

36 44 1470. 15, 7
Extracts from letters written by one Edward Arblaster to a Mr. Wearn.
These are taken from the Bodleian Library from the Manuscript of
Wavlinson and Letters, folio 217.

London - May 9th, 1711.

Dear Sir,

I received yours and have twice been at the old Itocetum, where, after I had got acquainted with the heads of the place and told them my business, they conducted me to a field called "The Butts" where now remains the most visible parts of the Roman buildings.

The story they now have from tradition is that these buildings were part of the Church which I conjecture is very likely because I guess it stood about the middle of the city. They say also that about 200 yards eastwards from these there was a well, celebrated because made by the Romans; this story I can give no guess at because the well is now not to be found. They say likewise that in the field called "The Butts" they can now dig up old buildings and that for a considerable way on all sides of it. To prove this one of them took a spade and dug up cement which was full of large pebbles and pieces of Roman brick, in two or three places more than they had shown me before.

One of them took me to his house and showed me five or six Roman bricks now laid on a floor which he said he had got in "The Butts" near to the Church. I took the measure of them and some were exactly a foot square and others a foot broad and a foot-and-a-half long. Most of them marked from the top with L. S. signa.

Another of the inhabitants gave me a coin which he said was found about "The Butts" four years ago, and told me that a labourer had found a coin in digging a sand pit two years before I was first there, which coin I since purchased for half-a-crown.

They say there has been abundance of coins found about the town but they were all parted with, people now being sensible of the antiquity of such coins and consequently of the value of them. The coins you saw when I left Oxford were none of them found at Wall that I can hear of.

The place where the Pritorian was, by which I believe you mean the General's tent or the camp, either, I must leave it to a positive judge what signs to guess at these things by. If anything time must discover, for at present there is none above ground.

I must signify to you that there grows little or no grass in many places about "The Butts". The reason they give for it is that the buildings are so near to the top of the ground. I could enlarge with more particularly about this place but have not room for it in my letter.

I have got the large old spur which you have heard me speak of and I don't doubt that it will please you within this two or three years there has been a pot full of coins found at Wolverhampton, some of which I have the promise of.

I can bring you a piece of the Royal Oak in which King Charles II was hid in the rebellion, if you desire it. I have been at many places in the country in pursuit of antiquities, but often unsuccessfully.

I shall go to Croxton and Carswell Castle before I return to Oxford. If you have a mind of any particulars about Burton I believe I may furnish you of any place in this country.

I hope you will not think me unmindful of you, though I confess I have been faulty in not writing sooner. I assure you my neglect shall be repaired by my diligence for the time to come.

Pray answer this letter quickly because if the Smallpox is out of town I know not how soon I shall be with you, of which I shall take it kindly if you will write me a word.

If your book is printed I must desire you to keep it 'til I return for this day I received a letter from my tutor who by this time is gone for Ireland to whom I would have desired you to have to be delivered it, had he been at Christchurch.

Pray excuse faults, I being just going to antiquate, and I shall ever remain, dear Thomas, your very sincere and loving friend.

Edward Arblaster.

Direct for me at Longdon near Lichfield, Staffordshire by London.

Longdon June, 20th, 1719.

Dear Sir,

I received your kind letter with great satisfaction in relation to Itocetum. I have observed the place where according to your description the Pritorium stood, there being a rise of ground higher than ordinary. It joins to the east side of "The Butts" upon which one may easily overlook "The Butts". I have had the good fortune to pick up two more coins at Itocetum. One of them was found there in May last, the other formerly. Of what Emperors they are I cannot learn, all of them being very much defaced. These of them are copper and one brass. If you desire to see them before I come to Oxon which is uncertain, I'll send you them if I possibly can.

There has been much painted glass found at the place where they say the Church stood at Itocetum which I think is a confirmation that

there was a church. Part of the ruins are designed to be removed in a short time when I doubt not but I shall procure many things of moment but which is most certain that there will be abundance of Roman bricks I'm entire.

