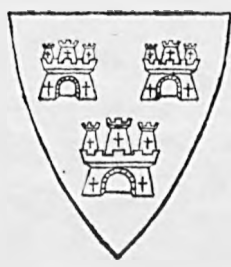


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THE MONMOUTHSHIRE ANTIQUARY

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MONMOUTHSHIRE & CAERLEON ANTIQUARIAN ASSOCIATION



CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Excavations at Caerleon, 1909, by †R. C. Bosanquet and †Frank King	1
Black Samian Ware from South Wales, by Catherine Johns	11
A Socketed Axe from Llanarth, by C. B. Burgess	20
The Keep of Caerleon Castle, by Jeremy K. Knight	23
Notes and News	25
Reports of Meetings and Field Days	30

THE MONMOUTHSHIRE ANTIQUARY

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EXCAVATIONS AT CAERLEON, 1909

By

†R. C. BOSANQUET *and* †FRANK KING

It was in the 1920's that the general structural sequence at Isca became established, through the work of Sir Mortimer Wheeler and V. E. Nash-Williams; and both the latter and C. F. C. Hawkes excavated corners of the fortress. The report which follows belongs, therefore, to an earlier stage. It was originally prepared as a communication to be read to the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion but, as recourse to the Society's Transactions will show, it was neither presented nor published, although set up in type. The reason can only be surmised: I believe that the authors had become aware that the construction of the fortress-wall at the south corner required an explanation other than that which they had suggested in the text. In 1962, a fresh opportunity came to study the wall from the outside: the time thus seems apposite both to publish the 1909 account and to suggest such an explanation. This is offered in an Appendix.

The text upon which the 1909 report is based is that of an uncorrected galley-proof. This, a typescript draft by King, King's notebook, plan (fig. 1) and section (fig. 2), together with sundry photographs and finds, are preserved at the National Museum of Wales. The text has been shortened by the omission of a detailed coin-list and commentary, and by remarks here and there which are not germane to the question of the wall, although it has been considered fitting to include the description of the buildings found within the angle.—George C. Boon.

The excavations undertaken in 1909 at Caerleon were a continuation of those begun in 1908 by the Liverpool Committee, in co-operation with the Monmouthshire and Caerleon Antiquarian Association¹. The work was directed by Professor Bosanquet and superintended by Mr. Frank King, the architect of the Caerwent excavations, and Mr. C. J. Fox, of Caerleon, with constant help and encouragement from the landowner, Colonel Sir Arthur Mackworth, Bart.

The first object was to obtain particulars of the wall and ditch for comparison with those of the other great legionary station at Chester. Accordingly, the splendid fragment of fortress-wall, at the south angle, still standing 12 ft. high, was examined inside and out. Within it, an angle tower was discovered, measuring internally 12 ft. 8 ins. by 8 ft. 6 ins. The walls were 3 ft. thick above the footing and 4 ft. below it, and were built with fine sandy mortar, devoid of brick. The face at the north-west angle, where some 10 courses still remain above the footing (5 ft.), was carefully finished, the joints having been pointed with white mortar; on this, while it was still wet, a narrow "false joint" was impressed and afterwards coloured red. The face on the east and west sides was much rougher and not pointed as the north wall. The entrance to the tower was, probably, in the centre of the northern wall, but the foundation at this point had been destroyed too far down to show it. In the south-west angle of the tower, 3 ft. below the surface,

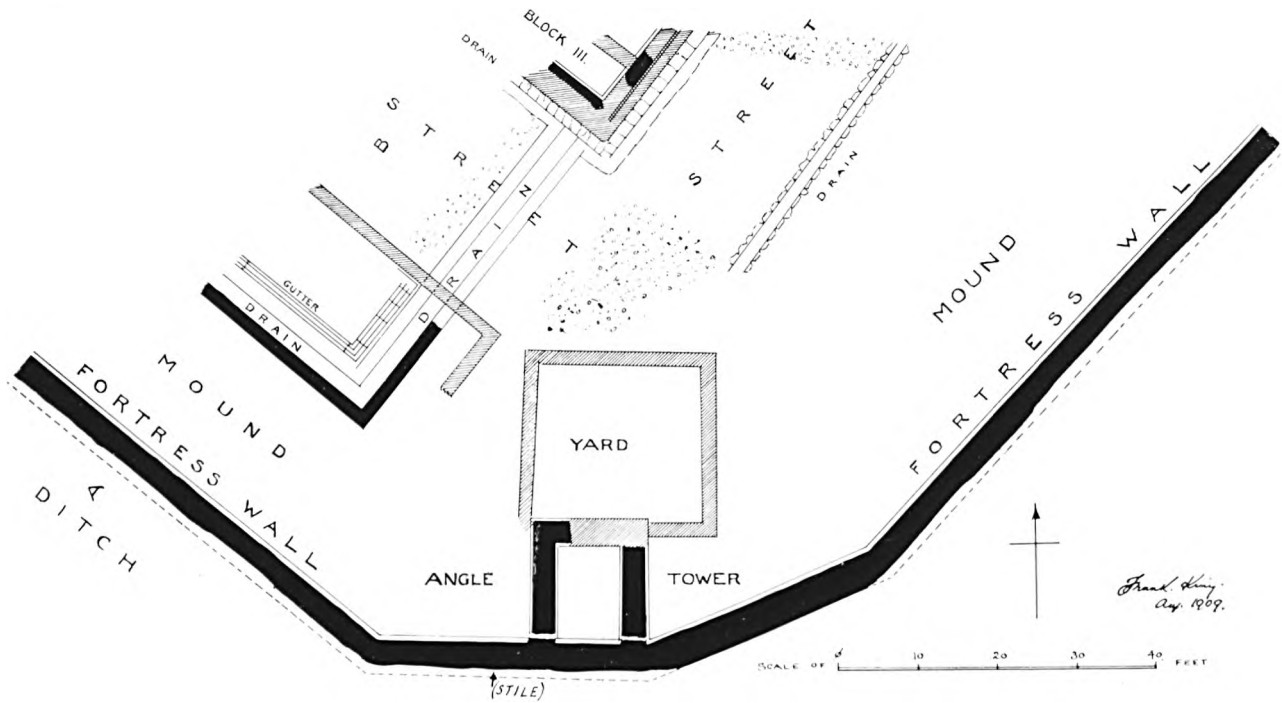


FIG. 1 Plan of the fortress-wall and buildings at the south corner of the Roman legionary fortress, Caerleon, 1909. By Frank King.

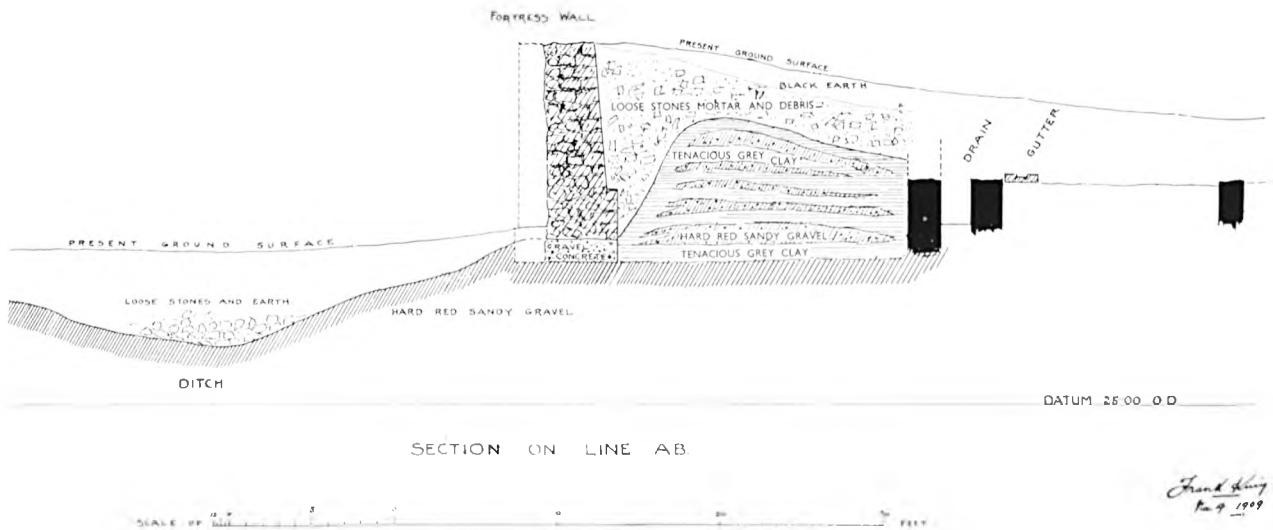


FIG. 2 Section through the defences near the south corner of the Roman legionary fortress, Caerleon, 1909. By Frank King.



were several fragments of calcareous tufa, one piece shaped like a voussoir of an arch, while two fragments of a moulded block of stone, measuring 2 ft. 2 ins. by 17 ins. and 6 ins. thick, were found in different parts of the tower, and may possibly have formed an impost to carry the springing of the entrance arch.

Outside the north wall of the tower was an area, measuring 20 ft. 6 ins. by 20 ft., enclosed with walls about 2 ft. thick, which were too imperfectly preserved to show if they had carried a roof. The southern wall, which was a narrower continuation of the north wall of the tower, had only one face and was therefore thought to be, perhaps, a retaining wall to support the mound mentioned below. This enclosed space was paved partly with old red sandstone slabs and partly with square tiles, laid on a level with the footing of the tower wall, and the entrance to it was probably in the north wall opposite to the entrance to the tower, though this again was uncertain. Within the tower, about 6 or 7 feet below the surface, there appeared a layer of burnt material about a foot thick, containing charcoal, potsherds, bits of bronze and bones. Other small finds within the tower consisted of several pieces of red and white wall plaster and one piece partly coloured black with a green leaf on a white ground; several pieces of samian ware, much common red ware, and fragments of mortaria were found to the very bottom of the excavation; in bronze, a well-preserved fibula, found close to the fortress wall, 5 ft. 6 ins. down, a ring, an ornament silvered over, a piece of a chain from much the same level, tweezers, a nail cleaner, found 7 ft. deep, and two nails; coins of Vespasian (4, two found just below the footing of the west wall, 8 ft. down, and one 7 ft. down, close to the fortress wall), Domitian (2, one 8 ft. down, but the other not in its original position), one each of Hadrian, Pius, Constantine (the last 1½ ft. down), and the Constantinopolis type, this last found on the south wall of the yard; a piece of sheet lead, and a skull of a small animal. Close to the tower, but outside it, were some pieces of samian, a bronze ring, an enamelled buckle, a circular enamelled fibula, part of another fibula, part of a pierced work ornament, one coin of Vespasian, 5 ft. deep, one of Hadrian and one of Trajan.

An interesting point arose in connection with this tower because it did not seem to be properly connected with the wall of the fortress. The tower walls are not in any way bonded into the fortress wall, but break off a foot from it. An attempt has been made to connect them by a tothing built in the fortress walls, but even so, the tothing and the walls of the tower do not meet. A space of 6 ins. exists between them on the west side and 4 ins. on the east, while the tothing on the tower wall on the west side is 6 ins. out of line. This irregularity may have been caused by the fortress wall being pushed out, owing to pressure from the mound behind it, or by the foundations giving way. However, it is also to be noticed that the circular footing, which projects from the fortress wall into the interior of the tower, is thoroughly well bonded into the fortress wall, resembles it in material and structure, and is entirely different from that of the tower walls, with which it had no connection whatever. The mortar in the fortress wall was of a whitish colour, contained much broken brick, and was somewhat coarse, the lime being found in lumps, while the mortar in the tower walls was sandy in colour, contained no brick, and was of a finer texture. No trace was found of any wall that might have formed the south wall of the tower previous to the existence of the present fortress wall. It seems probable then that the tower belongs to an earlier period, when the ramparts of the fortress were built of earth

and not of stone. The coins of Vespasian, found near the foundations of the tower, suggest a date for its erection.

