year was a fragment of a rotary quern of 1st or 2nd century date.

SUTHERLAND.

From Mr and Mrs RAE.

Evelix, near Dornoch.

For the Ministry of Works, with the help of Sutherland County Council, total excavation was made in December 1953 of a hut circle situated 120 yards north of Evelix Free Presbyterian church. No dating evidence was found. A circular turf wall (3 feet wide, external diameter 40 feet) enclosed a cobbled floor and a rectangular stone hearth set on a gravel platform. Supporting the roof had been four main posts, each with a subsidiary support: another post related to the hearth. The entrance, west-north-west, had two steps up and may have turned left along a nine-foot corridor between the wall and a screen based on stones. There were no signs of outbuildings.

THE INSPECTORATE OF ANCIENT MONUMENTS.

From Mr S.H. CRUDEN, H.M. Inspector for Scotland.

The following is a summary account of the more "archaeological" activities of the Inspectorate during the past year:-

- (1) Broch of Clickhimin, Lerwick: The secondary buildings have been extensively excavated and have produced a pottery sequence confirming that revealed at Jarlshof.
- (2) Maes Howe: Professor Gordon Childe supervised a trenching excavation for the Ministry, the object of the exercise being to investigate the mound to determine its structure, to investigate the possibility of the mound having been erected upon an artificial platform, and to seek dating material. The final report has not yet been completed. Further work is contemplated.
- (3) Clatchard Craig, Fife: This Iron Age Fort, a scheduled Monument, was threatened by quarrying. The firm attitude of the Ministry, fortified by the full support of the Ancient Monuments Board has been more than justified and rewarded by results of excavations supervised by the Inspectorate and noted elsewhere in this journal. After prolonged negotiations with all interested parties the Ministry arranged for the excavation, and the quarry owners, Bell Brothers, wholeheartedly co-operated in a most commendable manner, which it is hoped will be emulated elsewhere in similar circumstances, and have provided the men and materials for the job. Excavation (noted elsewhere) is not yet complete: it is being phased in accordance with quarrying activities.
- (4) Kildrumny Castle: A full season's excavation and supervised clearance has produced good results noted elsewhere. The work continues.
- (5) St. Finian's Chapel, Port Patrick: Some two or three years ago Mr. Raleigh Radford partly excavated this site (Trans. Dumf. and Gall. Arch. Soc. Vol. XXVII) after which the site was taken over by the Ministry as a guardianship Monument. Final clearance and layout is now in hand under constant archaeological supervision by an Inspector. The base of the altar has been discovered and some areas of a well laid mortar floor.
- (6) Newbattle Abbey: Deep trenching by the Midlothian County Council for the laying of a large sewage pipe passed through the site of the North Transept. By arrangement with the County Council the work was kept under daily observation by an Inspector and a small but important area of a 13th century mosaic tile pavement was found in situ. The tiles have been recovered and their position recorded. It is hoped to publish an illustrated account of this.

The recently established liaison with local Archaeological Societies and similar interested bodies who are prepared to act as watch-dogs over scheduled (and unscheduled) Monuments has produced good results, although no crimes have been detected. (Perhaps none have been committed). Several of the Societies have responded to the Ministry's invitation to suggest for consideration of scheduling monuments in their area which are not yet scheduled.

THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL BUILDINGS RECORD.

From Mr. C. McWILLIAM, Officer in Charge.

As the work carried on in the Record's Office has not hitherto been mentioned in this report, readers may first like to know something of its origins and its purposes.

In 1941 a Council, under the late Marquess of Bute as chairman, was given the task of carrying out a rapid inventory of Scotland's architectural records, and of directing the services of every available photographer and draughtsman in a nation-wide survey of important buildings, starting with those especially liable to damage. This was a far-sighted precaution. Although actual war-damage to buildings was almost negligible, the indirect results of the war, through rising maintenance costs and high taxation, was the desertion and in some cases the demolition of many fine homes throughout the country. The recording of these houses has naturally had a high priority.

In some cases the roof had already been removed and the remainder of a house systematically wrecked before news of the demolition reached the Record's staff. Investigation would often prove it to have been a unique building which Scotland could ill afford to lose. The Council therefore made it their object, although they could do nothing to remove the basic causes of this orgy of destruction, at least to draw back the curtain of ignorance behind which the unscrupulous and the unwitting were working unchecked. Records and documentary evidence had to be available in the right place and at the right time, from which a correct assessment of a building's value could be made. What was its history? Who was the architect? How many similar buildings would remain if this one were lost?

