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COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHÆOLOGY

FOURTH REPORT
OF THE
Scottish Regional Group

For the Year Ended

31st DECEMBER, 1949



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

COUNCIL OF BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY.
SCOTTISH REGIONAL GROUP.

FOURTH REPORT, 1949.

OFFICE-BEARERS.

<i>President</i>	J. M. DAVIDSON, O.B.E., F.C.I.S., F.S.A., F.S.A. Scot.
<i>Vice-President</i>	Professor STUART PIGGOTT, B.Litt., F.S.A., F.S.A. Scot.
<i>Joint Hon. Secretaries</i>	K. A. STEER, Ph.D., F.S.A., F.S.A. Scot. R. W. FEACHEM, M.Sc., F.S.A., F.S.A. Scot., 3 SOUTH BRIDGE, EDINBURGH 1.

MEMBERS.

Aberdeen Art Gallery and Industrial Museum.
Aberdeen Natural History and Antiquarian Society.
Abertay Historical Society.
Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.
Berwickshire Naturalists' Club.
Buteshire Natural History Society.
Dumfries Burgh Museum.
Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society.
Elgin and Morayshire Literary and Scientific Association.
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Glasgow Archaeological Society.
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National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland.
Paisley Museum and Art Galleries.
Perthshire Society of Natural Science.
St. Andrews University Archaeological Society.
Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.
Third Spalding Club.

I. *REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.*

The Executive Committee has pleasure in submitting its report for 1949.

MEMBERSHIP.

During the year the Aberdeen Art Gallery and Industrial Museum and the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow University, have joined the Group. The membership now stands at :—

18 Societies with an aggregate membership of 4344.
6 Museums.

ORDER FORM.

If you would like a copy of the **next** Report, to be issued in 1951, will you kindly complete this **ORDER FORM** and return it, with a remittance, to **MR. R. W. FEACHEM, 3 SOUTH BRIDGE, EDINBURGH, 1.** The cost will be 6d. per copy, post free.

Please send me, on publication,^{copy}_{copies} of the **FIFTH REPORT OF THE SCOTTISH REGIONAL GROUP, COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY,** for which I enclose stamps value.....

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BULLETIN.

The Third Annual Report of the Group was issued in January, 1949, since it was felt that it would serve a more useful purpose if it was published in time to give the affiliated bodies adequate notice of forthcoming archaeological projects in Scotland. Many letters of appreciation have been received, and application was again made to reproduce the excavation reports in the Archaeological News Letter. These were published in the May and June issues of that journal.

SUMMER EXCURSION.

The Annual Excursion took place on 11th June to Lanarkshire and Peebles. About 100 members attended. Dr. Douglas Simpson pointed out the architectural features of Craignethan Castle and related its interesting history. At Carnwath the fine mote was noticed in passing, and a halt was made at the Church where Dr. Simpson spoke on the growth of a Scottish burgh round the castle, the church, and the market-place, and went on to trace the history of the fifteenth century church of which only the N. transept remains, once the burial place of the Lords Carnwath-Somerville and now of the Lockharts.

At Lyne Dr. Steer pointed out the place of the Roman Fort in the Roman penetration and occupations of Scotland, and advised its re-excitation by modern methods. Finally Neidpath Castle was visited where Mr. Skilling related its chequered career and the part it had played in Scottish history. The cordial thanks of the Group were accorded to all the speakers and to Mr. R. C. Reid who organised a notable day with his customary zeal and efficiency.

FIELD SCHOOL.

It is gratifying to report that Aberdeen University has joined the Scottish Field School of Archaeology, which is now supported by all the Scottish Universities. Three Field Schools were held during the summer months—at Hayhope Knowe, Roxburghshire (Mrs. Piggott); Milton, Dumfriesshire (Mr. John Clarke); and Cairnholy, Kirkcudbrightshire (Professor Stuart Piggott). An account of the work of the Field School is given in volume XXVIII No. 106 of the Scottish Historical Review, and a separate report on its activities in 1949 is published at the end of the Executive Committee's Report.

BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY : A BOOK-LIST FOR TEACHERS.

The Council for British Archaeology has issued a concise list of General and Regional archaeological reference-works in booklet form. By an error, no Scottish section appeared in the original issue, but this has now been prepared on the Group's behalf by Mr. R. B. K. Stevenson and will shortly be incorporated in all future issues. Although primarily designed for the guidance of school-teachers, the booklet (price 1/6) will be extremely useful to all those interested in archaeology, and Member Societies will be told how to obtain copies as soon as the Scottish section has been printed.

GRANTS FOR PUBLICATIONS.