Trenches were next dug to the bottom of the wall of the fortress, close to the south angle. This was found to be formed, not as in smaller forts with a quarter-circle curve, but in two straight sections, 34 ft. 6 ins., and 31 ft. in length, measured on the inside of the wall. It stands some 11 ft. 8 ins. high at the highest point, and is 4 ft. 4 ins. thick at the top, widening out by a batter of 12 ins. and a footing of 8 ins. to 6 ft. at the bottom. Only a little of the outside face is preserved, but where it is there is a footing just below the surface one course deep (8 or 9 ins.) projecting 3 to 4 ins., but no sign of a worked plinth of any sort was observed. The wall rises up perpendicularly above the footing, the batter and offset being on the inside. The inside face is well preserved, especially just to the east of the tower. Within the tower, the footing was found to be semi-circular in plan, 3 ft. deep, and very strongly put together with large stones and mortar. The facing above it was very rough and was evidently never intended to show. The wall was founded on a bed of gravel concrete 1 ft. 6 ins. to 2 ft. thick, the lime of which had mostly perished, and this had been laid on the natural sandy gravel soil. The wall had been grouted in, *i.e.*, the stones first laid dry or nearly so, and the liquid mortar worked in between them course by course, making the wall one solid mass with very few spaces in the masonry. The facing stones are somewhat roughly worked and laid, and vary in size from 6 ins. to 1 ft. 6 ins. in length, and the course 4 ins. to 7 ins. in depth. The stones of the filling-in came from the same quarry as the facing stones, and are of the same size and kind, but unworked. Pieces of brick concrete and some pebbles occur in the wall used as building stones. The mortar is white, contains much broken brick, and is very hard and coarse. No care had been taken to keep the joints thin or to give the appearance by pointing. The whole wall in fact is of rough workmanship and of not very great thickness, but is extremely solid and strong.

Behind the stone wall there was found an earlier earthwork, through which sections were cut on the south-west and south-east sides. The top of it lay 3 ft. 6 ins. below the present level, and it was 8 ft. 7½ ins. high and 17 ft. 9 ins. wide. It stood on the natural soil, a hard red sandy gravel, and was composed of alternative layers of red sandy gravel and grey river mud of varying thickness, the bottom layer and the face, inside and out (from 4 ins. thick), being of mud. Between the last mud layer and the soil traces of iron [panning – G.C.B.] were noticed. The stone wall was not immediately backed by this earthwork except at the bottom where the concrete foundation was of the same thickness as, and rested against, the bottom mud layer. Above this a V-shaped space was left between the earthwork and the stone wall which gradually widened to some 5 ft. at the top, and it and the top of the mound for 2½ ft. had been filled in with loose stones and mortar and debris. It was evident that there had originally been an earthen rampart or mound, probably some 30 ft. thick at the base, and that this had been cut sufficiently far back to allow a stone wall to be built in front of it, working from the inside as well as from the outside.

On the south-west side of the fortress the inside slope of the mound is retained by a solid wall 2 ft. thick, the upper part of which had been pushed over and was found lying on its face and covering a large drain and a small stone gutter. It seems that a latrine had been constructed

against the retaining wall, the wall forming one side of the large drain of the latrine. There was no trace of a retaining wall on the south-east side, unless the southern wall of the yard north of the tower served such a purpose. The mound abutted on to the eastern side of the tower, but there was no trace of it on the west side.

Nothing was found in the mound except one or two small pieces of black pottery. In the prolongation of the mound trench, west of the tower, northwards over the latrine, a piece of samian ware stamped IVLLINI OF, and a silver coin of Domitian were found 2 ft. down, and a brass coin of Tetricus at 5 ft. down. A coin of Magnentius were found $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. down just east of the tower.

A section was cut outside the fortress, at right angles to the wall and close to it. This showed an absence of any proper berm; instead, the ditch, which had been cut in the natural gravel soil, sloped straight away from below the footing of the wall. It measured 35 ft. wide from the base of the wall to the outer edge, and was only 5 ft. deep below the bottom of the concrete foundation of the wall and $7\frac{1}{2}$ ft. deep from the level of the outer footing. The outer edge was about 3 ft. lower in level than the footing of the wall. The ditch was not of the usual V-shaped character, but was broad and shallow, and at the lowest point was flat. It was found to contain a few potsherds, broken roofing tiles of baked clay, some stamped LEG.II.AVG; and a perfect old red sandstone roofing tile, but it was chiefly filled with loose stones and earth.

Two streets run north-east and north-west respectively from the angle tower and its annexe and parallel to the ramparts. The former is 20 ft. wide and the latter 24 ft. Drains bound each side of the north-east street; of these, that on the east side was not traced to its end, but that on the west makes an angle at the junction of the two streets and runs on as the north boundary of the north-west street. Within the angle of streets and drains was a building (Block No. III [barrack – G.C.B.]) and on the south side of the north-west street a latrine had been built. A section cut through the street showed that it was composed of gravel well rammed together and from 6 ins. to 9 ins. thick. Nothing was found underneath.

Between the north-west street and the mound, and against the retaining wall of the latter, the latrine before mentioned was built. It measured 17 ft. wide and 30 ft. long, but the excavation was not carried as far as the western boundary walls. It included a large room 25 ft. long, and, east of this, a small chamber, some $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft. wide, which was probably either a store room or some sort of entrance.

A gap $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. wide at the north end of the dividing wall suggested a doorway connecting the two rooms. The walls were about 2 ft. thick and it was thought that the south wall, which is also the retaining wall of the mound, is at least of the same date as the mound, if not earlier. The clay of the mound had been well puddled behind the wall and had taken up all the irregularities of the wall, no space being left between the two.

The latrine was drained by a large culvert, which seemed to start from the street drain bounding the south angle of block no. III. It is probable that originally it ran from some building further north still, and was cut off when block no. III was erected, as no provision was made to carry the walls of this building over the culvert. It remained at this point as an outlet for the street drains, and thus using the gutter water to flush the latrine. Its floor however was 6 ins. above the

floor of the street drains, and therefore was only meant to take the overflow of the latter, or perhaps to allow of some sort of drain to regulate the flushing of the latrine. The culvert falls slightly as it runs south across the south-west street and under the north wall of the latrine, which was carried over it on a flat slab. (This had fallen into the drain). It turns at the south angle of the building and runs along the south side of the south wall, which was also the south wall of the culvert, as far as it was traced. It was thought that probably it ran a little further west and then turned south, running out under the ramparts into the ditch. The fall in the ground level suggested such a possibility. It might, however, have emptied at the south angle, west of the tower. The drain culvert was 2 ft. 9 ins. wide at its north-west end, decreasing to 2 ft. at the south end. Its walls were preserved in one place 7 ft. high and they rested on a foundation of rough stone and mortar, without any other footing. The bottom was paved with stone slabs. No paving of the latrine floor was found but it appears to have been provided with a shallow stone gutter 7 ins. wide and 2½ ins. deep, running parallel to the culvert, 2 ft. away from it and 3 ft. above the bottom of it. A row of holes in the south and east retaining walls of the latrine seems to indicate where the wooden supports of the seats rested. The small finds included a ring, a second brass coin of Vespasian, and a first brass of Domitian (COS XIII, *i.e.*, A.D. 87), all from the culvert, the last 5½ ft. down at its north-east end.



FIG. 3 The fortress-wall at the south corner, 1909. The joint between the original construction and the rebuilding can be seen about 2½ ft. to the left of the pole.

APPENDIX, 1963

There are several points of interest in this Report, but the most important concerns the structure of the fortress-wall. The Appendix is confined to this subject. We have known for many years that the east and west corners of the fortress are rounded in the typical Roman manner², and that all the turrets so far examined—where it has been possible to establish the relationship—are of one build with the fortress-wall, except this example in the south corner. The mortar recorded in the Prysge sector of the defences is either hard, pinkish-white, or else yellowish, white-speckled, sandy. This type of mortar corresponds to the pinkish, tile-free mortar exposed in 1962³ opposite the Amphitheatre (fig. 4), to what is visible near the south corner, and to what is described as the mortar of the side and rear walls of the south corner-turret. It is in sharp contrast to the white mortar of the south corner with its inclusions of smashed tile and lumps of brick-concrete. Thus, the divergent planning (fig. 1), different mortar, and lack of true bond between the turret and the fortress-wall, all combine to prove beyond any doubt that there has been an extensive reconstruction of the wall hereabouts. It is also likely that the north corner has been similarly reconstructed, for in Lee's day it formed part of the foot-pavement opposite the Angel Hotel, and was noted by him to have been built with mortar (mixed rather largely with powdered brick)⁴.



FIG. 4 The fortress-wall opposite the Amphitheatre, Caerleon, 1962. The original construction, with four courses of the facing, slab plinth, and traces of cobble foundation below.

On the south, the pinkish mortar ceases at a point some 11 ft. north-west of the stile (which I have marked on King's plan, fig. 1). The white, tile-containing mortar then intervenes for a distance of nearly 90 ft.: the corresponding junction with the normal mortar lies about the middle of a short stretch where the wall has been badly eroded, but because of the intensely hard quality of the white mortar, the end of the rebuilt sector appears as a prominence.

The line of junction on the west corresponds to the angle marked on the left of King's plan. Fig. 3 shows the joint about $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. to the left of the pole, and on either side of the latter, a small square putlog-hole can be seen—the last of a series extending north-eastward at the same level. Left of the joint, another putlog-hole, larger, higher, and mortar-filled, may be observed. This photograph was taken in 1909⁵: the joint is boldly shown, and I think we may assume that our authors had come to deduce a reconstruction of the corner. The problem may have been additionally complicated for them by two other cracks, 24 ft. and 41 ft. north-west of the stile⁶, but the mortar is identical on each side of these, and they cannot therefore have quite the same significance as the corner joint. These other two cracks are not, however, to be dismissed so lightly. Reference to fig. 1 will show a section-line (A-B) 20 ft. north-west of the angle to left of the turret. It falls about midway between these



FIG. 5 The south corner-turret, 1909. The semicircular raft belonging to the rebuilt fortress-wall appears within the turret-area. Note the dressed courses above the offset in the fortress-wall within the turret; the tothing to the side-wall of the turret; and the ashlar front wall of the turret, with its false jointing. The fortress-wall, inner face, beyond is rough. (*From the Archaeologia Cambrensis, 1913, by courtesy of the Editor.*)

two cracks. Now, if the fortress-wall was original here, one would expect a profile similar to that in the Prysg sector⁷, viz. a wall of uniform, 5 ft. thickness. Instead (fig. 2), we find a scarcement 3 ft. above the base, and an outward batter above. No mortar, except the white variety, is mentioned in our sources in connexion with the fortress-wall. Yet the testimony of the mortar on the outside of the wall is unequivocal, and the solution must be that the wall above the scarcement, at least—conditions may not have been favourable for examining the mortar below—is a re-backing of the same period as the more thorough reconstruction at the corner.

The foundation of the wall was exposed outside the south corner in 1962, and consisted of the normal 1–2 ft. of large cobbles laid in earth with an admixture of lime, related to the plinth. The foundation certainly, the plinth probably, are part of the original rounded corner: King's plan should perhaps have shown a slight curve at plinth-level, but excavation is needed to prove this point. The crack shown in fig. 3 descends to within one course of the plinth, but the first course above the plinth is elsewhere brick-mortared. The only foundation-work associated with the rebuilding is the semi-circular raft required within the turret (fig. 5), presumably where the angular reconstruction overrode the original foundation.

A final structural point concerns the floor-level in the restored turret. Fig. 5 shows very clearly that the five courses of masonry surviving above an offset in the fortress-wall, within the turret, have been carefully dressed. Below, the stonework is rough and very like what can be

seen to the right of the turret—the inner face of the fortress-wall, destined to be concealed by the backing-mound. In 1909, nothing which might be interpreted as a raised floor-level, at the height of the offset, was noted. But it is worth remarking that the characteristic layers of ashy filling⁸ began 6–7 ft. down, and that between 3 ft. and 6 ft. there seems to have been a quantity of heavy rubble (fragments of tufa voussoirs, of a moulded stone block, &c.), which could perhaps have been the make-up for a raised floor.

