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The Calcot Barn Stone

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THE ROMANO-BRITISH SETTLEMENT ON BREDON
HILL, ELMONT COPPICE SITE, 1953

A STORAGE-JAR GRAFFITO

A fragment of a large storage-jar has a *graffito* in cursive script which has been examined by Mr R. P. Wright, editor of *The Roman Inscriptions of Britain* who reads it as follows:

]PANA |

] | A II

'line 1 may state the product . . .]*pana*, followed by one digit. Line 2 may well be the bailiff's name, in the genitive case, ending in *-ide*. In cursive script two verticals can represent *e*.' The beginning of the text has not yet been found. Search for the rest of it continues.

Prof. I. A. Richmond concurs in the above reading of this incomplete *graffito*.

The find-spot is a second-to-third-century A.D. Romano-British corn-drying building in Elmont Coppice, Bredon Hill.

A. MORAY-WILLIAMS.

THE CALCOT BARN STONE

Calcot Barn was built by Kingswood Abbey on its grange there in A.D. 1300. It used to contain a sculptured stone which was probably Roman.

The stone is not mentioned in a brief description of the barn by Bigland (Coll. I, 'Beverstone') which he quotes from a Parson's MS (MS Rawl B 323 in Bodleian), which would be of date 1786-91; nor is it mentioned in any of the other published county histories. It is mentioned in *The Gentlemen's Magazine* with an engraving (May 1795, and see *Trans. B.G.A.S.* LXXII, Pl. 5), without interpretation. At a visit by this Society in 1886 it was described as Baalam and his Ass (*Trans. B.G.A.S.* XI, p. 204), or an ox treading out corn, or a Roman altar. It is described in 1925 by Baddeley (*Trans. B.G.A.S.* XLVII, p. 354)

with a photograph which is well lighted for relief: "under the wear and tear it can still be recognised as the head of some funerary monument, and that it presents a military motive doubtless associated with an unknown 4th century legionary living in S.W. Britain. He is shown armed and on horseback leading the way: behind him follows a standard-bearer with his insignia: other figures are made out with greater difficulty." In 1938 another photograph, by Mr A. D. Passmore, was published (*Trans. B.G.A.S.* LX, p. 345) without interpretation: this is larger and taken from a better angle, but less well lighted for relief.

Recently it was found that the stone had disappeared, though a rough concrete cast was in its place. It was thought that when the roof of the barn collapsed under snow in 1942, in spite of Baddeley's efforts to have it repaired in time, and the stone tiles were sold to America, this stone had been allowed to go with the tiles. Eventually it was found that the tin roof which replaced the former tiling had leaked so badly that the stone 'went to soft stuff,' was rescued by Mr Passmore who has managed to get it back hard.

I now find that Keyser shows it (*Roman Tympana*, Pl. 91 and p. 8), thereby assigning it to a much later period, and tentatively suggests that it represents the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem: the author's standing calls for more consideration of this than of the Baalam and other suggestions.

The shape and pose of the mount distinctly suggest horse rather than donkey, with a hogged mane and short ears, though the tail might be meat and not hair: the rider lacks any kind of Nimbus, and the round shield at his right knee is distinct: the picture is quite different from an Entry which Keyser depicts (Pl. 90): the size, 15 by 10 inch is not much more than half the smallest of his tympana.

Some lettering in the upper blank part of the stone, and what is perhaps part of a date at the left, are shallow, big, and rude, looking more like the scratched initials of some yokel or tourist.

I take the opportunity of recording that a friend has recently noticed a second inscribed stone, in the north 'transept' of the

barn, perhaps a companion to the foundation stone shown in the engraving. This has been so badly rubbed by passing wains that it is undecipherable: even Mr R. P. Wright could not make out more than 'remains of half a line of letters and perhaps part of a second line below: it may well be some medieval cutting.' This stone does not seem to be mentioned in any published account: it is likely to be what is referred to by Parsons in the same MS, 'and in another stone is said the men worked for *id* a day when the Barn was built.'

E. S. LINDLEY

A CARVED STONE AT DYRHAM

In the course of renovating Dyrham Rectory for Mr P. C. Girdlestone of Bath, on taking out a rejected fireplace, a carved stone was found built into the back wall. This is shown in the photograph: no further description is needed than that the upper part is one slab about 3 inches thick, and the four pillars are similar pieces of slab.

Dr Joan Evans submitted this to Dr George Zarnecki of the Courtauld Institute, who also consulted Professor A. F. Blunt and Mr John Summerson of the Soane Museum. The verdict is that it is provincial work of the 16th century, probably late in it. It has been suggested that it came from a tomb and that it served as a fire-back¹ but its purpose remains uncertain.

December, 1954.

WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE NOTES

ERRATUM

The note describing finding of the Kingscote coffin by the late Col. Kingscote, printed on page 157 of vol. 72 is the note referred to at the head of page 155 and was meant to be printed in the space there. The date of the Probus coin is wrongly given as 176 instead of 276.

¹ See letter in *Country Life*, May 19, 1955, p. 1315.