The Council for British Archaeology has announced that it will make grants for the publication of major archaeological works where the cost of such publications would be a severe drain on the funds of Societies. All affiliated Societies of the Group have been notified of the conditions of these grants and applications have been invited.

PRESERVATION OF ANCIENT MONUMENTS. PROVAN HALL.

This fine 15th century house has been threatened by encroaching quarrying operations which shake it to its foundations by blasting and envelop it in stone dust. The attention of the National Trust for Scotland has been drawn to it and this body is keeping the situation under close observation.

ADDRESS-LIST.

In response to a request at the last Annual General Meeting of the Group, a list of the names and addresses of all Secretaries of Societies and Curators of Museums in the Group was circulated, in order that members of Societies visiting different areas within Scotland might know whom to contact to obtain information regarding the history and antiquities of these areas.

AIR PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION.

Following the Exhibition on Air Photography and Archaeology, another entitled "Air Photographs of Castles and Religious Houses" has been produced by Messrs. Kodak with the co-operation of Dr. St. Joseph. Arrangements have been made by the Group for its display in the Art Gallery and Museum, Perth (September), the Art Gallery and Industrial Museum, Aberdeen (October), the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh (November), and the Burgh Museum, Dumfries (December).

1951 FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN.

Some preliminary meetings of interested organisations have already taken place, but plans have not yet been formulated. The Executive Committee is keeping this matter under close review.

ACTIVITIES OF SOCIETIES.

The Ayrshire Society has issued a questionnaire to aid in compiling "a survey of all places in the County which are of interest from the antiquarian or natural history point of view." A good response has been received including some lengthy communications. The Society is encouraging its Junior Section by inviting 4th and 5th year Secondary pupils to its meetings. The average attendance at the seven meetings held in 1948-9 was 150.

The Buteshire Society has published a useful "History of Bute and Guide to the Archaeological Section of the Bute Museum," as shown in the exhibits in the Museum at Rothesay. It was prepared by Miss D. M. Marshall and costs 1/6.

The National Museum of Antiquities has issued a "Short Guide to Scottish Antiquities." This has received a favourable review in a half-column leading article in the *Glasgow Herald* (8/12/49), and is excellent value for its 1/1 post free.

The Corporation of Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum has published a brochure "Medicine in History," commemorating the 350th Anniversary of the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. It takes the form of a Guide to an Exhibition in Glasgow Art Gallery, Kelvingrove, open till 31st January, 1950.

The Hawick Society has opened a Research Fund to mark the 60th year of membership of its President, Mr. W. E. Wilson. The target is £1000 and £230 has already been donated.

Mr. G. B. Deas, a member of the Council of the Kirkcaldy Society, is urging the Corporation to make Ravenscraig Castle presentable.

The Archaeological Section of the Perthshire Society has visited a number of prehistoric and historic monuments in Perthshire, including a number not marked on the O.S. maps. A set of maps has been obtained on which all prehistoric sites in the County are to be entered. During the winter, fortnightly meetings are held under the direction of Mrs. M. E. C. Stewart for the study of prehistoric archaeology.

A valuable collection of nineteenth-century water-colour paintings has been presented to the Elgin Society.

A group of members of the Abertay Society is engaged in the collection of place-name and field-name forms in the area, and another group hopes to make a survey of ancient monuments.

YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE SCHEME.

Mr. Stuart Maxwell, Assistant Keeper of the National Museum of Antiquities, was one of the four nominees who visited Denmark in the summer under the Danish-British exchange scheme organised by the Council for British Archaeology and financed by the British Council. Mr. Maxwell spent a fortnight in Copenhagen Museum and in visiting antiquities in Zealand, attended the excavation of an Iron Age fort at Bornholm and of a Viking camp at Aggersborg, and visited Museums at Odense and Aarhus.

THANKS.

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

J. M. DAVIDSON, *President.*
K. A. STEER, *Hon. Secretary.*

NOTE.

YOUTH AND ARCHAEOLOGY.

The Sub-Committee—Miss D. M. Marshall, Miss Anne S. Robertson, M.A., Mrs. M. E. C. Stewart, Ph.D., and Mr. J. G. Scott—appointed by the Group to consider ways and means of interesting young people in archaeology, has completed its report which is being circulated to all affiliated bodies.

ISSUE OF GROUP'S FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT.

The publication and free issue of this Report to all members of affiliated Societies has only been made possible by a generous grant from the Russell Trust and by drawing heavily on the Group's reserves. It is regretted that it will, therefore, be necessary in future to charge 6d. a copy for these Reports and for members to order their copies in advance. An Order Form is enclosed herewith.

II. *THE SCOTTISH FIELD OF SCHOOL ARCHAEOLOGY.* ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1949.

TRAINING SITES.