The 1909 excavation throws some light on the date of the reconstruction. Firstly, the notebook⁹ refers to two *sestertii* of Trajan in 'fairly good condition, found 5 ft. 6 ins. down, close to the city wall.' Bosanquet corrects this entry to one Trajan and one Hadrian, and adds 'therefore outside tower but inside fort.' The coins presumably came from the infilling between the rampart and the rebuilt wall. They survive, and are both much worn; they place the date of the reconstruction not before the end of the 2nd century. Secondly, if it can be accepted that the floor-level of the turret was raised, it is permissible to use the evidence of the 'well-preserved fibula found 5 ft. 6 ins. down close to the fortress-wall.' This bronze brooch is also identifiable (fig. 6). It is a variety of the continental 'knee-brooch' type and in date goes well with the much worn coins of Trajan and Hadrian¹⁰.

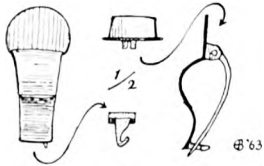


FIG. 6. Bronze knee-brooch

Dr. Grace Simpson has recently drawn attention to two features at Caerleon¹¹, namely a flourishing Antonine occupation, attested by samian and other pottery, and a large-scale rebuilding in the early third century, attested by tiles bearing the *Antoniniana* stamp of the Legion (A.D. 213–222), and also by an inscription of A.D. 198–209, recording the repair of an important building which had 'fallen down' (*corruptum*)¹². An analogous stone comes from Caernarvon-

Segontium, and comparable evidence of Antonine occupation and repair in the early third century is archaeologically attested there and at sundry other forts of Roman Wales which previously, on an obsolete view of their pottery, had been thought to have been abandoned by the forties of the second century in compliance with the demands of the northern frontier. In Dr. Simpson's estimation, such widespread repair after intensive occupation is not understandable, unless some violent break took place, and she draws parallels with northern England, where there is both epigraphic and archaeological evidence to record disaster and reconstruction, particularly along the line of Hadrian's Wall¹³.

It was in February, 197, that the governor of Britain, Clodius Albinus, took his own life at Lyons upon the failure of his attempt to wrest the imperial throne from the rival claimant, Severus. His army must have comprised every available unit from Britain—Hadrian's Wall, the Pennines, and Wales, denuded of their garrisons, affording an unprecedented invitation to the native tribes, who rose in a tide of fury to eradicate every trace of Roman domination. The north gateway of Housesteads milecastle¹⁴, for example, bears witness still to this period; the fortress-wall of York-Eburacum was razed¹⁵. The reconstruction of the south, perhaps also the north, corner of Isea may well be added to the tale of the labours which the victorious Severus had to set in train.

George C. Boon.

NOTES

¹ Liverpool Committee for Excavation and Research in Wales and the Marches, *First Annual Report* 1908 (1909), 63 ff.

² *Archaeol. Cambrens.* 1930, 30-1; 1931, 108, fig. 1.

³ During rescue-excavations carried out by the National Museum of Wales for the Ministry of Public Building and Works, to be published elsewhere.

⁴ J. E. Lee, *Isca Silurum* (1862), 127.

⁵ Until the very severe winter of 1962-3, practically no change had occurred in the appearance of the corner since this photograph was taken. The small putlog-hole L. of the pole has now disappeared.

⁶ Cf. Lee, *l.c.* (where the putlog-holes are also mentioned).

⁷ *Archaeol. Cambrens.* 1931, fig. 3, 101; Broadway (Golledge's) Field, *ibid.* 1933, 111.

⁸ *Ibid.* 1931, 110-5 *passim*; cf. also other turrets of the circuit.

⁹ In the coin-list, not here published, Bosanquet expresses caution over the Hadrian: '... found, presumably ...'. This is unwarranted: King's original envelopes both bear the find-number 8 '09.

¹⁰ The general type is Collingwood's *Group V* (*Archaeology of Roman Britain* (1930), 257, fig. 63), dated from the mid 2nd century. Specimens of the Caerleon type have been found at Lydney (with 3rd-4th century material: Wheeler, *Lydney Report* (1932), 77, no. 21, fig. 12) and at Wood Eaton, Oxon. (J. R. Kirk in *Oxoniensia* XIV, 1949 (1951), 12, no. 22, pl. IIB, 5). Both Wheeler and Kirk are uncomplimentary about their specimens. The type does not seem in the least 'wretched' to me: it is, on the contrary, a well-made brooch of especially light construction, more suited than most to fine cloths; the bow is handsomely curved, and the swaged ridges in front and behind are a careful feature. The horizontal catch-plate is generally continental, but examples of the Caerleon type do not seem to occur in the *Obergermanisch-Rhaetische Limes* forts, and so could be an insular development. Examples of the undistinguished fan-head, round-legged, vertical catch-plate type (Collingwood's no. 87) occur commonly on Antonine sites, as e.g. at Antonine Newstead, and in the *Limes* forts. I should estimate the date of the Caerleon ex. as Antonine too, before the profile could become degraded and the horizontal catch-plate lost.

¹¹ *Archaeol. Cambrens.* 1962, 105-11, esp. 110-11.

¹² V. E. and A. H. Nash-Williams, *Cat. Inscr. and Sculpt. Stones fd. at Caerleon* (1935), no. 2.

¹³ R. G. Collingwood and J. N. L. Myres, *Roman Britain and the English Settlements* (2nd ed. 1936), 155-6; R. G. Collingwood, *Rom. Inscr. and Sculpt. belong. to the Soc. of Antiq. of Newcastle upon Tyne* (1926), nos. 89-95, esp. no. 89 with its blatant euphemism 'decayed through age' (*vetustate dilapsis*) from Rivingham.

¹⁴ *Archaeol. AEl.* ser. 4, XI (1934), 107-8, pl. XVI, 2.

¹⁵ I. A. Richmond in *Eburacum* (Inventory of Hist. Mons. in the City of York, I, 1962), xxxii.

BLACK SAMIAN WARE FROM SOUTH WALES

By CATHERINE JOHNS

Samian pottery was made at various centres in South, Central and East Gaul from the first to the third centuries A.D., and was exported in large quantities throughout the western Roman Empire. Gaul and Germany were not the only centres of manufacture, but the varieties of this pottery made in other areas, for instance, Spain, had only a local distribution. A small samian industry was established in Britain¹, but most of the samian ware used in this country during the second century was imported from the workshops of Central Gaul, particularly those at Lezoux. Six of the seven pieces discussed in this paper (numbers 1 to 4, 6 and 7) may be assigned with certainty to that area.

Both plain and decorated samian was made, and the mass-production methods employed resulted in a high degree of standardization, so that the shapes of the vessels and the types of decorative motifs can be classified and numbered. There are four main types of decoration: moulded, applied, incised and *en barbotine*, (liquid clay slip trailed on), the latter being the same technique as that used for decorating colour-coated wares. The moulded bowls are the most common form. The regular notched decoration made with a wheel (rouletting), as on number 5, is generally found on the plain forms.

The actual appearance of samian is well known: the fine fabric is pink or orange-red in colour, and the surface has a characteristic red gloss (not a true glaze). It can only be made from certain clays, a fact which governed the siting of the industry.

The pieces described in this paper all come in to the rare category of black-slip samian. While the normal red ware is found in very large quantities on Roman sites in Britain and on the Continent, so far, fewer than fifty examples of its black counterpart have been published from this country, though no doubt many more have actually been found. The seven specimens published here are the only examples known from South Wales, though Roman sites in the area have produced great quantities of red samian.

It seems that Lezoux in Central Gaul was the only place where black samian was made, though sometimes the dividing line between black samian and other fine black wares is not easy to define, and there is still much to be learnt on the subject. The large South Gaulish workshops at La Graufesenque, which held the monopoly of the samian industry during the first century, occasionally produced a rare 'marbled' red-and-yellow samian, but not, apparently, black ware.

There are no special technical problems involved in the manufacture of black samian. The technique is closely allied to that of making Castor and Rhenish wares and Greek pottery. Black samian would have been made in the same way and from the same materials as the red pottery, except that at some stage in the firing, a reducing atmosphere (i.e. the exclusion of oxygen) would have been produced in the kiln. The point of time at which this change was carried out, its duration, the position of the pots and other factors, would all affect to some degree the final appearance of the ware, but the main effect would be to reduce the surface gloss

to a dark colour. The aim of the potters who made this ware was to some extent to imitate the appearance of metal vessels, and the dark gloss, sometimes a silvery grey or bronze colour as well as black, often has a slightly metallic sheen².

It is fairly certain that black Central Gaulish samian with moulded decoration can all be assigned to the workshops of four potters, three of whom are very well known, and made large quantities of red samian. They are **LIBERTVS**, who may have introduced the manufacture of black samian, **BVTRIO**, probably his immediate successor, and **PATERNVS**, one of the most prolific potters of the early Antonine period. In addition there are some black vessels by an unknown potter with a distinctive decorative style.