I have lately been at Croxton, Stone and Trentham, but could only get a traditional account and bare view of the ruins at the two former. At the latter Lord Gower's house stands in the very place where the Monastery stood. Here I had a conference with your friend Mr. Plaxton whom I asked if he would lend you a very valuable manuscript called a legre book if you should desire it. His answer was that he thought there was many things in the book that would be very serviceable to Mr. Hearn, but on the other hand he thought it might do a diskindness to MY Lord Gower. He has an extreme bad utterance in his speech but I understood him to this purpose. I have collected some inscriptions of some particular monuments out of many churches in Staffordshire and Cheshire. I have begged eleven coins that were found of Cirencester and borrowed others for you to see, particularly one very fair one of Brutus where it was found I know not.

I am at present upon a diligent search after antiquay relating to Burton Abbey where I shall be in about a week. I could enlarge wonderfully dae rae antiquarae but must refer you to my thin volume.

I have lately had the misfortune to receive some of the foam and slobber of a mad dog upon my hand which immediately occasioned me a long journey to a place called Parkgate to be dipped in the salt water. It lies seven or eight miles beyond Chester and fifty ancient ones from London.

I understand Mr. Bromley is gone to Baggington and from thence to Durham.

In your next pray let me know if the Smallpox continues, for if not

I shall soon be with you at Antiquity Hall. Your friend Mr. Houghton is absent upon the account of the Smallpox and I believe would return with me.

I design writing to you again before I see you, though I hope it will be soon.

I am your dear friend,

Yours most affectionately

Edward Arblaster.

Pray excuse haste. I have since observed the Roman bricks at Wall and can perceive no alteration from what signified to you before.

Dated January, 27th 1721/22.

Dear Sir,

I received yours of November 21st and am glad to find you are well.

The coin I sent you was found at Wall a little before I delivered it to the bearer in the famous field called "The Butts". It is famous because the old ruins have of late been more visible in that part of the town than in any other, the soil here having occasionally been removed.

Since I met with you that coin I have several times been at the place and was last there yesterday when I had a promise of all the coins that shall be found and if I receive any I will send them to you.

In viewing these ruins I was shewed a little place like a vault with a strong thick wall about it. It is made in the quadrangular form but a little oblong. There is in all probability by what appears three more such places joining to this. There are various conjectures about this vault. Some think it was a dungeon to keep prisoners in; others think it was a private burying place for some great family with which latter I am inclined to concur because the owner of the land tells me he has seen bones in the vault and that there has been painted glass found near to the place.

It is also manifest there is a covering taken of the vault made of cement.

I hope hereafter to give you a better account of the old Itocetum if I can obtain the sights some papers that relate to it, as I am told there are such.

As for your books which I am subscriber to I shall speedily return money to Mr. le Hunt when I will direct him to receive and pay for one copy in small paper. I mean Fordu's Scotichronicon.

I condole with you upon the loss of your worthy friend Mr. Isten as I promise myself you will do with me upon the death of my dear brother who departed this life on the 22nd October last to the inexpressible grief of his family and particularly of me who was his chief companion. Nor could I have ever satisfied myself upon any other consideration than that it was God's doing.

I shall be glad to hear from you when you are most at leisure and if I can serve you in anything I beg you will employ your sincere friend E. Arblaster, my service to my worthy friend Mr. Whiteside.

April 25th, 1721.

Dear Sir,

Some time since I was at Wall where I viewed some of the old buildings which are now uncovered the soil being carried from about them there is a place like a vault very strongly ensured. It is about two yards in depth and thereabouts in breadth and length. There is no place of entrance but at the top which is the reason I take it to be a vault. There are besides several other walls of a great length and in some places a yard thick or more. From hence I conjecture that the church stood in this place according to tradition.

I have one Roman coin that was found amongst these ruins. It is plainly marked with S.C. upon the reverse and the other side is I know plain enough for you though not for me.

I hope to be with you very soon though I cannot fix the time. I desire you will let me be a subscriber to your next book and I will pay you as soon as I come to town.