The Committee of the Scottish Field School of Archaeology selected as sites suitable for the training of students in field archaeology during 1949 the three following:—

1. **THE LONG CAIRN AT CAIRNHOLY, KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE.**
Director of Excavations: Professor S. Piggott, B.Litt., F.S.A., F.S.A. Scot.
Duration of Excavations: from 20th June to 9th July, 1949.
2. **THE IRON AGE SETTLEMENT AT HAYHOPE KNOWE, ROXBURGHSHIRE.**
Director of Excavations: Mrs. C. M. Piggott, F.S.A., F.S.A. Scot.
Duration of Excavations: from 20th June to 9th July, 1949.
3. **THE ROMAN FORTS AT MILTON, BEATTOCK, DUMFRIESSHIRE.**
Director of Excavations: Mr. John Clarke, M.A., F.S.A. Scot.
Duration of Excavations: from 1st to 20th August, 1949.

FINANCE.

The University of Aberdeen contributed £100.
The University of Edinburgh contributed £100.
The University of Glasgow contributed £100.

These three sums were used for the maintenance of students from the Universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow respectively, who attended one or other of the three Field School sites. St. Andrews University was not asked to make any contribution towards Field School expenses during 1949, as no students from St. Andrews University attended any of the Field School training sites.

The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland contributed £50 for the maintenance of students from other sources than Scottish Universities.

Dumfriesshire County Council contributed £10 towards the expenses of the Field School site at Milton, Beattock, Dumfriesshire.

The County Council of the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright contributed £10 towards the expenses of the Field School site at Cairnholy, Kirkcudbrightshire.

The Education Committee of Roxburghshire County Council contributed £10 towards the expenses of the Field School site at Hayhope Knowe, Roxburghshire.

STUDENTS.

The Field School Committee decided to use the grants detailed above only for the maintenance of students prepared to spend at least a fortnight on a Field School training site, as experience has shown that little or no benefit is to be derived from a shorter period of training.

Students who spent a fortnight or more on a Field School site were distributed as follows :—

University	CAIRNHOLY	HAYHOPE	MILTON	TOTAL
Aberdeen	—	—	1 (2 weeks)	1 (2 weeks)
Edinburgh	4 (8 weeks)	2 (6 weeks)	2 (6 weeks)	8 (20 weeks)
Glasgow	1 (2 weeks)	2 (6 weeks)	4 (11 weeks)	7 (19 weeks)
St. Andrews	—	—	—	—
Other sources	2 (4 weeks)	—	3 (9 weeks)	5 (13 weeks)
TOTAL ...	7 (14 weeks)	4 (12 weeks)	10 (28 weeks)	21 (54 weeks)

ACCOMMODATION.

Milton students were accommodated and fed in Beattock School, by kind permission of Dumfriesshire Education Committee. Cairnholy and Hayhope students were accommodated in private lodgings.

REPORT OF FIELD SCHOOL DIRECTORS.

The Directors of Excavations on the three Field School training sites have provided the Field School Committee with individual reports on their students. These show that all the students benefited from the training given, and at the same time made a useful contribution to the work of the excavation. A few of the best students have already proved themselves capable of undertaking independent excavation work on a small scale, and, after further training and experience, should be ready to conduct an excavation on their own responsibility.

STUDENT-WORKERS.

The number of applications for Field School training during 1949 exceeded by a considerable margin the number of places available on the three Field School sites. Students who could not be accommodated on these sites were therefore offered, through the Field School, the opportunity of assisting in the excavation of the Roman fort at Bochartle, near Callander, Perthshire, under the direction of Mr. W. Anderson, M.A., F.S.A. Scot. Several students took advantage of this opportunity of gaining some experience of archaeological field work. Mr. Anderson has reported that the results obtained in the excavations at Bochartle were largely due to the work done by these students.

CONCLUSIONS.

Although satisfied in general with the number of students who have applied for training, and with the promise shown by several of them, the Field School Committee is concerned by the preponderance of students from Edinburgh and Glasgow Universities over those from Aberdeen and St. Andrews. The Committee believes that this preponderance has been partly due to the difficulty of finding a suitable training site north of the Forth, which would be accessible to the two northern Universities, and hopes to include in its list of training sites for 1950 at least one situated in the north or north-eastern Scotland. The Field School Committee also hopes to make one of its training sites for 1950 a site of the medieval period, as training in field work of this period has not so far been available under Field School auspices.

J. M. DAVIDSON, *Chairman.*

ANNE S. ROBERTSON, *Hon. Secretary.*

December, 1949.

III. DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN 1949.

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

ABERDEENSHIRE.