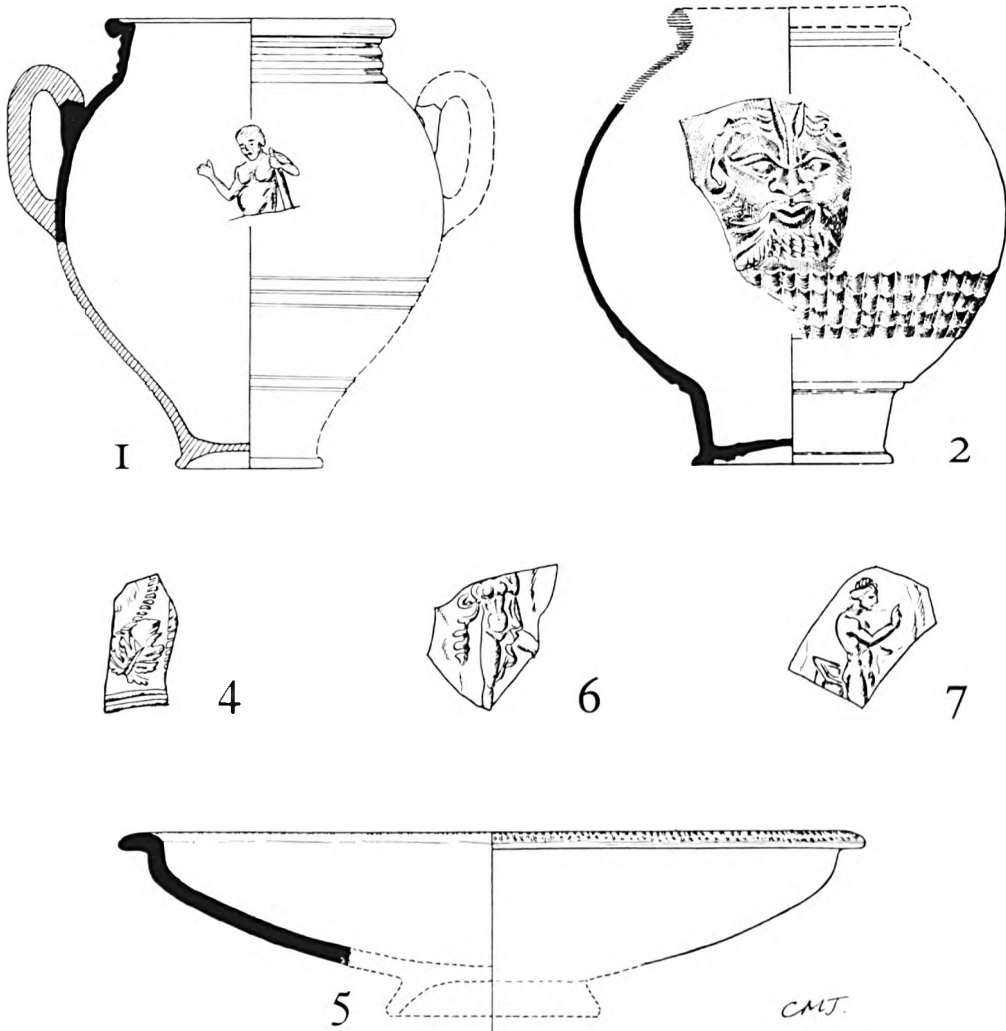


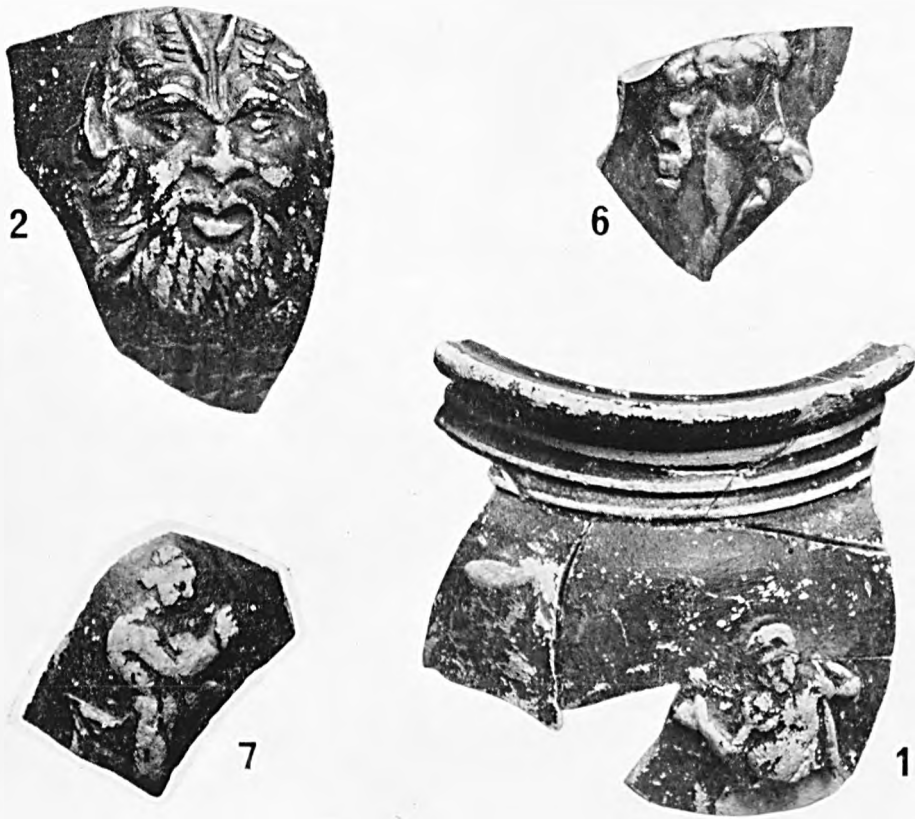
FIG. 1

1, 2, 4, 5; CAERLEON 6, CAERWENT 7, RHIWBINA

SCALE $\frac{1}{2}$

In contrast, the attribution of samian vessels with separate applied relief ornament is a difficult matter. None of these pots bears a name-stamp, and the typical decoration consists of isolated figure-subjects without all the small motifs and the general scheme of decoration which are the keys to the styles of individual potters. The appliqué ware, red as well as black, was presumably made by some of the same potters who manufactured plain and moulded samian, but one cannot tell which were the potters concerned. Consequently the dating of this type of samian is still very imprecise. Pottery with applied plaques of moulded relief decoration continued to be made in Gaul into the third century, but the type which concerns us here probably belongs mainly to the latter half of the second century.

Dr. Grace Simpson's paper³ on black samian ware has dealt ably with the archaeological problems involved in its study, and there is little to add here. The main purpose of the following descriptions and illustrations is to add to Dr. Simpson's list the five examples of this ware found at Caerleon, and two other pieces, one from Caerwent and the other from Rhiwbina, Cardiff.



Pl. 1

SCALE 1/1

1, 2; CAERLEON 6, CAERWENT 7, RHIWBINA

1. NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES. No. 54.389B. CAERLEON.

Fig. 1:1, Pl. 1:1.

FORM. Probably a fairly standard D.74⁴, a type which always has appliqué decoration; the shape is a globular-bodied vase, with two small handles springing just above the shoulder, three ridges on the neck, and an everted, flat-topped lip. The form was probably a little taller and slimmer than Déchelette's type-specimen⁵, and has been so restored in the drawing. The rim-diameter is 3 ins.

FABRIC. The ware is thin (about 2–3 mm.) and slightly micaceous. It is buff-coloured towards the exterior of the vessel, and slightly pink towards the inside. The parti-coloured effect is common on black samian and is due to the degree of reduction in the kiln, the position of the vessel, and other technical factors. The slip is black, but thin and rather dull. It is worn on the relief of the decoration, probably not intentionally.

DECORATION. The human figure, in moderately high relief, is applied, not moulded. The edges of the added plaque of clay are neatly smoothed down. The figure is intact down to the hips, at which point the applied clay has broken away from the surface of the vessel, and he is moving to the left, both his hands raised, with the left clasping a staff. The corpulent form and bald head suggest that he represents Silenus or a satyr. Though smaller in size, this type closely resembles the moulded-ware figure-type, 0.606⁶.

DATING. This vessel was found in the Caerleon 'vicus' excavations in 1954. Unfortunately, the layer in which it was found was somewhat disturbed, and of little value for dating purposes. Both South and Central Gaulish ware occurred, of various dates up to about the middle of the second century. This piece could be later, but there is no positive evidence.

2. NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES. No. 35.118. CAERLEON.

Fig. 1:2, Pl. 1:2.

FORM. The drawing shews a variant of form D.74⁷. Beneath the applied plaque is a zone of what is virtually very coarse rouletting, instead of the more usual ridges, while the base has a more angular profile than Déchelette's type. The vase may have had handles.

FABRIC. The ware is very thin indeed—only 1 mm. in places—and the highest point of the relief is about 5–6 mm. The fabric is hard and smooth, and the appliqué motif is neatly attached to the body of the vessel. In colour, the clay is pink, without noticeable variation, except where the slip has worn off on the mask itself, revealing a light buff clay. The slip is a dense black, darker than no. 1, and has a subdued gloss.

DECORATION. A standard type, the mask of Pan, D.109. Several examples of this and closely similar types are known, all on form D.74. These are as follows (the numbers in brackets refer to Dr. Simpson's paper, see footnote 3):—

1. (20) Silchester; red clay, black slip.
2. and 3. (28a, b.) Two examples from Alchester. Very thin (1/10th in.), with a bronze slip and buff body.
4. (29) York. Patchy pale bronze slip, thin light buff body.
5. (21) A smaller variant of the type. Silchester.
6. Another variant, from Winchester. Illustrated in *Art in Roman Britain*⁸.

As the variation in fabric is no more than might be expected to occur from one firing to the next, these pieces may all be the work of the same potter. Déchelette gives no information on the type, which is notable for its fine and lively modelling.

DATING. The sherd was found in the Caerleon School Field excavations of 1928, but precise details are not known. The date would probably lie somewhere in the latter half of the second century.

3. NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES. No. 60.482. CAERLEON.

Fig. 2:3.

FORM. The form is the rare D.66, a small wide-mouthed, narrow-footed vase, invented by the potter LIBERTVS of Lezoux. This particular vessel is similar in form to the stamped LIBERTVS specimen from Sèvres⁹, though it is a little taller, with a smaller rim-diameter (2.8 in.), giving it a somewhat more graceful appearance than the Sèvres vase. The grooves and ridges bordering the decorated zone are untidily made, and are represented diagrammatically in the drawing of the form.

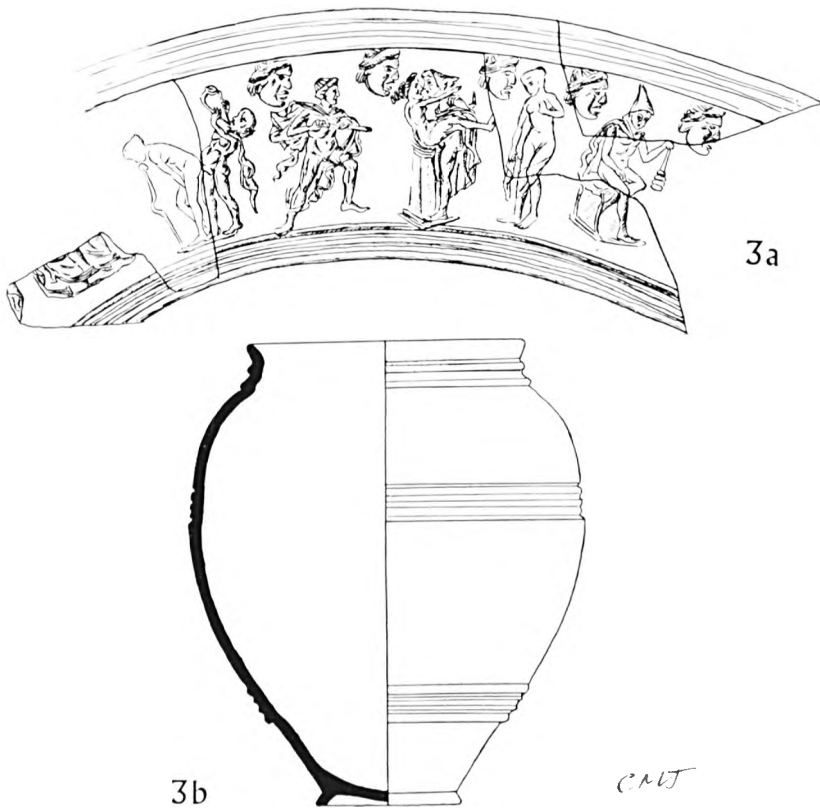


FIG. 2

CAERLEON (a) SCHEME OF DECORATION
(b) FORM OF VESSEL.

SCALE $\frac{1}{2}$

FABRIC. The clay is hard, and about 3 mm. thick throughout. It varies in colour from pinky-buff to orange-pink. The slip is black, rather thin and matt, but on the figures (the relief is very high for moulded ware) the body of the clay shews through as a light orange, producing a metallic effect. This appearance was intentional. Where the relief is rather more worn and rubbed, the body colour shewing through is buff.

DECORATION. The moulded decoration is entirely of human figures and masks, a style typical of LIBERTVS, who used very few small decorative details in his designs, unlike his contemporaries. All the figure-types have Oswald numbers, and are recorded on the work of this potter.

1. Demeter and Core, *O.970* (which is smaller than *D.568*). The drawing of this type in Oswald's *Index* is not clear enough to enable a reconstruction to be made here. The type shews some signs of being a slight variant anyway.
2. Erotic group with a satyr playing the double flute, *Oswald B*.
3. Mask in profile to the right, repeated between the main figures, *D.698, O.1337*.
4. Nude man with flying cloak, slightly smaller than *D.112, O.194*.
5. Erotic group, with the woman seated on an altar, *Oswald H*.
6. Venus, *D.181, O.290*.
7. Seated slave holding a lantern, *D.566, O.966*.

In an unpublished note on this vase, Dr. Grace Simpson makes the following comment : "The figure-types with Déchelette numbers have been found elsewhere on vessels signed by LIBERTVS, and there is no reason to doubt that he made this vase. An unpublished black Form 66 in the style of LIBERTVS found at Redbridge in Hampshire in 1877 is comparable and also has some of the same figure-types (nos. 1, 2, 5, 7) (In the British Museum, accession no. 1937/6-9/1)." I am indebted to Dr. Simpson for this information.

The modelling of the figures, all of which are on a very small scale, is excellent. The actual moulding is also good, which is not always the case on this potter's work, but the design itself is crowded and somewhat untidy.

DATING. The vase was found in the 1959 excavations at Jenkins Field, Caerleon. It was in a group of samian which can be dated to the Trajanic and early Hadrianic period. Several late South Gaulish sherds were found in the group, probably Trajanic in date, and also sherds by the Trajanic Central Gaulish potter X-3. There is an early Hadrianic Central Gaulish piece, itself of considerable interest, which cannot yet be assigned with certainty. A coin of Hadrian was found in the deposit.

The working-life of LIBERTVS, to whom this piece can be assigned, was about A.D. 100-120, and the associations of this vessel agree with such a date.

4. NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES. No. 54.398A. CAERLEON.

Fig. 1:4.

FORM. As the sherd is so small, there is some doubt about the exact shape of the vessel, though it was certainly a pot with a globular body. The two small ridges at the base of the moulded

decoration suggest that it might be from a D.66. Fine throwing-grooves are visible on the interior. **FABRIC.** The ware is very much more like that of the standard red samian than is the case with any of the other pieces so far described. The colour is pink, with only a slight tendency to a creamier shade near the outer surface. It is about 5 mm. thick, which is noticeably more than the appliqué ware vessels or the LIBERTVS vase, and not much thinner than many decorated red samian bowls. The slip is thin and quite glossy, black with a somewhat greenish metallic sheen, perhaps caused by soil conditions. Though the surface is rubbed, one can see that a red-brown gloss was allowed to shew through on the relief, producing an effect like tarnished bronze.