The formation of the Historic Buildings Council for Scotland last year was the first official step towards a positive cure for the blight which had struck Scottish architecture; and it was in recognition of the Record's work and the help it could give to the new Council that it was officially taken over by the Ministry of Works, in April 1954. Its objects are the same as before, but more facilities are now available to accomplish them. Its duties also are unchanged, though they now include the supply of evidence and records to the Historic Buildings Council, to assist them in their consideration of applications for maintenance-grants.

Even supposing that a position of stability could ever be reached, and every important building in the country preserved either privately or publicly, the National Buildings Record must surely continue what even now must be regarded as the most vital part of its work: the encouragement and direction of Scottish architectural scholarship, and a public information service on Scottish building.

The past year has been marked by a somewhat increased number of demolitions, of which the following is a typical example:-

- House. - shire.

Georgian house built round (and obscuring) 16th century tower. The whole house enclosed in barnial additions (David Bryce, 1852) but Georgian drawing and dining rooms survive, with white marble fireplaces and fine plasterwork (c. 1790). Family moved into converted stables after war, lead stolen from roof of main house and dry-rot now established.

There may be no good reason for preserving such a house, but there is every reason for recording it:-

- (1) Somebody may one day write a book on David Bryce, an important Victorian who has a definite place in the history of architecture.
- (2) Georgian plasterwork and fireplaces give the investigator a great deal of information on the architect and/or craftsmen responsible for them. Each additional example increases the authority of the Record as a means of identifying and dating similar work in other houses.
- (3) A record should be made of the original 16th century tower when all the later work has been removed. This example was covered up in the 18th century and consequently not included in Macgibbon & Ross.
- (4) If no record is made, a lot of time may be wasted by future scholars interested in its history, in conjecturing (perhaps incorrectly) its appearance and importance. Some of our most historic buildings have little architectural distinction.

In more than one case of this kind it has happened that drawings for the house in question had been found some time previously in the Adam collection at the Soane Museum, and what had seemed an insignificant building has taken on a new and unexpected importance. These discoveries provide justification, if any is needed, for the Record's programme of general research. But a vast amount remains to be done, and offers of help are most welcome. The address is

Scottish National Buildings Record  
(Ministry of Works),  
14 Frederick Street,  
EDINBURGH, 2.  
Telephone: CALedonian 3622.

THE HISTORIC BUILDINGS COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND

From Mr David WATSON, Secretary.

The Historic Buildings Council is approaching the end of its first year's work and a brief review of its activities may be useful to members. Its main function is to advise the Minister of Works on applications for grants for the repair and maintenance of buildings of outstanding historic or architectural value. At the time of writing it has recommended, and has had approved by the Minister, thirty separate grants covering large country houses and castles, small houses of distinction mainly in towns, town halls,

and groups of small houses which, although not individually distinguished, are in their group concept and setting characteristically and traditionally Scottish and eminently worthy of preservation. It is perhaps more by accident than design that the grants have been well distributed throughout seventeen counties. This widespread incidence of grants, however, does reveal concisely and pointedly how rich Scotland is, as a whole, in buildings of more than ordinary merit. It would seem that her wealth in this respect has not always been generally recognised. The Council has still a large number of applications to consider, and as and when further grants are published in the press, Scotland's rich historical and architectural heritage, expressed in stone and lime, will become more and more apparent.

The task of dealing with applications for grants is one to which the members of the Council have devoted much time and, on occasion, anxious consideration. It is essential that each case should receive sympathetic and balanced consideration so that, on the one hand, owners may feel that all the evidence has been carefully weighed and, on the other, that the limited funds available may be wisely disbursed. If the confidence of owners is not secured and maintained, the work of the Council will be rendered nugatory, and if the grants made give grounds for justifiable criticism either by public or Parliament, the usefulness of the Council will be impaired. The relevant factors vary almost from case to case and all have to be assessed from the national point of view. In some, the historic merits alone may be outstanding and decisive; in others, the architectural features of the house may be in themselves sufficient to justify a recommendation. It is essential that the Council should maintain a consistently high standard, for it was the intention of Parliament when it passed the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act of 1953 that only houses of "outstanding historic or architectural merit" should benefit.

Consideration of applications for grants, although at present the main feature of the Council's activities, forms only part of its work. Its advice is sought from time to time by the Secretary of State for Scotland on particular questions; it has to consider the expediency of recommending purchase if by that means only can a worthy building be saved; and it has been enjoined to compile a complete list of valuable Scottish buildings and to keep a watchful eye on their condition. There lies ahead of it many years of hard and fruitful work.