Mr. J. M. Davidson reports a Bronze Age Flint Industry on a croft in the BUCHAN district of Aberdeenshire. The area is very exposed, cold and wind-swept and is almost barren of trees. In formation it is saucer-shaped and in its low centre the land is boggy and productive only of peat.

Two sites have been identified on the same croft. From the higher ground to the west of the steading there have come a great number of barbed and tanged arrow-heads. East of the farm buildings a tongue of arable land extends into the moss and from this area there has been recovered the greater number of finds. A site here, bordering on the bog-land, is marked by what is termed locally a 'Pict's House'—a slight horse-shoe shaped mound apparently enclosing a hut circle. The doorway faces north and outside this a great many artifacts have been found.

The finds include upwards of a hundred flint arrow-heads—leaf-shaped, lozenge, barbed and tanged—many of them being of singular delicacy of workmanship. Scrapers of all kinds are numbered by the hundred, core tools, blades and knives all in flint, while there are also a few stone axe-heads, hammers, etc.

The artifacts already assembled constitute an extensive industry.

(P.S.A.S.).

ANGUS.

Dr. F. T. Wainwright, Head of the Department of History, University College, Dundee, examined a site revealed by ploughing at ARDESTIE, near Monifieth (Nat. Grid. Ref. 37/503343) and, after a trial trench had been dug in February, conducted further operations in March and June.

Excavation revealed a complex of structures of which the principal feature was an underground passage. This was about 25 yards long and 7 feet wide; it was paved, and was constructed of large boulders topped by traces of corbelling apparently designed to carry a roof of stone slabs. Of unusual interest was a series of paved hut circles lying within the roughly semi-circular curve of the passage and, like it, built of boulders. These dwellings were surface structures but they were apparently associated with the underground passage. Various phases of occupation and reconstruction have been noted, and finds include a few pieces of Early Iron Age pottery, a fine cup-and-ring stone, and fragments of querns. Overlying this settlement was a later, possibly medieval, series of structures.

A large, enthusiastic and remarkably able labour force was drawn from University College and from the three major Dundee schools. The excavation is not yet complete, and plans are being made for its continuance in 1950.

BERWICKSHIRE.

A probable 'Henge' monument has been identified by Mrs. C. M. Piggott, at OVERHOWDEN, near OXTON. It is circular in shape with a diameter of 310 ft. and has an external bank, an internal ditch, and one definite entrance. A considerable number of neolithic flints have been found in the immediate vicinity. A trial excavation is to take place in the summer of 1950.

(P.S.A.S.).

DUMBARTONSHIRE.

The excavation of the Roman site at GOLDEN HILL, DUNTOCHER, on the Antonine Wall, was continued at Easter, and in September, 1949, by Miss Anne S. Robertson, under the auspices of the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow University, and with the assistance of a number of students from Scottish, English and American Universities.

The most remarkable result of the excavation was the discovery that the earliest Antonine structure on the site had been a tiny fortlet, 60 feet square internally, defended by a turf rampart set on a stone foundation 12 feet broad, and by a ditch 7 feet broad and 6 feet deep. This is the first structure of its kind to be discovered on the line of the Antonine Wall. Later, a fort was added to the fortlet on its east side, and in such

a way that the east rampart of the fortlet now served as the west rampart of the fort between the north-west corner of the fort and its west gate. The fortlet ditch was filled in, and the fortlet was retained in use as a small military enclosure outside the west gate of the fort.

That the addition of the fort followed very soon after the building of the fortlet is suggested, if not proved, by the fact that when the fort was built, the Antonine Wall had still not been completed on the east side of the fort. When the Antonine Wall was at last brought up to the east rampart of the fort, it made junction with the rampart at a point about 10 feet south of the north-east corner—further south obviously than the fort-builders anticipated—with the result that the Antonine Wall scraped so closely past the innermost east ditch of the fort that a massive stone buttress had to be built into the ditch-end to prevent the Antonine Wall from subsiding into it.

The fort had an internal area of half an acre, and was defended by a turf rampart set on a stone foundation 12-13 feet broad, and by three ditches on the east and south sides. The two innermost ditches were about 14 feet wide, and the outermost ditch almost 20 feet wide. On the north front, the Antonine Ditch, also 20 feet wide, ran past the fort without a break, while at a distance of about 36 feet to the north of the Antonine Ditch, and parallel to it, there was an outer north ditch, about 14 feet wide whose purpose apparently was to break up the level ground to the north of the fort.

The fort had no west ditches, since the area to the west of the fort was occupied by an annexe (in addition to the small military enclosure). The annexe had an internal area almost twice that of the fort and was defended on its south and west sides by a rampart set on a roughly laid stone base 14 feet wide, and on its north side by the Antonine Wall which was here 16 feet broad. The three south ditches of the fort continued along the south side of the annexe, but combined at the south-west corner of the annexe to leave only one ditch to run along the west side.