DECORATION. There are no figure-types, but just enough of the decoration remains to shew that it was panelled. There is a vertical roped border, part of a medallion, also roped, and a small, naturalistically-modelled leaf in the spandrel.

This piece could be assigned equally well to either of the two Lezoux potters other than LIBERTVS who are known to have made moulded black ware, namely BVTRIO and PATERNVS. The former was a Hadrianic potter, the latter Antonine. The leaf is not recorded on the work of either of these potters, but both of them used roped borders on occasion¹⁰.

DAING. The sherd was found in the Antonine culvert, in the 1954 excavations at Caerleon. The culvert contained large quantities of typically Antonine central Gaulish samian, by such potters as CINNAMVS, ALBVCIVS and CASVRIVS. In view of this, it could be suggested that the piece is the work of PATERNVS rather than the earlier BVTRIO, whose working-life covered roughly A.D. 120–145. As these two potters were closely associated, however, PATERNVS probably taking over from BVTRIO around the middle of the second century, it is very difficult to assign such a small piece definitely to one or the other. The rare black vessels could have had a higher survival value than the common red samian, and the fact that this sherd was found in a late second-century context does not preclude the possibility of its having been manufactured before the middle of the century. One may suggest that this piece was made in the mid-second century, in the workshop of either BVTRIO or PATERNVS.

5. NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES. No. 56.214B. CAERLEON.

Fig. 1:5.

FORM. The rim is curved and everted, like that of a Dr.35 or 36¹¹, and the curve of the bowl is smooth and shallow. The rim-diameter is between seven and eight inches. As this is evidently not one of the standard samian shapes, the precise form is difficult to determine, but it must have been either a plain shallow bowl or a dish with a pedestal foot. If it was a plain bowl, which seems more likely, the direction of the curve suggests that it would have had a rather small footring, as shewn in the drawing.

FABRIC. The average thickness is about 5 mm., and the ware is very fine. The colour is variable; in places it is a sandwich of pink between yellowish-cream layers, but in the rim the colour is cream throughout. There are also patches of a pale greyish colour, but the total effect is creamy-pink. The slip is quite thin, but smooth and uniform. It is not a dense black, but soft charcoal grey, and is lustrous rather than glossy.

DECORATION. The only ornament on this piece is the fine rouletting, in two zones, on the rim, giving a stippled appearance. The rouletting is of the type that frequently occurs on various samian forms, though it is somewhat more delicate.

DATING. From the Caerleon excavations of 1955, this sherd was found in a slightly disturbed layer, and its associations are not reliable enough to use as dating evidence, though one may perhaps record the fact that most of the other pottery from this layer is of Antonine date.

There is some doubt whether this sherd may actually be classed as samian ware at all. At first sight the ware looks Mediterranean rather than Gaulish, though the possibility of its being of British manufacture cannot be ruled out. Black slip samian in plain, not decorated forms, does not appear to be known at all, and in any case, this piece is not in one of the normal plain samian shapes. Its generally classical appearance is in favour of its being imported rather than native. The fabric is thicker and softer than Rhenish ware or British colour-coated wares, and the pink colour is also more like samian than any of the other fine black-slip wares. Whether the vessel was made in Gaul or not, it is obviously closely related to samian ware.

6. NEWPORT MUSEUM. CAERWENT.

Fig. 1:6, Pl. 1:6.

FORM. From a globular vessel, in all probability another D.74.

FABRIC. The clay is hard and only about 2 mm. thick. The applied decoration is an additional 3 mm. at its highest point. The fabric is pink in colour, and the metallic-looking gloss is deep silver, not black. The fabric shews through as red highlights on the figure, exactly as on no. 3, the LIBERTVS vase. The edges of the applied motif can be seen both on the surface and in section. This is an exceptionally fine and well-made piece.

DECORATION. The figure is a nude female with some drapery floating around her. The type is apparently not recorded, but the pose and the style of modelling are very strongly reminiscent of the work of LIBERTVS. *D.471a* and *D.365* are LIBERTVS types in similar poses. This little dancer or Venus must surely be an original LIBERTVS type, and the sharp moulding and high relief indicate that it was not an old stamp when used for this example.

Although there is no record of LIBERTVS making black samian with applied decoration, this piece is so like his work in every respect that one must regard it as a strong possibility that it was made in his workshop.

DATING. No details are known about this find from Caerwent. If it is the work of LIBERTVS, it would belong to the Trajanic period, but until there is further evidence the question will have to remain open.

7. NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES. No. 21.95. RHIWBINA.

Fig. 1:7, Pl. 1:7.

FORM. Once again, this is a sherd from a globular-bodied vessel, probably of form D.72 or D.74.

FABRIC. The ware is somewhat thicker than that of the other pieces with applied decoration, being about 3 mm. The fabric is orange-pink in colour, though the applied decoration is in a buff-coloured clay. The slip is dull black.

DECORATION. The figure-type is of a nude, or perhaps partly-draped man facing right, with his right hand raised. It is not in Oswald's *Index*, though O.893 (D.519) is similar in some respects.

DATING. This piece of pottery was found in a quarry at Rhiwbina, near Cardiff¹², along with other Roman sherds of various dates. There is no useful dating evidence.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I should like to thank Mr. G. C. Boon and Mr. C. B. Burgess for help given in the preparation of this paper, and I am grateful to Mr. Cefni Barnett for making the sherd from Caerwent available for me to study.

NOTES

¹ For details of the British samian industry, see the appropriate section of M. R. Hull, *The Roman Potters' Kilns of Colchester*, (Oxford, 1963).

² For a discussion of the technical aspects of the manufacture of samian ware, see Mavis Bimson, 'The Technique of Greek Black and terra sigillata red,' *Ant. J.*, XXXVI (1956), 200-205.

³ Grace Simpson, 'Metallic Black Slip vases from Central Gaul with applied and moulded decoration,' *Ant. J.*, XXXVII (1957), 29-42. This paper describes thirty-five examples of this ware from various British sites.

⁴ D=Déchelette. The numbers refer to his forms and figure-types in J. Déchelette, *Les Vases Céramiques Ornes de la Gaule Romaine*, (Paris, 1904).

⁵ Déchelette, Vol. I, Pl. I no. 3.

⁶ O=Oswald. Figure-types numbered by F. Oswald, *Index of figure-types on terra sigillata*, (Liverpool, 1936-37).

⁷ The drawing is not the writer's work, but was made by an unknown artist before the war. At present only the sherd bearing the decoration can be found.

⁸ *Art in Roman Britain*, ed. J. M. C. Toynbee, (1962), cat. no. 150; illustration no. 181.

⁹ CGP=J. A. Stanfield and Grace Simpson, *Central Gaulish Potters*, (London, 1958). The Sèvres vase is illustrated on Pl. 51, no. 602.

¹⁰ CGP, Pl. 58, no. 659 and Pl. 104, no. 4 are two examples.

¹¹ Dr=Dragendorff. Hans Dragendorff's classification of the forms of samian vessels remains the standard one, and was published in the *Bonner Jahrbücher*, XCVI, (1895), 18 ff.

¹² Various finds from Rhiwbina are recorded in a note in the *Bulletin of the Board of Celtic Studies*, I (1923) 73.

A SOCKETED AXE FROM LLANARTH, MONMOUTHSHIRE

By C. B. BURGESS

At the office of the Llanarth Estate, near Raglan, Monmouthshire, there is preserved a socketed axe of the Late Bronze Age, the property of the Trustees of the Llanarth Estate¹. This was found about 1959 during the ploughing of a field on the Estate, some two thirds of a mile north east of Llanarth Court and about 400 yards east of Ty Newydd (National Grid Reference SO 387114). The field is bounded to north and south by old sunken lanes, and slopes down to a stream on its west. It is thought that the axe was originally turned up some months prior to its actually being noticed, when a drain was being dug across the field, up to 11 feet deep in places, from an old pond at the crest of the slope down to the stream.

DESCRIPTION

The Llanarth axe (Pl. 1a and Fig. 1a) belongs to the well known group of Late Bronze Age socketed axes decorated with three vertical, or nearly vertical, ribs. Its sides curve gently to a moderately expanded cutting edge. The edges of the faces are rather rounded, and not well defined. The ribs on one face are roughly vertical, and very worn, but on the other they are finely moulded and placed slightly aslant. They extend from a moulding which encircles the body of the implement at the level of the top of the loop. Above this the form of the neck of the axe is simple, slightly flared in profile, and without any moulding or collar around the socket. The loop springs from the side of the implement immediately below the socket edge, and is placed slightly aslant. The socket is rather oval in plan. At the sides the casting seams have not been completely removed, though this in itself does not imply that the piece is unfinished and was never used, especially as the cutting edge appears to have been sharpened in antiquity². The surface skin of the metal is a dull, dark brown, but where this has flaked and worn away, the metal is green. In places there are marks of recent filing, especially along the edges, exposing the bright, golden metal underneath. The length of the axe is 3.9 inches (99 mm.) and it measures 2.1 inches (53 mm.) across the cutting edge.

AFFINITIES AND CHRONOLOGY

The various types of three-ribbed socketed axe found in the British Isles³ would seem to have been broadly contemporary, in use in the period Late Bronze Age (LBA) 2-3⁴. All of their associations are in hoards of this period⁵. The evidence from Wales and the Marches is in complete agreement with this chronology. Here, three-ribbed socketed axes, of various types, are by far the commonest form of socketed axe encountered. Best known of the three-ribbed types are the axes of the South Welsh group⁶, which have a very restricted distribution in the three south eastern counties of Monmouthshire, Glamorgan and Breconshire. They are found here in large numbers, to the almost complete exclusion of other forms of three-ribbed socketed axe, and in this lies the interest of the Llanarth specimen. This does not belong to the South Welsh type; it belongs to a form rare in Wales and the Marches. Its most significant features, a simple, slightly flared neck without mouldings or collar, above a horizontal moulding at the

level of the loop, can be paralleled only three times in Wales and the Marches. The best parallel is an axe from Ellesmere, Shropshire (Fig. 1b)⁷, which even has the slanting ribs of the Llanarth implement. The other two examples are also from the north east of the region, from Garth Mountain, Llangollen, Denbs. (Fig. 1c)⁸, and from Bagley, Hordley, Shropshire⁹. Just beyond the Marches in north east Gloucestershire, two similar implements were included in the trader's hoard of socketed axes found at Bourton-on-the-Water¹⁰ and another was found at Chipping



PLATE I SOCKETED AXE FROM THE LLANARTH ESTATE, MON.

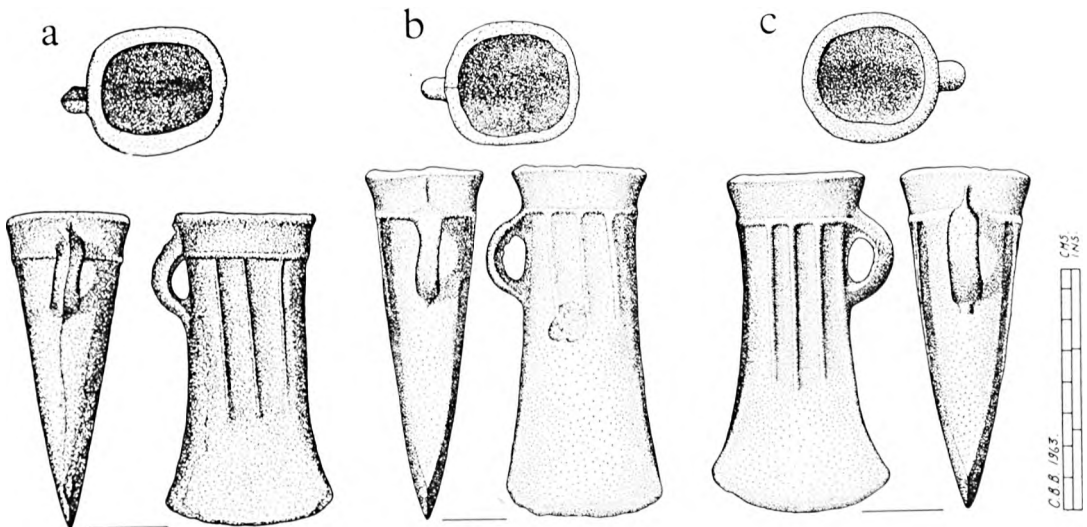


FIG. 1 SOCKETED AXES FROM: a. LLANARTH ESTATE, MON. b. ELLESMERE, SALOP. c. LLANGOLLEN, DENBS

Camden¹¹. The Bourton association provides a useful check for the chronology of the Llanarth axe. The various other forms of ribbed axe found here included an example of the South Welsh type, confirming the broad contemporaneity of this and the Llanarth forms. The currency of the South Welsh type in LBA 2-3 is firmly fixed by numerous associations in hoards¹². The Bourton hoard also contained a faceted socketed axe, a type not only closely linked with the South Welsh axes in Wales¹³, but also found in firm LBA 2-3 contexts in many other parts of the British Isles¹⁴.