Last week I was with Mr. Houghton the Antiquary where we often drank your health. I desire give my service to Mr. Whiteside and believe me to be your most affectionate friend

Edward Arblaster.

Now follows some extracts from Hearn's Collections

May 13th, Wednesday, 1719.

Hearn's Diary Vol. 83
11. 5-7.

Wall, near Lichfield, the old Itocetum.

There is a field there called "The Butts" in which there are to be seen the remains of many Roman buildings. They have a tradition that these buildings were part of a church. They say also that ^{about} 200 yards eastward from these was a celebrated well, but the well is not now to be found.

Many Roman bricks have been found in "The Butts" most of them marked on the top with L.P. sigma. Abundance of coins have also been found about the town.

There grows little or no grass in many places about "The Butts". The reason they give for it is that the buildings are so near to the top of the ground. Note These particulars I receive from Mr. Edward Arblaster, gentleman commoner of Christchurch, Oxford. They sufficiently confirm that Wall by Lichfield was the old Itocetum.

The note L.P. sigma I take to be Lucius Peaco Centurio. We have seven for Centurio in Smetius and Gruta and many others that have written upon this subject. This Lucius Peaco was a Benefactor here as I take it, at least raised some buildings which perhaps were at no great distance from those of the Praefectus Praetorio.

May 13th, 1719.

1 -

Hearn to E. Arblaster, Rawlinson/122.

E.A.'s observations confirm what others have remarked about Itocetum. Glad he takes particular notice of inscriptions. The

Greeks and Romans did not usually allow inscriptions unless the person's of some distinction so that even bare names for that reason happen to be useful though there be no historical notes on the monuments to which the inscriptions belong.

More about Itocetum. Of what Emperors are the coins found here. Takes the spur to be Danish, the sight of that and other antiquities will be acceptable.

Thanks for design of bringing a piece of the Royal Oak. Has a manuscript about Burton Abbey collected from Charters and other instruments.

Hopes E. Arblaster will pick up as much as he can about the place. You need not be in a hurry in collecting materials for the Smallpox being still very ripe and fatal here I believe you will not venture to come to Oxford as yet.

Will drink E.A.'s health at Antiquity Hall by and by.

April, 15th, Good Friday.

The Priory of Trentham in Staffordshire is quite demolished. My Lord Gower's house stands on the site of it. My Lord Gower hath a great many manuscripts, several of which belong to the Abbey and he hath the muniments or writings belonging to the estate of the Priory as he had also many writings belonging to other Abbeys.

Out of Mr. Edward Arblaster, gentleman commoner of Christchurch his notebook 1719. He spent March 25th at the old Itocetum, now Wall. He went into the field called by Dr. Plot and the present inhabitants "The Butts" where the Roman buildings are now most apparent and where he saw enumerable pieces of Roman brick and cement, and latter of

which were so extreme hard that brick or stone would break sooner. The person who now owns the ~~house~~^{ground} told him that there had been in his time abundance of old coins found in those ruins all of which he had disposed of but that he had some entire brick which he found there now fixed in his parlour upon which he conducted Mr. Arblaster to his house where upon sight he supposed them to be Roman. Some of them were exactly a foot square. Others were a foot broad and a foot-and-three inches long; all of them marked on the top^{with} as near as he could guess, L.P. After this he went to another person who gave him a coin and said it was found in "The Butts" about four years before in which place the inhabitants have it from tradition that there had been a church.

The extent of the village has visibly been very large. There is one more place in the town where there are many ruins to be seen like Roman, but Mr. Arblaster hath not heard of anything remarkable found there except coins which have been found in all parts of the village now remaining.

April, 22nd Friday.

Out of the same notebook.

Itacetum, June 13th, 1719.