The fort had three gates—in the north, east and west sides—and the annexe had a gate in its west side opposite the west gate of the fort. Neither fort nor annexe had a south gate, doubtless because of the steepness of the southern slope.

Trenching inside the fort revealed the remains of a central stone building which appeared to have been built over at least one earlier stone building, and two sets of postholes which must belong to barrack blocks. Trenching inside the fortlet revealed at least two, more probably three, sets of postholes belonging to wooden buildings. Sufficient evidence has not yet been obtained to show which, if any, of these wooden buildings was contemporary with the occupation of the fortlet in its original form, before the fort was built.

DUMFRIESSHIRE.

Mr. John Clarke reports that work on the Roman site at MILTON, near Beattock, was continued in the summer of 1949, under the organisation of the Field School of Archaeology as in recent years, with the difference that it was necessary to rely almost entirely this year upon the students attending the School for labour.

The results were highly interesting and in some respects unexpected. Digging this year in the south field proved that a structure already known to exist there had been a Fort at one stage, and later an Annexe of one of the Forts in the adjoining north field. Both structures, on pottery evidence, fall within the earlier, or mainly first century Roman period. Underlying both Fort and Annexe an earlier Fort was found, which had apparently lain neglected for quite a considerable time before the area was again occupied. The amount of silting in the ditches presents a problem, for it is of an amount which can scarcely be explained even on the assumption that this Fort is contemporary with the operations of Cerialis. This Fort is probably in the 12-15 acre category and lies askew to the main axis adopted by all the others.

Other evidence of earlier occupation was also encountered about which it would be premature to speak. On the whole this south field looks like producing an amount of highly important and novel evidence.

Mr. A. E. Truckell reports that : (i) Roman roads were traced between Caerlaverock and Wardlaw Hill, and between Morton Castle and Gatelawbridge in mid-Nithsdale.

A probable Roman road was also identified between Lochfoot and Barnahcle, and between Carzield and Holywood village ; (ii) Excavation of the earthwork at CRICHOPE LINN proved that it was not Roman, although its shape resembles that of an Antonine fortlet. The rampart was found to be of earth faced with field stones, and its outer side was based on a cobbled surface : the inner side overlaid a 6 inch layer of charcoal. Although well made, the ditch is not of Roman form. A round cairn, not marked on the O.S. map, was noticed in an adjoining field ; (iii) a trial trench near the N.E. corner of WARDLAW Roman fort revealed the turf kerb of the rampart and the edge of the ditch, but no dating material was found ; (iv) further excavation of the ditches of CARZIELD Roman fort has produced a large amount of pottery, a knife, and a stone tessera. (T.D.G.S.)

EAST LOTHIAN.

Small-scale rescue excavations were carried out in October, 1949, by members of the Department of Prehistoric Archaeology, University of Edinburgh, on a fragment of a hill-fort threatened by quarrying at CRAIG'S QUARRY, DIRLETON.

A stretch of defensive walling, 12 feet thick and formed of an outer and inner facing of large uncoursed blocks with rubble fill, was cut through in section and found to contain a mass of midden material incorporated in the filling. Abundant animal bones, limpet and winkle shells, and coarse pottery of local Iron Age type were found. Further occupation material within the wall yielded similar pottery and the upper stone of a bee-hive type rotary quern. There seems reason to believe that the site is of the pre-Roman Iron Age. (P.S.A.S.)

KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE.

Excavations by Professor Stuart Piggott on behalf of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland with student labour provided by the Field School of Archaeology, were carried out on three ruined chambered tombs near Creetown and Newton Stewart, Kirkcudbrightshire.

At CAIRNHOLY, Cairn No. I is a conspicuous long cairn with ruined chamber and monumental crescentic facade. The cairn was found to be revetted with standing slabs, and the forecourt blocking was intact, covering several hearths, a stone-hole, and deposits of 'western' neolithic pot-sherds ; in the blocking were other similar pottery fragments, a large globular jet bead, a deposit of sea shells and flakes of Arran pitchstone.

The chamber was divided into two compartments, and in the outer sherds of neolithic pottery and a leaf-arrowhead represented the earlier interments ; later grave goods comprising sherds of Peterborough Neolithic and Beaker sherds (Class B), and a fine plano-convex flint knife. The rear compartment had been largely robbed, but a secondary cist still contained sherds of undecorated Food-Vessel fabric and a stone carved with a cup and rings set up on end. An abraded fragment of a jadeite ceremonial axe from the outer compartment is probably to be attributed to the earliest phase of the tomb. Scraps of cremated bone were found in both segments of the chamber.