The Llanarth axe can thus be regarded as belonging to the period LBA 2-3, c. 8th - 4th centuries B.C., a most noticeable rarity in an area where the domination of the South Welsh axe was so great. It seems likely to have been a stray import, but the present state of the evidence does not permit any suggestion as to its precise origin within Britain. At present only a relatively small proportion of the three-ribbed socketed axes of the British Isles have been studied and assigned to regional types, and only a complete survey of the whole series might provide clues to this problem.

NOTES

¹ Who kindly gave permission for the implement to be published here, and allowed the writer to examine and draw it. I am grateful to the Rev. F. Radcliffe, O.P., for his good offices in this connection, for first drawing the piece to my attention, and for information concerning the find spot and the circumstances of the discovery.

² An unsharpened cutting edge is the surest indicator of an unfinished implement. See Burgess, *Mon. Ant.*, I, part 2 (1962), 17.

³ For general discussions of three-ribbed socketed axes in the British Isles see H. W. M. Hodges, *U.J.A.*, XIX (1956), 31 and J. Coles, *P.S.A.S.*, XCIII (1959-60), 26-7.

⁴ The divisions of the Bronze Age used in this note are those proposed by Professor C. F. C. Hawkes to the Council for British Archaeology Bronze Age Conference, London, December, 1960. LBA 2 may be regarded as covering the period c. 750-650 B.C., LBA 3 c. 650-500 B.C. See Burgess, *op. cit.*, 25, n. 13. Over much of Wales and the Marches, Late Bronze Age metal types may have continued in use for another century or two.

⁵ Coles, *loc. cit.*

⁶ As defined by Sir Cyril Fox, *Ant. J.*, XIX (1939), 369, with map.

⁷ Miss L. F. Chitty, *T.S.A.S.*, 4th ser., XII (1929), 69. This implement is in the Rowley's House Museum, Shrewsbury (no. B.50). I am grateful to the authorities of the Shrewsbury Museums for allowing me to examine this and other axes, and for permission to publish my drawing of it.

⁸ J. R. Bruce, *Arch. Camb.*, LXXVI (1921), 146-7, with pl. This is in the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff (no. 43.48), whose authorities have kindly given permission for me to publish my drawing of it here.

⁹ Miss Chitty, *loc. cit.*

¹⁰ G. C. Dunning, *Ant. J.*, XII (1932), 284, fig. 4 p. 283. This hoard is in the Gloucester Museum with the exception of one axe in the Cheltenham Museum.

¹¹ In the Cheltenham Museum.

¹² H. N. Savory, *Arch. Camb.*, CVII (1958), 36-7.

¹³ As in the Caban Coch (Rads.) and St. Arvans (Mon.) hoards: see W. F. Grimes, *The Prehistory of Wales*, 2nd ed. (1951), fig. 67,255.

¹⁴ Savory, *loc. cit.*

ABBREVIATIONS — *Ant. J.* Antiquaries Journal; *Arch. Camb.* Archaeologia Cambrensis; *Mon. Ant.* Monmouthshire Antiquary; *P.S.A.S.* Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland; *T.S.A.S.* Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological Society; *U.J.A.* Ulster Journal of Archaeology.

THE KEEP OF CAERLEON CASTLE

By JEREMY K. KNIGHT

Since Hope-Taylor's publication of Abinger¹ and Thompson's excavations at Farnham Castle in 1958-59², much attention has been focused on the question of substructures in mottes, that is, features buried or concealed in the body of the mound rather than placed on top of it. Recently Thompson has published a list and classification of such features³ and it is therefore a particularly appropriate moment to draw attention to a possible example of a substructure in Monmouthshire.

Until the eighteenth century, the motte of Caerleon Castle, known locally as the Mynd, was surmounted by a stone keep (fig. 1). Churchyard noted the "castle" on its "Forced hill"⁴ and in the late seventeenth century it was still standing to a considerable height. It was severely weakened by the great frost of 1739 and by the end of the century all trace of it had disappeared, a process no doubt aided by the removal of its stone for re-use elsewhere⁵. Its loss was particularly grievous in that no known drawing of it survives and its very shape is uncertain, although O'Neil considered it to have been a circular keep similar to those at Longtown, Skenfrith and elsewhere⁶.

On his last visit to Caerleon in 1799 Coxe found the foundations being robbed to build a house. He saw part of the foundations and describes them as being "not less than twenty feet in depth, ten in breadth and thirty in length; the whole forming a solid and compact mass of large stones bedded in mortar."⁷ It is a little difficult to see how these foundations could have been removed to such a depth without totally wrecking the mound and apparently without any form of shoring, but Coxe seems to have been a careful and reliable observer and the information is at first hand. The motte was heavily landscaped in the nineteenth century and this may well have masked the results of the operation. The motte top is at present surrounded by a high raised walk containing much rubble and mortar and may well be largely a Victorian restoration. There can be little doubt that what Coxe is describing is another example of the substructure of a keep associated with a motte.

Caerleon Castle was already in existence by 1086 and was presumably founded by Caradoc ap Gryllfyd, Lord of Caerleon (*obit.* 1069-70) or by his son Owain ap Caradoc. The family held it, except for a brief interruption in 1171-4 when it was in the hands of Henry II, until 1217. In that year the last native lord of Caerleon, Morgan ap Hywel, gave the castle, without receiving anything in return, to William Marshall the Elder by a charter that one writer has aptly described as an "incredible document." By what force or fraud Morgan was persuaded to issue this charter is unknown, but although prolonged litigation followed, lasting into the 1230s, Morgan never regained his castle. It is unfortunate that lack of information regarding the form of the keep precludes us from trying to fit its building into this story, but if it were a circular tower of the Longtown-Skenfrith type a good case could be made out for regarding it as the work of William Marshall, strengthening his newly acquired castle.

The motte at Caerleon has a basal diameter of 200 feet, which is somewhat larger than usual among mottes in this area. As the keep, whatever its date, must certainly be an addition to the motte it is possible that the latter was enlarged when the keep was built. The substructure

may have been built on the surface of the original motte, which would have been heightened to the new ground floor level. Whether the interior of the substructure was left as a cellar, as at Farnham, or was filled in, is uncertain, Coxe's reference to "much slate" and "many glazed pantiles" among the material from the robbing being unfortunately ambiguous⁸.

The purpose of substructures of this type is still under discussion, but at Caerleon the main purpose must have been to found the keep firmly on the pre-existing motte. Deep foundations were not always necessary for this, as is shown at Longtown, where the vertically laid foundation course of the keep is at one point visible. At Skenfrith, on the other hand, it is known that the foundations of the circular keep go down some distance into the body of the motte⁹, although the exact relationship between the two is unknown. Some anxiety may have been felt for the stability of the tower at Caerleon, or the top of the old motte may not have been large enough to accommodate a keep of the desired size and the device of the substructure would have been a convenient way of solving either problem.

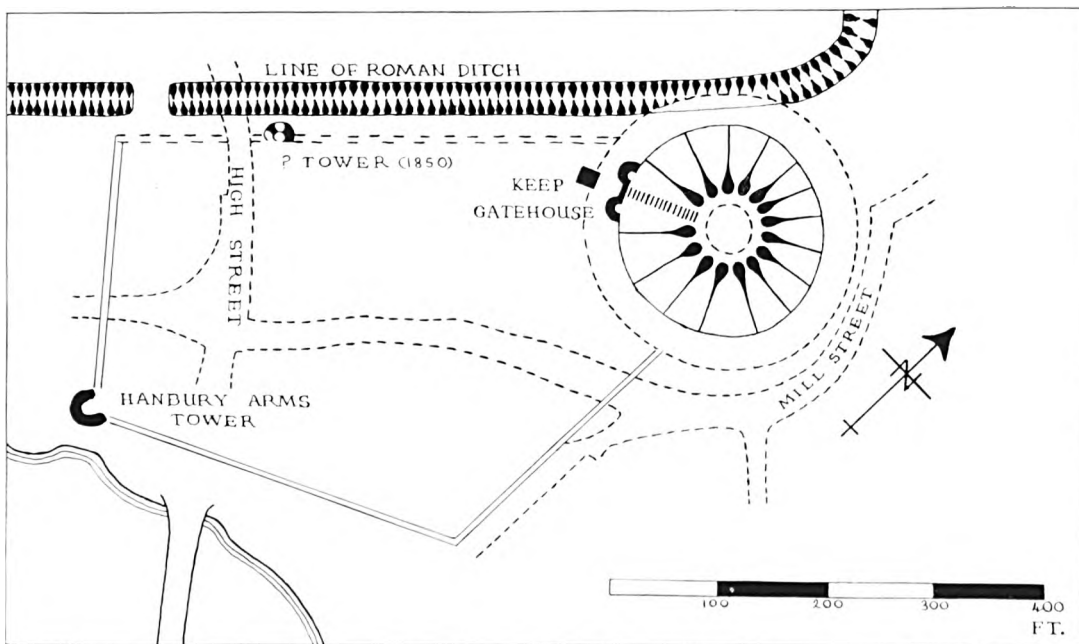


FIG. 1 CAERLEON CASTLE

NOTES

¹ *Archaeological Journal*, CVII (1950), 15-43. Recent Archaeological Excavations in Britain (Ed. R. L. S. Bruce-Mitford), pp. 223-49.

² *Medieval Archaeology*, IV (1960), 81-94. ³ *Med. Arch.*, V (1961), 305-306. ⁴ *Worthines of Wales*, p. 24.

⁵ Coxe, *Tour in Monmouthshire*, p. 88 (Ed. of 1801).

⁶ *A Hundred Years of Welsh Archaeology* (Ed. V. E. Nash-Williams), p. 135. ⁷ Coxe, loc. cit.

⁸ "I noticed among the fragments, much slate, many glazed pantiles, and numerous pieces of burnt and charred wood . . ." Coxe, loc. cit. This presumably represents the collapsed roof, but unfortunately Coxe does not tell us the relationship of this material to the substructure walls.

⁹ Toy, *Castles, A History of Fortifications*, p. 99.

NOTES AND NEWS

MONMOUTHSHIRE RECORDS

The Annual Report of the National Library of Wales for the year 1962-3 contains a brief description and a list of the main items in a supplementary collection of records which has been deposited in the Library by the Duke of Beaufort. The records relate mainly to the Badminton estates in the counties of Brecknock, Glamorgan, Gloucester and Monmouth, extending in date from the late 13th to the 20th century, and represent important source material in almost all phases of history. The Monmouthshire section of the list contains so much that is of interest and value as to deserve a wider circulation. With the kind approval of the Librarian of the National Library, we reproduce the section here in full.

MONMOUTH

Charters, Title Deeds, etc.

A charter of Edward, Duke of York, to the borough of Newport, 1414, reciting a previous charter from the Earl of Stafford, 1385 (copy and translation); a charter of Edward VI to the town of Monmouth, 1549 (copy); a volume containing *inter alia* copies of the charters granted to the borough of Monmouth, *temp.* Edward VI-*temp.* Charles II; a charter of James I to the borough of Newport (copy translation); a charter of James I to the town of Monmouth, 1605 (copy translation); and a large collection of title deeds relating to properties in co. Monmouth, late 13th cent.—20th cent.