On this day I took notice of what I had not before which is a rise of ground much higher than ordinary situated eastwards on a little croft joining to "The Butts" which I take to be the place where the Pritorium stood. I heard also that in the place where the church stood, as I have before mentioned, there has been abundance of painted glass found which I think is an undeniable confirmation that the church was in that place. I had likewise the good fortune to procure two coins. One of them was found about a hundred yards north-east from "The Butts" about the latter end of May last; the other about the town formerly.

These are extracts from the diary of Hearn, as follows:-

Page 8 - Diary entry of May, 13th, Hearn's diary Volume 83, pages 5 - 7.

Page 116 - Passages copied March, 1719, Volume 86, pages 143 - 149.

Page 120 - Passages copied June, 1719, Volume 86, pages 162 - 163.

Arblaster's letters are as follows:-

Page 6 - Arblaster to Hearn, May 9th, 1719.

Manuscript Rowlinson Letters, Volume 1, folio 217 Recto No. 121

Page 22 - June 20th, 1719, Volume 1, folio 220 Recto.

Page 235, April, 25th, 1721, Volume 1, folio 222.

Page 320, Volume 1, folio 226

They were obtained from the Bodlean Library.

Extract from the Gentlemen's Magazine of 1772, Volume 5, page 558 - December.
Mr. Urban.

As some workmen were digging for gravel last winter on Hints Common about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile North from the Watling Street road they discovered at the depth of four feet from the surface of the earth a pig of lead 150 lbs. weight with an inscription cast in basso relief surrounded by a border of equal height. Through favour of the possessor Ralph Floyer, Esq. I have been permitted to measure and make a drawing of this monument of antiquity which I have herewith sent you, not doubting^{of} your readiness to oblige your antiquarian readers with representation of it in your magazine, to whom it is also submitted for an explanation by your humble servant Richard Green, Lichfield, October 17th.

The pig is 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ " long and rises as a truncated pyramid with a base of 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " and a height of 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " inscribed Imp. Vesp. VII T. Imp. 5 Cos. On the side Decia G. There is no comment Ex arg not desilvered.

M. E. Winbolt in Britain under the Romans page 129 says:
"Losses in transport seem to have been frequent. Two pigs from Flint were found in Staffordshire."

Note from by Robert Woody of a pig presented to Pat Tamworth Church:

"This pig of lead was found about the year 1830 on Packington or Hints Moor about 2 miles west of this church. It is supposed to be the pack saddle companion of one found in the same place in the year 1770, now in the British Museum. The inscription is Imp. Vesp. VII T. Imp. V. Cos. Emperatore Vespesiano VII Tito Imperatore V Consulibus, Vespesian and his son Titus joint consuls. The former for the 7th time and the latter for the 5th time which was in the year A.D. 76."

This is "Lead Mining Industry" in North Wales in Roman Times" by Graham Webster published in the Flintshire Historical Society Volume 13, 1953.

Archaeological Journal Volume 16, 1859, page 28.

The pig found on the common of Hints, Staffordshire near the Watling Street about 4 miles from the spot where the Roman way is traversed by the Vickneal Street at Wall Itocetum. In the Catalogue of Varieties in the Lichfield Museum collected by Richard Green taken September ¹⁷⁸² ~~1872~~, the following account is given on page 42:

"A pig of lead weight near 150 lbs. on which is raised letters appear the names of Vespesian and of Titus Vespesian, Emperors of Rome. It was discovered in the year 1772 in digging for gravel on Hints Common about 4 miles from Lichfield and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the Watling Street road at a depth of four feet below the surface of the earth." Presented to the Museum by Ralph Floyer, Esq.

On the dispersion of Mr. Green's Museum it came into the possession of the late master of Clair Hall, Cambridge, the Rev. Dr. Webb and on his decease in 1855 it was purchased by the Trustees of the British Museum. It measures $22\frac{1}{2}$ " x $5\frac{1}{2}$ ", thickness 4". The weight is 157 lbs. The inscription is shown by the wood cut on the side and is inscribed D.E. Ceag. The territories of the Maeangee or Kongae and the Briganties as Mr. C. Roach-Smith has observed "Journal of the British Archaeological Association", volume 5 page 226

included Cheshire and Yorkshire and in these counties as well as Derbyshire the pig stamped D.L. Ceag and Brig. have been found.