CAIRNHOLY No. II is a smaller long cairn with the chamber almost completely exposed. There was no revetment nor facade, the chamber opening between large portal-stones, and again divided into two. The rear half was totally robbed, and the outer disturbed, but a leaf-arrowhead and a flint knife of Arran type came from the filling, and on a patch of undisturbed and probably secondary paving, sherds of three Class B. Beakers, and scraps of cremated bone.

THE WHITE CAIRN, BARGRENNAN is, in contrast to the two foregoing tombs (which fall into the gallery-grave class), a small passage-grave within a round cairn. The whole site was much robbed, and the chamber completely gutted, but in the passage undisturbed paving was found on which were cremated bones and sherds of neolithic pottery reminiscent of that from Loughcrew, in Eire. By the entrance to the passage was a ritual pit in which a fire had burned, containing charcoal and cremated bones and a burnt flint tool of "fabricator" type. (P.S.A.S.)

PERTSHIRE.

The Archaeological Section of the Perthshire Society, under the direction of Mrs. M. E. C. Stewart, Ph.D., excavated a Bronze Age cairn at GLEN COCHILL (Nat. Grid. Ref. 27/904420). A short cist and beaker fragments were found.

(P.S.A.S.)

The Examination of the Roman fort at BOCHASTLE, near Callander, was continued for 3 weeks in July, 1949, by Mr. W. A. Anderson and Mr. Chas. Taylor, assisted by a party of students recruited under the aegis of the Scottish Field School of Archaeology. Owing to the presence of crops, it was not possible to examine the interior of the fort: in fact, it may not be worth while trying to. The work developed in four directions. (1) Two complete sections were cut through the large mound which was assumed last year to be the western rampart of the fort, one in either part, and its Roman construction demonstrated. In the level gap near the centre of the mound, a firmly compacted gravel roadway, 24 feet wide, was found between heavy stonework at the rampart ends. It was further discovered that the northern part of the rampart had been prolonged from the NW corner of the fort northwards almost to the river, for what purpose is not apparent. No certain traces of ditches were established on any side. (2) Some unusual features adjoining the site, e.g. a stone roadway, a mound with lime-kilns, were examined and eliminated as non-Roman. (3) A search for datable material was largely unproductive. Amphorae fragments, bases of cooking pots, nails, lead and some scraps of glass were turned up and evidence of fires was obvious. (4) An attempt to trace the course of the outer roadway/rampart on the east, discovered last year, was also unsuccessful. From numerous sections and trial pits, from a study of ground levels and an air-photo it is clear that since Roman times the river Leny has made its course through the fort area for a considerable period, denuding the Roman surface and depositing large quantities of stones, gravel and sand, impossible to distinguish from previous deposits. A little trenching when the ground is clear of crops is still required to fix the final position of the N and S sides and gates, if any, and to decide if there is an annexe covered by the prolongation of the W rampart. It is hoped to complete this next Easter.

RENFREWSHIRE.

A new Roman fort has been discovered by Dr. K. A. Steer at WHITEMOSS, near Bishopston. (Nat. Grid. Ref. 26/418721).

ROXBURGHSHIRE.

Excavations by Mrs. C. M. Piggott on behalf of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, and in close collaboration with the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments (Scotland), were carried out at HAYHOPE KNOWE, near Yetholm, in June. Student labour was provided by the Field School of Archaeology.

The site is over 1000 feet up at the head of the Bowmont valley in the Cheviots. (Nat. Grid. Ref. 36/860176). Surface observation and trial excavation showed a double palisade enclosure within a bank and ditch, and containing what appeared to be palisaded huts within.

Excavation showed that the palisade enclosure had consisted of two parallel lines of stockades about 5 feet apart, composed of alder and willow, and with the uprights set at intervals of about a foot in a well-cut foundation trench.

A similar palisade was found immediately behind the rampart. This palisade continued round the hill-top but the rampart had only been built round part of the circuit.

The huts were shown on excavation to have been very lightly built structures with the sloping members of the roof set in a shallow bedding trench. Postholes for the roof supports were irregularly placed. The hearth was central in each case. A large quantity of featureless coarse pottery was found, and also a clay spindle-whorl and an iron spearhead.

This type of hut has not previously been excavated, but similar huts have been recognised on other hills in Roxburghshire.

The finds are in favour of a pre-Roman date for this class of settlement, and in conjunction with the evidence from Hownam Rings, a date in the 1st or 2nd century B.C. is most probable. (P.S.A.S.)

Mr. C. S. T. Calder excavated a Bronze Age cist found during ploughing on the farm of REDDEN, near Kelso. It was constructed of slabbed sides closed by a heavy cover-stone and contained a skeleton, a food vessel and a flint blade. (P.S.A.S.)