Manorial

Manor of Raglan. Court rolls, 1365-6, 1368-9, 1377-9, 1384-5, 1443-4, 1446-54, 1466-7, 1483-7, 1632-5, 1638-40; *compotus* of *praepositus*, 1386-7; *compotus* of receiver, 1457-8; survey, 1552; estreats of fines and amerancements at the courts leet and baron, 1593-1641; presentments and estreats, 1653-1735; rentals and accounts, second half 17th cent. and first half 18th cent.; and presentments of petty constables, early 18th cent.

Other Manors. Court roll of the manor of Mora (court of William Kere, abbot of Tyntern, 1488-9, courts of William Kere and Henry Newlond, successively abbots of Tyntern, 1492-3); court roll of the manor of Porcasseck (court of William Kere, abbot of Tyntern), 1491-2; proceedings subsequent to a writ of *quo warranto* relating to the Earl of Pembroke's rights and privileges in his lordships in co. Monmouth 1567; copies of a decree in a suit between the inhabitants of the manors of Usk, Caerlion, and Treleck, plaintiffs, and the Earl of Pembroke, defendant, concerning rights in woods called Gwehelloge, Glascoed, Wieswood, and the Old Park, 1581; miscellaneous documents relating to the manor of Kilgoyyan, 1595-1700; estreats of fines, amerancements, etc., in the courts of the manors of Dingestowe, Penyclauth, and Landdenny, 1600-38; the presentment of a jury of survey for the manors of Monmoth, Whitecastle, Grossmonte, and Skenffrethe, 1606; a court order in a suit relating to heriot customs in the manors of Monmouth, Whitecastle, Grosmonde, and Greenfield, 1634; a survey of the manor of Llantillioe, 1651; the presentment of a jury of survey for the manors Ragland, Dingestow, Penyclawth, and Langoven, 1651; presentments at a speech court for the forest of Wentwood, 1661; the presentment of a jury of survey for the manor of Trelleck, 1677; leases of the duties of prisage and butlerage on wines in the lordship and borough of Chepstow, 1683-1738; rentals and accounts for several manors, second half 17th cent. and first half 18th cent.; and depositions, opinions, etc., relating to the boundaries between the lordships of Crickhowell, co. Brecknock, and Abergavenny, co. Monmouth, c. 1783.

Industrial

A complaint by the inhabitants of the lordships of Usk, Caerlion, and Treleck against the Earl of Pembroke, relating to the furnaces and forges for making iron erected near the

woods called Gwehelloge, Glascoed, Wieswood, and the Old Park, 1581; a grant of Tynterne Forge, Tynterne Furnace and wireworks, 1662; assignments of a seat or working place in the wire works at Abby Tintorne, 1666-95; deeds relating to the iron forge at Monmouth, 1678-1787, 1849, 1863, 1868-85; account books of Tintern Wire Works, 1688-90, 1698-1700; account books of Tintern Iron Works, Tintern Furnace, the Upper and Lower Forges, and Bont Seyson Forge, 1690-1701; leases referring to Tintern Furnace, 1706, 1708; an opinion referring to a proposed new ferry across the Severn, the existing Aust Ferry, and the cattle trade through Chepstow and over the said ferry, 1720; an account of Chepstow port rents, 1734-5; an inventory of stock at Abby Wyre Works and Pont Saysons Forge, 1740; a lease of the furnace for melting iron ore and the lower forge in the parishes of Tintorne and Chapple Hill, 1742; mortgages of iron works and wire works in the parish of Portcassegg, 1746-54; articles of agreement relating to coal and iron works at Blaen Dyffryn Eboith Fawr, parish of Aberystroth, 1768; deeds relating to the paper mill called Lady Mill at Mounon near Chepstow, 1773, 1798, ?1818-92, 1866-73; a lease of iron works and forges (Trosnant or Pont Pool Furnace, the Town or Old Forge, the Osborn Forge, the Park Forge, the Wire Works) in the parishes of Trevethin and Panteg, 1786; an Act for extending Monmouthshire Canal Navigation, 1797 (printed); share certificates of the Monmouthshire Canal Navigation, 1799; accounts, correspondence, arbitration awards, etc., relating to Abbey Tintern Iron and Wire Works in the parishes of Chappel Hill and Tintern, 1805-43; an Act for making a railway from Howler Slade in the Forest of Dean, co. Gloucester, to the town of Monmouth, 1810 (printed); Monmouth Railway share certificates, 1811; leases of the furnaces, forges, mills, iron works, and wire works called The Abbey Works in the parishes of Chappel Hill and Tintern, 1813, 1821, 1866, 1878; a lease of an iron foundry near the river Wye at Chepstow, 1864; a grant of land to the Coleford, Monmouth, Usk and Pontypool Railway Company, 1868; an agreement for leasing land in the parishes of Dixon and Monmouth to the Ross and Monmouth Railway Company, 1869; agreements for leasing land in the parishes of Llandogo, Penalt, and Dixon Hadnock to the Wye Valley Railway Company, 1872, 1875, and in the parishes of Dixon and Dixon Hadnock to the Coleford Railway Company, 1881-3; a lease of coal and ironstone under Gantref Farm, parish of Bedwelty, 1880-1; and an agreement with the Golden Valley Railway Company, 1888-9.

Ecclesiastical

A grant of the moiety of the advowson of Penclawthe, 1463; leases, etc., relating to the rectory and advowson of Dixon, 1549, the rectories of Trostrey and Llandeny, 1553, the rectory of Monmouth and the advowson of the vicarage, 1575-1610, the tithes of the parish of Howick, 1577, 1611-17, 1704, the rectory and tithes of Llanvihangell Pont moyle and Langevo, 1582-1638, the advowson of Gwernessny, 1587, the tithes of Monkeswood and Stavarney, 1594, the rectory and tithes of Raglan, 1598-1676, the rectory of Newchurche, 1599-1606, the rectory and tithes of Monmouth, 1663, the rectory and tithes of Langevo, 1664, tithes in the parish of Bettus Newydh, 1664, tithes in the lordship of Penlley, 1671, a moiety of the rectory of Uske and Lanbadock, 1686, the rectory and tithes of Monmouth, 18th cent., tithes in the parish of Skenfrith, 18th-19th cent., and the rectories of Raglan, Landeny, and Dixon, second half 18th cent.; letters of institution of Morgan Johns to the rectory of Lansoye, 1575; an exemplification of the record of a suit concerning the proportion of the cost of repairing the parish church of Magor to be borne by the inhabitants of Magor and Redwicke, an annexed chapelry, 1640; a suit concerning the title to the rectories and tithes of Llandilo Gresseny, Penrose, Llanarth, Dingestow, and Tregeare, 1655; licences confirming seats in Monmouth parish church to members of the Beaufort family, 1683-1752; correspondence and other documents relating to the charity set up by Lady Scudamore in favour of five poor widows, the sum bequeathed having been used to purchase lands in the parishes of Lantilio Gressenny and Skenfrith, 1727-1862; papers relating to the rebuilding of St. Mary's Church, Monmouth, 1735-8; a copy of the terrier of the parish of Skenfrith, 1771; a lease of a schoolroom at Devauden in the parish of

Newchurch East, 1836; a lease of land for a National School in the parish of Llansoy, 1867; a grant of land as a site for a school in the parish of Glascoed, 1880; and a grant of land at Beaufort as a site for St. David's Church, 1896.

Miscellaneous

Valor of the possessions of the abbey of Tyntern, 1536 (copy, 1672); an inquisition at a court of survey held for the town and borough of Monmouth, 1613; a volume containing *inter alia* a copy of the ordinances and constitutions of the borough of Monmouth, *temp.* James I; extracts from the Common Council Book of the borough of Monmouth relating to the election of mayors and bailiffs, 1694-1818, with an opinion in a case relating to the election of the said officials, 1818; an abstract of the poll at Newport in the parliamentary election, 1727; and ordinances made and agreed upon by the mayor and aldermen of the borough of Newport, 1711.

A COIN OF CLAUDIUS FROM ABERGAVENNY

Under October 17th, 1879, the diary of A. D. Berrington, the excavator of Usk, records a Roman coin of Claudius I (A.D. 41-54) from Abergavenny. Dateable finds from *Gobannium* are scarce and in view of this the discovery assumes a slightly greater importance than is normal among chance finds of Roman coins. I am very grateful to Major J. D. Berrington, of Bettws Newydd, in whose possession the diary now is, for very kindly allowing me to record the find.

The coin, a sestertius, was shown to Mr. Berrington by a Dr. Smythe. Berrington's description is a careful one and enables us to identify the exact type. It reads as follows:

Obverse — Emperor rt., TI CLAVDIVS CAESAR AVG (PM TR. P. IMP)

Reverse — Garland. Within, EX SC OB CIVES SERVATOS

(Mattingly and Sydenham, *Roman Imperial Coinage*, 60)

With the coin was another illegible sestertius "damaged by fire and since by acids."

J. K. Knight.

BEARHOUSE FIELD, CAERLEON

I recall how the late Mr. J. R. Gabriel, a former Honorary Secretary of this Association, once expressed to me his regret over the perpetuation of the name Bearhouse Field for that part of the Caerleon racecourse which was excavated in 1954 by the late Dr. Nash-Williams. He cited it as another example of place-name corruption which in time might lead to misinterpretation. He maintained that even then there were people who were anxious to connect the site with bear-baiting! In the cause of historical truth, therefore, let it here be recorded that the name in its unblemished form should read *Berrow's* Field. Phonetically, there is hardly any distinction between *Berrow's* and *Bearhouse* and it is easy to see how the meaning came to be distorted through common usage in a period of comparative illiteracy.

Further light was thrown on the subject when, in going through Mr. Gabriel's papers which were handed to me by his widow soon after his death, I came across the notice of a sale of Monmouthshire properties held at the King's Head Hotel, Newport in May, 1814. I was intrigued to discover that one of the lots put up for sale was "a freehold close called Bearhouse Field (formerly part of Bearhouse or Berrow's Farm)." Those whose concern is economic history might like to know that the meadow was 14 acres 2 roods in area, that in 1814 it was on lease to one Roger Hughes for 21 years from 1799 at £50, and that it once formed a parcel of the manor of Caerleon. For my part I was just interested to learn that it had been known as Bearhouse Field for at least a century and a half and I see no valid reason why it should be corrected now—providing we remember that it has nothing to do with bears!

Cefni Barnett.

FROM OTHER JOURNALS

Important papers relating to the antiquities and history of Monmouthshire appear from time to time in the pages of other journals and it has been suggested that members might like to have their attention drawn to some of them. We give below some *selected* works that have appeared in the last few years.

Roman

“Caerleon and the Roman Forts in Wales in the Second Century A.D.; Part I: Caerleon and North Wales,” by Dr. Grace Simpson, in *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, Vol. CXI, 1962, pp. 103–166. This article is part of a larger study of Wales and the southern Pennines in the second century A.D. and is virtually a new interpretation of the history of Roman Wales, based on new discoveries, modern archaeological methods and a re-assessment of the pottery and coins and inscriptions found on the various sites. All these sources combine to change radically many accepted points of view. For example, the accepted view is that parts of the fortress at Caerleon were unoccupied after 140 and gradually fell into decay and in the amphitheatre the same interpretation was placed upon the devastated structure. Dr. Simpson suggests that neither the fortress nor the amphitheatre fell into decay after c. A.D. 140, but that both were in good order until part at least of the legion was transferred to Gaul in A.D. 196.

The fifty-sixth Annual Report (1962–3) of the National Museum of Wales refers briefly to a series of emergency excavations carried out at Caerleon between May and July, 1963 by Mr. George C. Boon, Assistant Keeper of Archaeology, on behalf of the Ministry of Public Building and Works. The excavations were made necessary by projects to develop playing fields over an area totalling 30 acres outside the fortress, south-west of that explored by Dr. Nash-Williams in 1954–5. “The difficulty of exploring economically so large an area, in which no remains were visible or had been previously located, apart from the Roman Street on the line of the Broadway, but in which much had been suspected, was met by geophysical surveys carried out by specialists from the Ministry of Public Building and Works and University College, Cardiff, followed by trenching by mechanical excavator. In this way the bed of the Usk in Roman times and the associated Roman quays of the 3rd century A.D. were located, and most of the remaining area proved to be free of early structures.”