Mr. Green in his letter of October ^{17th} 1772 in the Gentlemen's Magazine volume XLII page 558 where the above pig described is figured, speaks of it as found last winter in digging gravel. It was then in the possession of Ralph Floyer, Esq., weight 150 lbs.

Extract from the Archaeological Journal, 26, page 280, January, 1869.

In January last, some workmen having dug to the depth of three or four feet on the east side of the present palace came to the wall of Bishop Langton's Palace erected at the close of the thirteenth century and destroyed by Parliamentary forces in the seventeenth century. Against this stone wall a pipe manufactory had been built. The flu was clearly traceable, the floor of the kiln equally so scoreated and fragments of coal, pieces of unburnt clay and several hundreds of pipes lay mixed up with the soil which had buried them. One of the pipes, though perfectly moulded ready for the kiln, had not been submitted to the fire. This curious specimen has been deposited with the others in the Lichfield Museum. The pipes found were all of the small size characteristic of the early days of smoking from which has arisen the popular notion that they were used by the fairies or by being of a pygmy race.

The depth of the bowl is about an inch, the diameter at the top $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch. The heels are of two varieties, flattened and pointed. To account for the irregular position of this kiln it seems needful to suppose the presence of a large number of men to whom the craft of pipe maker would be acceptable. Two occasions in the seventeenth century offer themselves for consideration. First when the Round heads were in possession of Lichfield Close and next when Bishop Hackett at the Restoration assembled a multitude of masons to restore the Minster which had been partly battered down in the Civil War.

Mr. Hewitt invited further suggestions on this point but no other theory was proposed on the general subject of smoking. It was urged by several members that the practice was much older than

the sixteenth century in Europe but Mr. Hewitt could not believe in the existence of pipes through the middle ages as some had maintained, because we never see among the one thousand of velvet paintings, glass pictures other representations of domestic life anything resembling a medieval John Bull smoking his broslley.

In illustration of the diminutive size of these pipes Mr. Hewitt exhibited some of examples from Japan brought to England by Captain Lane, Royal Marines, in which the bowls are little more than half-an-inch in depth. Such pipes are smoked in Japan at the present day by the upper classes of both sexes. The stems are of cane decorated with silver. Mr. Llewellyn Hewitt, F.S.A., contributed an excellent illustration of ancient European pipes in a series of wood cuts that had been given by him in his interesting serial "The Reliquery", volume 3, showing how, from age to age, their forms were modified and capacity increased.

Extract from "The Academy" No. 756, October 30th, 1886 page 294.
Itocetus or Litocetus, London October 23rd, 1886.

The curious catalogue of ancient British cities found in some manuscripts of Nennius, includes the name of Kyer Lloydcoct, which is the modern Welsh orthography would be Kyer Llewogoyd and might be translated the city of the grey wood; compare the English ^{place} names Harwood, Holewood or Harewood. Writers of the twelfth century including Geoffrey of Monmouth imagined that the city referred to was Lincoln but it does not appear that they had any reason for this conjecture except the accidental resemblance of the names. Llewogoyd certainly does sound something like Lincoln & as pronounced by a man with a cold in his head but it is scarcely necessary to say that the words of have etimologically nothing whatever in common. To suppose that Kyer Lloydcoct was a real Welsh name of Lincoln in the time of the compiler of the catalogue about the tenth century would be absurd. The conjecture that it was a mere etimological figment might in itself seem not unlikely. I propose to show, however, that it is a real name of a British city and that the place

to which it belongs can be identified beyond reasonable doubt. The original Celtic form of Lloydcocst must, by phonological laws, unquestionably have been Litocetum and the Latinised form would be Letocatus. This name does not precisely occur in any of the documents in the Roman occupation of Britain but the Antonine Itinerary according to the common accepted reading gives Itocetum as the name of a Roman station at or close to Lichfield and it is generally admitted that the Litocetum of the Ravenna geography denotes the same place. Neither Itocetum nor Liatocetum admit of any rational etymology and it is plain that they are corrupted forms of Litocetum each of them differing from the true reading only by a single letter. It therefore appears that the Kyer Lloydcocst of the list of cities in Lichfield which unlike Lincoln has so far west that its old name may well have been preserved in Welsh down to the tenth century, though apparently Welshmen of the twelfth century remember it no longer.