Excavations conducted by Dr. I. A. Richmond at CAPPUCK from 12th to 24th September examined the south defences of the Roman fort in order to relate the known rampart and double ditch to a second pair of ditches revealed by air-photography. These ditches, photographed by Dr. St. Joseph, proved to be part of the known system of defences, of which, however, the evolution was clearly more complicated than hitherto suspected. The first defences had comprised a beaten clay rampart with stone foundation below its front and a single ditch. Next, the ditch had been filled up (with Flavian coarse pottery in the filling) and the rampart-front extended over it while a new ditch was dug immediately beyond it. This second ditch was next filled and a third rampart-front laid while the two outer ditches were dug, the outermost being W-shaped for the purpose of holding *chevaux de frise*. Finally, the rampart was thickened at the back and furnished with a new *intervallum* road sealing early Antonine pottery, the second ditch and third ditch were re-dug and the W-shaped ditch deliberately filled, partly with the distinctive filling at that time being dug out of the second. It was possible to relate these changes to the plan of 1911-1912 and to show that the reduced fortlet then detected belongs to the second Antonine occupation, the larger work having continued in use though subjected to modifications during two Flavian periods and a first Antonine occupation. As normally in forts behind the Antonine wall only two Antonine occupations, not three, could be detected. (P.S.A.S.)

SELKIRKSHIRE.

A new Roman fort and a large marching-camp have been discovered by Mr. R. W. Feachem at OAKWOOD, near Selkirk (Nat. Grid. Ref. 36/425254). (R.C.H.M., Selkirkshire)

SHETLAND.

In 1934-1939 excavations on the landward slope of the great mound at JARLSHOP, South Shetland, by Drs. A. O. Curle and J. S. Richardson revealed an extensive Norse settlement. By 1939 the foundations of at least 9 long rectangular houses had been uncovered. Unfortunately the war intervened before the excavations could be completed and the interrelationship of the various house groups clearly determined.

As a result of this season's field work undertaken by H.M. Ministry of Works and supervised by Mr. J. R. C. Hamilton, the chronology of the exposed dwellings has been established from approximately 900 A.D. to 1200 A.D. In addition earlier stratified deposits beneath the floors of these houses have been examined. Finds from these levels show that a flourishing Viking settlement was already established on the site by 800-850 A.D. and include fragments of decorated bone combs similar to those discovered in the 9th century boat burial at Oseberg in Norway, animal and axe-headed pins, steatite bowls, spindle whorls and iron nails used in the construction of boats.

The later settlement passed through numerous buildings and rebuilding phases as old dwellings were abandoned or converted to byres and outhouses, while new dwellings were erected some short distance away. Finds from these later houses include hanging lamps of steatite, bored and grooved line sinkers, coarse black pottery, and bone comb fragments. The latter are closely related to Norwegian types of early medieval date.

On behalf of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, Mr. C. S. T. Calder examined three sites. At STANYDALE a megalithic structure, now reduced to the lower courses averaging some 3 feet in height, comprises a large oval chamber within walls, 12 feet thick. The chamber measures 40 feet by 21 feet on the axis and open to it, around its

inner half, a contiguous series of six large recesses is contained in the walling. The floor of the chamber and the recesses consist of the natural gravelly subsoil and spaced along the main axis two deep postholes have been sunk to carry timber supports for a wooden roof. Exteriorly the outline is a somewhat elongated heel-shape with a shortened concave facade in which is the entrance. The relics include Bronze Age pottery, plain and decorated, two Bronze Age porphyry knives, a whetstone, pumice stones and many rude stone implements presumably of later date.

The MARCH CAIRN, ESHANESS, is a construction of large stones forming a square on plan, approximately 32 feet by 32 feet, with two upright corner stones on the northern facade. Though of unusual shape it appears to be a derivative of the heel-shaped cairns judging from the character of the masonry and from the presence of a typical cruciform chamber within the structure. The chamber does not enter from the main front but from one side, where it has evidently been placed with the intention of concealment from the beginning. The chamber was floored with thin slabs raised on a seating of small boulders, but it was much reduced and had been robbed of its contents. Two tiny fragments of pottery probably represented a funerary vessel, and two small unperforated stone buttons from the rubbish of the chamber made up the total finds.

A previously indeterminate site at SAE BRECH, ESHANESS, was identified as a broch with a defensive rampart and probable outer ditch. The diameter of the tower is about 56 feet over walls 15 feet in thickness. The wall of the rampart measured 11 feet thick and was built of a sandy core contained within a stone revetting wall on each face. At parts diametrically opposite in the broch walling two cells were cleared of debris and silt. From the southmost one much pottery was recovered from a deep layer of peat ash on the floor. The relics consisted of pottery, rude stone implements, pumice stone, a whorl and some bones. (P.S.A.S.)