#### SCOTTISH FIELD SECTION, ARCHAEOLOGY DIVISION ORDNANCE SURVEY DEPARTMENT.

During the year the Archaeology Division of the Ordnance Survey investigated the antiquities on some 150, 6" quarter sheets in Scotland, a total area of 900 square miles, the main purpose being to correct the many errors which appear on the earlier editions of Ordnance Survey maps. The counties of Ayr, Dumfries, Fife, Lanark, Midlothian, Renfrew, Kirkcudbright and Berwick were involved, most of the work being carried out in Ayr and Lanark.

The use of three type founts on Ordnance Survey maps to distinguish between Prehistoric, Roman and post-Roman sites, posed a special problem in respect of the many earthworks investigated, particularly in the south west.

A 1953 reconnaissance of Dumfriesshire and Kirkcudbrightshire made it perfectly clear, however, that from the repetition of certain constructional features, tentative groupings can be made. Unfortunately the Ordnance Survey has no mandate to carry out excavation but even without it these groupings have considerable value, particularly when they are carefully studied in relation to their immediate surroundings.

We are grateful and wish to convey our sincere thanks to the many people interested in Archaeology and to the Archaeologists who assisted us during the year.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON ANCIENT AND HISTORICAL MONUMENTS (SCOTLAND)

The Commission has been doing Inventory work in Stirlingshire, and also pursuing a special survey of monuments in marginal areas which are in danger of damage through the expansion of agriculture.

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This section has been compiled by Mr R.B.K. Stevenson.

The following abbreviations are used:-

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ANL.	Archaeological News Letter.
ARCH.J.	Archaeological Journal.
HBNC.	History of Berwickshire Naturalists' Club.
PFS.	Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society.
PRIA.	Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy.
PSAS.	Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.
SHR.	Scottish Historical Review.
TDGS.	Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society.
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UJA.	Ulster Journal of Archaeology.

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A. Hannah.	How did they get to Scotland? (Address to Highland Num. Club on some foreign coins).	Seaby's Coin and Medal Bulletin. Oct. 1954.
S. Cruden.	Scottish Medieval Pottery: the Bothwell Castle Collection.	PSAS. 1951-52.
J. MacQueen. D. Hay.	Maponus in Medieval Tradition. Booty in Border Warfare.	TDGS. 1952-53. do.
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- ≡ "Viking Congress" contains chapters on the following :
- Geography (A.C. O'Dell); Neolithic Temple at Stanydale (C.S.T. Calder);
  - Skara Brae, Maeshowe (H. Marwick); Jarlshof (A.O. Curle);
  - Brochs (W.D. Simpson, B.H.St.J. O'Neil and A. Graham);
  - The Vikings (H. Shetelig and R. Knudsen); Castles (W.D. Simpson);
  - St Magnus Cathedral (H. Marwick); Place-Names (A.B. Taylor);
  - Language (O. Lundberg and P. Thom); Scots Speech in Shetland (D. Murison);
  - Shetland History and Law (T.M.Y. Manson, J. Stewart and W. Croft Dickinson);
  - Folk Tales (J. Nicolson); Orkney, Shetland and Iceland (E.O. Sveinsson);
  - Norse in the Hebrides (Sir L. Scott); Soil and History (W.T.H. Williamson);
  - Shetland Boats (C. & D. Sandeman).

CORRIGENDA

The new Secretary of the INVERNESS SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY and FIELD CLUB (Part I, page 2; Part II, page 4) is JOHN F. BARRON, Esq., M.A., LL.B., Solicitor, 19 UNION STREET, INVERNESS.

"THE PROBLEM OF THE PICES"

The proceedings of the first Summer School (Dundee, 1952), under the above title, will be published early in 1955. Requests for information (on postcards) should be addressed to the Honorary Director, S.S.S. in Archaeology, University College, Dundee. Dr Wainwright will not acknowledge them as they arrive, but the publisher's announcement will be sent to enquirers.

TENTH REPORT, 1955.

The form which the Report is to take in future will be discussed at the Annual General Meeting in January. In view of the fact that changes may be made, please do not send money with this order.

To The Hon. Secretary, Scottish Regional Group, Council for British Archaeology, National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland, Queen Street, Edinburgh, 2. (BEFORE 1st DECEMBER 1955)

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