The proof is I venture to think satisfactory as it stands, but there remains a further piece of evidence in the English name of the modern episcopal city. The earliest occurrence of the name Lichfield is in Bader in the spelling Lyccidfelth. Obviously the former half of the name is not English but a corruption of an earlier British name. At the period of the English conquest of the district, the name of Litocetum would already have assumed ^{Llewtygoyl or} ~~the form~~ Lloydcocst of which Lycci would be a natural contraction. No doubt in spite of all I can say, contributors to the Archaeological Journals will go on writing Itocetum, writers about Lincoln will go on saying that one of the British names of the city was the camp in the grey wood and authors of Lichfield guide books will go on affirming that the name of their "dead-alive" city means field of corpses.

It must be enough for me to have proved that their worthy persons ought to do some of these things.

Henry Bradley.

Notes on an Eligy for Kindrowen, a seventh century Prince of Powis. The earliest text belongs to the eighteenth century but there is evidence that an earlier copy was once in existence. Translation is therefore difficult. The translation is based on a reconstructed text by Ivor Williams and presented in modern form by T. Perry from the "Oxford Book of Welsh Verse" pages 4 - 8. Eligy for Cynddylan. The ninth verse goes something like this:

Conflict of might, great plunder before Lichfield did Merfall seize. Thirteen hundred head of cattle and five litters, four score steeds and trappings for mounting. All Bishops with but one swine anywhere. He did not spare nor book grasping monks. Of all the renowned warriors who fell in their blood no brother escaped from the battle or and his sister. They fled with their wounds inflicted in battle. I will lament until I be in the pressed earth the slaying of Sinthlytholin celebrated by each brave.

Nennius in his "History of the Britons" III The History from six old English chronicles. The island of Britain derives its name from Brutus, a Roman Consul. Taken from the south-west point it inclines a little forwards towards the west and to its northern extremity measures eight hundred miles and is in breadth two hundred. It contains thirty-three cities. These are named in this order: York, Canterbury, Anglesey unknown, Caernarvon, Worcester, Silchester, Norwich, Carmarthon, Porchester, Caclion, Verulamion, Catterick, Cirencester, Gloucester, Carlisle, Cambridge, Doncaster, Dorchester, Bristol, Newyth, Manchester, Chester, Winchester or Kiavent, Colchester or St. Colen in Cornwall, London, Warren, Leicester, Drayton, Pevancy Tingrace, Roxeter, Camalette, Lincoln. These are the names of the ancient cities of the Island of Britain. It is also a vast many promontaries and castles emmerable built of brick and stone. Its inhabitants consist of four different people. The Scots, the Picts, the Saxons and the ancient Britons. Quoted by J. L. Giles, D.C.L. 1878. Collingwood quotes this as a ninth century author.

Extract from Shaw's General History , page 19.

The castle stood in the north-west angle between the Watling Street and another road going to Lichfield upon a gentle southern declivity. The old walls are provided upon a solid rock and much more of them was left within masonry. Now they pull them down to build withall. There is a gate crosses the Watling Street at the castle end by the side of the road. That called "The Temple" is upon the westward declivity much lower in elevation than the castle which is upon the highest ground in the neighbourhood and somewhat raised above the common level by heaps of rubbish and foundations which I could discern above the ground in the courtyard.

Translation ^{from} by Casius Dio, Book 60.