STIRLINGSHIRE.

Lieut.-Colonel R. L. Hunter reports that the work done on the TAPPOCH broch was concerned principally with the inner rampart, but was not completed. On the south-east a trench was driven through which showed the rampart as it now is to be a reconstruction of an earlier and probably narrower rampart. Trenches on the south-west uncovered the northward turn of the rampart, and appeared to indicate that one and possibly both ramparts ran along the west side between broch and 'precipice' perhaps rather as walls than ramparts.

On the north, indeed, the rampart neither curves south nor runs up to the cliff, but its position was confused by reconstruction and later work, including a hut floor. The method of construction here was rougher than on the south, and indeed the rampart is anything but homogeneous in material or style.

A trench 10 feet by 20 feet was taken out immediately outside the entrance, on the north side of the present path. This showed that the depth of fallen stone was greater than previously estimated, which allowed sufficient for another 10 feet of broch wall. It was not possible in the time available, however, to reach rock level in order to estimate the amount or examine the entrance in detail.

A possible source of water was discovered near the top of the slope on the eastern side.

There were no finds save for food refuse and a lump of slag in rubbish incorporated in the earlier stage of the southern part of the rampart.

Two fireplaces were found against the outside of the inner rampart on the south west, where the draught would have been excellent.

WIGTOWNSHIRE.

Mr. C. A. Raleigh Radford reports that, at the suggestion of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society, the Ministry of Works has begun excavations at Whithorn. The investigation of the interior of the nave of the Priory Church showed that the whole area had been disturbed in medieval and later times and that all remains earlier than the 12th century must have been destroyed. At the east end of the Priory Church foundations uncovered by the late Marquess of Bute about 1890 were re-opened.

Immediately east of the east end of the Church were found the remains of a rectangular building with dry built walls, the outer face of which was plastered with mortar. The building was 16 feet wide by over 14 feet long, the west end having been cut through and destroyed by the east of wall of the crypt, erected about 1200. The building, which is almost certainly a church, was destroyed before 1200 and it is unlike any known Saxon building. It is therefore improbable that it dates from the period of the Anglican supremacy (7th-9th centuries) and the choice lies between the early period when Whithorn was a Celtic monastery and the 10th and 11th centuries when it was the principal church of the province of Galloway. Technical considerations and the description of Bede (H.E., iii. 4) point to the first of these alternatives and suggest that the building is one of churches of the monastery founded by St. Ninian. Excavations within the 13th century chapel on the Isle of Whithorn produced no good evidence of early occupation on this site.

(Interim report T.D.G.S. ;
Final report, P.S.A.S.)

NOTE.—Some remarkable discoveries are reported to have been made by air photography in south-west Scotland, but an attempt to secure details of these discoveries has not been successful.

IV. EXCAVATIONS PROPOSED FOR 1950.

- (1). The following excavations are being continued :—
 ANGUS : ARDESTIE (Dr. Wainwright).
 DUMBARTONSHIRE : DUNTOCHER (or Castledykes Roman Fort,
 LANARKSHIRE), (Miss Robertson).
 DUMFRIESHIRE : MILTON (Mr. Clarke).
 CARZIELD, WARDLAW and CRICHOPE LINN.
 (Mr. Truckell).
 PERTHSHIRE : BOCHASTLE (Mr. Anderson).
 WIGTOWNSHIRE : WHITHORN (Mr. Raleigh Radford).
- (2). The following new excavations are planned :—
 ABERDEENSHIRE : DUNDARG CASTLE (Dr. Douglas Simpson).
 BERWICKSHIRE : 'HENGEL,' Overhowden (Mr. Atkinson).
 DUMFRIESHIRE : GALLOBERRY ROMAN FORTLET (Mr. Truckell).
 ROXBURGHSHIRE : BONCHESTER HILL-FORT (Mrs. Piggott).
 STIRLINGSHIRE : ROMAN ROAD N. OF CAMELON (Lieut.-Col. Hunter).
 WIGTOWNSHIRE : ST. NINIAN'S CAVE, PHYSGYLL (Mr. Raleigh Radford).

V. A SCOTTISH BIBLIOGRAPHY.

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

The following abbreviations are used :—

A.U.P.	Aberdeen University Press.
Ant.	Antiquity.
C.B.A.	Council for British Archaeology.
C.U.P.	Cambridge University Press.
J.R.S.A.I.	Journal of Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland.
P.S.A.S.	Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.
T.D.G.S.	Transactions of the Dumfries and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society.
T.G.A.S.	Transactions of the Glasgow Archaeological Society.

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