A detailed study by Mr. George C. Boon of the Christian monogram from Caerwent (see the preliminary note published in Vol. 1, part 1 of these *Proceedings*) appears in *The Bulletin of the Board of Celtic Studies*, Vol. XIX, part IV, 1962, pp. 338–344. In the same issue Mr. Boon also contributes a note on a Roman signet stone from Caerleon and now in the possession of Mr. T. R. Till.

Medieval

A detailed study of Llangibby Castle, by Messrs. D. J. Cathcart King and J. Clifford Perks, appears in *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, Vol. CV, 1956, pp. 96–132. They show that though the castle was evidently built to be a fortress of the first rank, it was never finished. “We have here,” write the authors, “a very large castle which plays no part in history, a magnificently-built castle with no purely domestic buildings, a great and powerful castle whose constable drew lower wages than those of comparatively trifling places.” They reveal, too, that Llangibby has what appears to be the largest inner ward in England and Wales.

In an important paper in *Medieval Archaeology*, Vol. V, 1961, pp. 169–175, Mr. A. J. Taylor reconsiders the history of White Castle in the 13th century. By examining afresh the documentary evidence in relation to the historical trends of the period, Mr. Taylor shows that

there are reasons for qualifying the commonly held view that, following a period of some magnificence in the personal occupation of the justiciar, White Castle relapsed into obscurity and ceased to count after his fall from power.

Mr. Taylor also takes a fresh look at Chepstow Castle in a note in the *Programme* for the Annual Meeting of the Cambrian Archaeological Association at Cardiff in 1963. Because of the physical limitations of its situation, Mr. Taylor thinks that an orthodox motte-and-bailey layout and original buildings and palisades of timber unlikely at the time of the castle's foundation and goes on to suggest that the great stone-built hall that dominates the whole scene was at least begun by the founder, Earl William fitz Osbern (d.1071.) "If so," says Mr. Taylor, "it is the earliest reliably dated castle building in these islands, slightly antedating Count Alan of Brittany's hall at Richmond and the Conqueror's towers at London and Colchester."

Ecclesiastical

A most valuable and comprehensive review of the screens, lofts and stalls in Monmouthshire churches appears in *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, vol. CVIII, 1959, pp. 14-71. This is section 13 of an exhaustive and marathon survey conducted throughout the whole of Wales by the late Mr. Fred H. Crossley and Mr. Maurice H. Ridgeway. The screens, lofts and stalls in the following churches are described: Abergavenny, Bettws Newydd, Christchurch, Gwernesney, Kemeys Commander, Llanfair Kilgedin, Llanfihangel Ystern Llewern, Llangattock Lingoed, Llangeview, Llangwm Uchaf, Llansantffraed, Llantilio Pertholey, Mamhilad, Redwick, Rockfield, Skenfrith and Usk. The paper is profusely illustrated.

Houses

Coldbrook House, Abergavenny, was surveyed by Mr. Peter Smith before it was demolished in August 1954. His report, with p- published in *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, Vol. CVI, 1957, pp. 64-71.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS AND FIELD DAYS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1963

The 116th Annual General Meeting of the Association was held on 2nd February, 1963 at the Beaufort Hotel, Raglan. The attendance was affected by the adverse weather conditions.

Lord Raglan presided and in his opening remarks referred in complimentary terms to the latest issue of the *Monmouthshire Antiquary*. The Minutes of the 115th Annual General Meeting were read and adopted. The Hon. Treasurer's report was adopted.

The Hon. Editor drew attention to the fact that some of the Rules of the Association, last revised in 1927, were now obsolete or irrelevant to the present administration. Certain amendments were proposed and these were unanimously accepted by the meeting.

(The revised Rules of the Association are printed below).

The following Members were elected to the Committee to fill the vacancies created by the removal of the Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Editor as *ex-officio* members under the terms of the revised Rules and to bring the Committee up to strength: Mr. George C. Boon, B.A., F.S.A., F.R.N.S., Lt.-Col. H. Llewellyn Hughes, M.B.E., J.P., and Mr. E. Parry.

The Officers and other members of the Committee were re-elected *en bloc*.

Fourteen new Members were elected.

The Hon. Secretary was authorised to purchase new lapel badges.

The following arrangements for excursions were approved: Spring Field Day, May 25th, to the Roman villa at Chedworth and to Elkstone Church; the Autumn Field Day, September 3rd, to Kilpeck and Treago.

Following the business meeting, Mr. George Boon gave a talk, illustrated by lantern slides, on "Recent Work in Roman Monmouthshire." The President expressed thanks to the speaker.

REVISED RULES

Sanctioned at the Annual General Meeting of the Association, 2nd February, 1963

- I. The Association shall be known as the Monmouthshire and Caerleon Antiquarian Association.
- II. The Annual Subscription, of a sum to be determined by the Annual General Meeting, shall be payable on January 1st for the ensuing year.
- III. The Officers of the Association shall be: President, Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Editor who shall be *ex-officio* Members of the Committee. The Committee shall consist in all of 18 Members. The Committee and Officers shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.
- IV. An Annual General Meeting shall be held as early as possible in the year for the election of Officers and the transaction of business.
- V. One or more Field Meetings shall be held annually, at places to be decided on at the Annual General Meeting.
- VI. All Candidates for Membership shall be proposed and seconded by Members of the Association and their names submitted for election at the next Committee or General Meeting.
- VII. The Proceedings of the Association shall be printed annually.

VIII. No Member shall receive the Publications of the Association whose Annual Subscription is more than one year in arrear. Anyone allowing his subscription to be three years in arrear, after due warning from the Secretary, shall cease to be a Member.

IX. As the Association—by virtue of its affiliation with the National Museum of Wales—is entitled to nominate one representative who shall hold office on the Court of Governors of the National Museum of Wales; this representative shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

SPRING FIELD DAY, 18TH MAY, 1963

In glorious weather, forty-five Members travelled by coach and car into the Cotswolds for the first excursion of the 1963 season.

Members were received at *Elkstone Church* by the Rector, the Rev. Stuart J. Wall.

Elkstone, said Mr. Wall, lies a mile to the east of the portion of Ermine Street which passes between Gloucester and Cirencester. Within a space of ten miles one can name at least 30 churches possessing Saxon and Norman features, of which Elkstone is the most prominent.

The earliest note of the village is in Domesday Book. The name is of Saxon origin and refers to the stone or stone building of Ealac. A stone in the tower ascribed to the 10th century may well be the stone of Ealac, though the design is not Christian in character. The Church, dedicated to St. John the Evangelist, dates from 1060. Two heads seen in the beakhead ornament of the south door may represent the founder (? Richard Cormeilles) and his wife. The porch is of 14th century and has late 12th century grave stones incorporated in the west side and also in the lintels of the window. There are two scratch dials. The carved tympanum over the south door is a notable one and represents Our Lord with the Book of Judgement in His hand and around Him the symbols of the Evangelists and the Agnus Dei. On the door jamb is a votive cross. The beautiful east windows and the small one in the chancel are the only Norman ones extant. The original tower stood above the chancel but was later removed because it was dangerous and the columbarium built at the same time. The present tower is 14th century; the corbel heads seen externally on the north and south sides represent zodiacal, animal and bird subjects.

The Rector acknowledged his indebtedness to the guide prepared by the Rev. F. W. Potto Hicks, M.A., F.R.G.S.

The party then proceeded to the site of the *Roman Villa at Chedworth*, where they were addressed by Mr. David Wilson, M.A., of the Institute of Archaeology, Oxford.

The Chedworth *villa*, said Mr. Wilson, is the best preserved, though not the most extensive, known example in Roman Britain of a large country house of courtyard plan. Like other examples on the Cotswolds it was probably the residence of one of the noble families of the Dobunni, whose tribal centre lay at Cirencester (*Corinium Dobunorum*). The prime factor in siting the house was the presence of a small but constant spring, collected in a fountain-basin, at first rectangular, later rebuilt in octagonal form to hold fifteen hundred gallons, from which were supplied two sets of baths, the kitchen and latrine. The *villa* buildings were organized round a series of courtyards at different levels, with living quarters in the west and northern wings, a service wing on the south, and farmyard buildings presumed to lie further east at a lower and more convenient level.

The innermost court was enclosed to make a formal garden with a fine prospect down the coomb; onto it faced the main west wing, containing the dining-room with its fourth-century

mosaics of the 'Corinium School' and a compact set of baths of 'Turkish' type, while the south and north sides were occupied by the kitchen and steward's office and by a further set of baths, of the 'Swedish' or Spartan type (once thought to be a fullery), respectively. The colonnaded walk surrounding the garden-court was, however, a late addition and served to unite buildings originally distinct. The south wing originated as a half-timbered building, was burnt down and rebuilt, but still lacked the kitchen, latrine and steward's office of the latest period. Similarly, the west wing was once less extensive, with smaller dining-room and its northern end unoccupied by baths, whose later insertion was associated with changes in the north wing, where an original free-standing bath-house of conventional type was converted to the Spartan mode and connected to the remainder of the wing by further living-rooms. Thus at Chedworth, as at North Leigh, Bignor and elsewhere, the fourth-century courtyard *villa* was the culmination of a gradual process of expansion and enrichment which had its beginnings in more modest structures of the second century.

AUTUMN FIELD DAY, 5TH SEPTEMBER, 1963

Eighty Members—a record number—attended this excursion, travelling by coach and car. The morning was devoted to *Kilpeck Church* where Mr. F. C. Morgan was the speaker.

The best example of the work of the Herefordshire School of Sculpture, said Mr. Morgan, is to be seen in the church of Kilpeck. Many of its peculiar features are seen here in perfection. Originally, the largest and most important church with sculptures was at Shobdon, but it was demolished in the 18th century and three arches from the church were erected on a hill facing the mansion and these once magnificent carvings are now in a sad state of decay. Shobdon church preceded Kilpeck in date by about five years, c. 1140, and the decorative features in both churches may be attributed to Oliver de Merlimond, the founder of Shobdon, who was inspired by sculpture he saw on his journey through France and Spain during his pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. Those showing Byzantine influence were used at Kilpeck and other churches in Herefordshire and neighbouring counties. They include three saints on each side of the chancel arch, copies from Compostela, and the fine tympana at Brinsop and Stretton Sugwas. All human figures have bulging eyes without pupils, and the garments of saints and angels are flowing and graceful. The apostles are depicted with Celtic tonsures, and each carries a book and asperger, except St. Peter, who has a key. The doorway at Kilpeck is the most attractive feature. The south jamb has soldiers with quilted tunics and trews on one column, and intertwined serpents on the other. The north jamb has similar serpents and foliage of a peculiar style. Both these features show Scandinavian influence, as do the projecting corbels at the west end each representing a crocodile swallowing a hydrus. Another feature on the doorway is the human head lacking a lower jaw, with foliage issuing from the mouth on one capital and the lion on the opposite capital to the south. This animal has his tail between his legs and curled over the back, as carved in other examples elsewhere. The abacus overhangs the columns on each side of the porch and looks curious. The voussoirs are elaborately carved with flying angels, beak-heads, and other subjects. The corbels all around the church are of great variety and the large original carved stone stopper is unique. Fine examples of the work of the school are to be found on the fonts at Eardisley and Castle Frome.

Members then proceeded to *Treago* where, by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Matthews, picnic luncheon was taken in a very pleasant garden, after which they were conducted in groups over this remarkably well preserved building by Mrs. Matthews.

Treago Castle presents no definite evidence of any work earlier than late 15th or early 16th century date. The building is square on plan with round towers at each corner. The original inner courtyard was about 26 feet square and was probably approached by a passage through the middle of the east wing. The north-west and south-west towers were stair-turrets and there

was also a stair at the junction of the south-east tower with the south wall. Towards the middle of the 16th century a two-storeyed porch was added to the north side; the walls of this and the main building were carried up to form an additional storey at a later or modern date. The roofs were largely rebuilt at the latter end of the 16th century. In the 17th century alterations were made inside the building and most of the upper floors belong to this date. In 1840 the building was further modernised, large parts of the south and west walls being refaced. The courtyard has been built over, incorporating reused 17th century material, though the well still survives—in a coat cupboard !

Tea was provided by Mrs. Matthews and her staff in the dining room.