While these events were happening in the city Olius Plortius a Senator of great renown made a campaign against Britain for a certain Beresius who had been driven out of the island as a result of an uprising had persuaded Claudius to send a force thither. As it came about that Plortius undertook this campaign but he had difficulty in inducing his army to advance beyond Gallfor the soldiers were indignant at the thought of carrying on a campaign outside the limits of the known world. Narcissus Stora and Ico Satanaia. Their delay made their departure late in the season. They were sent over in three divisions in order that they should not be hindered in landing as might happen to a single force and in their voyage across they first became discouraged because they were driven back in their course and found none to oppose them. Further Britons as a recall of their enquiries had not expected that they would come and had ^{therefore} not assembled beforehand. And even when they did assemble they would not come to close quarters with the Romans but took refuge in the swamps and forests hoping to wear out the invaders in fruitless effort so that just in the days of Julius Caesar they should sail back with nothing accomplished.

Story of surprise over the Medway sending for Claudius once over the Thames at Vespesian, elephants are mentioned, caradomum taken no details, took sixteen days to get back to Rome.

This is a list of references about Wall:

- ✓ Ministry of Works Booklet - National Trust.
- ✓ Birmingham Archaeological Society Transactions - recent 1872 excavations at Itocetum Volume 4 1873 page 38 by Bagnall.
- Notes on Roman Cemetery at Wall 1927, volume 52 page 308 by Hodgkinson.
- Roman Bronze Bowl found at Wall 1922, Volume 50 page 50.
- ✓ Bath-house at Wall, Webster 1956, 74, page 12.
- ✓ Bath-house Site and materials, Volume 74, page 26, Thorpe.
- ✓ Section through Defenses at Wall, Volume 75 page 24, Webster.
- 1-20 (11) Thomas Pennant Tour, Victorian County Histories pages 193 - 194 on Staffordshire.
- Victorian County History, Worcester, volume 1, page 214.
- Horsley's Roman Britain page 436.
- Journal of the British Archaeological Association, volume 2 page 15; volume 46 pages 228 in particular pages 227 to 231. Volume 29 pages 54 to 57 and page 116.
- Archaeologia volume 8 page 95, volume 11 page 92, volume 93 of 1949 page 37.
- 1817 Pitt's History of Staffordshire volume 14, page 128 - 129.
- The North Staffordshire Field Club volume 36 pages 130/131, Volume 49 of 1915 page 139 about the Villa; Volume 67 of 1912 - 1913 plate 5A.
- 1776 Stukley's Itinerarium Curiosum volume 1 page 58.
- 1845 Camden's British Britannia by Gough.
- 1791 Shew's History of Staffordshire volume 1 pages 18, 19 and 356.
- 1825 Plot - The Natural History of Staffordshire, page 401. Edswick page 301.
- Loxax Guide to Lichfield.
- Staffordshire Advertiser of 1859, June 18th - a letter by Antiquary.

Cox's Majester Britannia volume 5 page 25.

Ordnance Survey 58 page 6.

Journal of Roman Studies, volume 43 of 1953, page 83.

Volume 15 of 1925 page 248; volume 47 of 1957 page 231.

23, 31-77 Litocetum by W. J. Blay. 1925. *London Hodgkinson*

Birmingham Regional Setting by Thorpe pages 87 to 112.

Staffordshire Historical Collection, 1950 - 1951 by Thorpe
on the City of Lichfield.

Geology of the Country round Lichfield, Memoirs of the

Geological Survey, explanation sheet 154 of 1919 page 10, pp 9 - 21.

The Victoria County Histories - the map on page 195 shows amongst
other things "The Butts" where the remains of Roman buildings
were found, the site of Colonel Bagnall's excavations and
surface indications of underground walling in the field
adjacent to the ^{TROOPER} ~~Straker~~ Inn. Castlecroft shows remains of
Roman buildings and also the wall in the garden of the
white house.

Mr. Gould's notebook continues with the following heading:

Excavations in the Roman Cemetery at Wall, October 1927 taken from
the Birmingham Archaeological Society Transactions volume 52, part II,
pages 308 to 311 by Hodgkinson.

The next page is from the same Journal volume 50 page 50. The
bronze bowl shown by Mr. Francis Jackson of Roxeter. This is the bowl
with the Christian monogram which has since disappeared and it is
thought it may have been sold to some Americans.

The next is Pitt's History of Staffordshire of 1817 pages 127 - 129.

Wall, a hamlet and manor is divided by the Watling Street and is
the ancient Roman station of Itocetum. The chief remains of this
remarkable antiquity are walls which encompass two acres of land
called Castlecroft but the part most visible with the ancient cement
is that which forms the garden of Mr. Jackson where a pavement of
Roman brick and great quantities of foundation stones have been dug up.

Page 4.

One of them is placed at Wall where are now to be found numerous fragments of antiquities such as Roman bricks, pavements, etc. and barricades of wood have lately been dug up, evidently military having the ends cut off by axes, saws not being then in use. The wood quite black and almost petrified from the immense lapse of time it had remained in the earth. Coins of Nero and Domitian have also been found.

White's Gazetteer, 1851.

White's Gazetteer almost exactly but changes Mr. Jackson to Mrs. Jackson and adds Otto to the list of coins found. Gives details of the Church built 1843 - for a further description of this see Dyatt's Diary Book II, page 349.

The Holyhead Road of 1902 volume 1 by G. G. Harper page 218 - 219.

The tiny village is built over the site of Itocetum of whose ruins some fragments were yet to be seen in Penant's time including portions of the ancient Roman wall giving a name to the place. They have long since disappeared but in 1887, some excavations have laid bare many foundations heaped with the ruins of Roman civilisation among whose oddments were found roofing slates from Bangor and lime from Walsall.

Journey from Chester to London, 1811 by Penant, page 158.

Wall, the ancient Itocetum lies about a mile-and-a-half from Lichfield on the Watling Street road on a rising ground. There are still some remains of the walls to be seen mixed with roots of some very old Ash trees. Coins and tiles evince it to have been ^{the} Roman Itocetum.

Recent excavations at Litocetum, Birmingham Archaeological Society Transactions volume 4 of 1873, page 38 and following reference BRL 14525.

Last year on the occasion of the visit of the British Archaeological Association to Wolverhampton some excavations were made on part of the site of Itocetum in a field west of the Church called "The Butts", in which some small pieces of Roman masonry and concrete made of stones and mortar can be seen above the surface. The excavations were carried on in the lowest part of the field and several chambers were discovered about six feet square. On removing the rubbish and soil which filled up the space between the walls, which was about four or five feet deep, a large quantity of roof tiles, common pottery, blue, red, white and yellow bricks and plaster were found together with the bones of the deer, ox and swine. Some of the plaster was ornamented with lines of red, blue and yellow paint and on one of the fragments of brick the letters P.M. were visible. Of the pottery thus discovered some was blue, some red and some of a whitish-yellow hue. At the bottom of each chamber was a layer of charcoal together with many iron nails and fragments of Bangor slate some of which still showed the holes which had been made in them to admit the nails by which they had been fastened to the rafters and beams. The latter are now represented by the charcoal stratum before named which showed that the place had been destroyed by fire. Some circular earthenware pipes, similar to modern drain-pipes and about 1½" in diameter were also discovered. Possibly these foundations were the remains of the baths. I should here observe that the materials used for building the walls in question were red sandstone of the neighbourhood and lime from the limestone quarries of Walsall.

At a subsequent period during the Autumn of this year the excavations were carried on higher up in the same field where many other foundations were laid bare. Here articles of the same description as those before mentioned were discovered, but in addition the workmen came upon a small silver ornament and two of copper.

Handwritten:
Butts

Of these latter, the larger appeared to be a buckle like that found some years ago at Hadstock in Essex, quoted in the Archaeological Journal volume 8, page 34; and the smaller which is nearly round seemed to have been a brooch. These three were found at a depth of three foot-six inches from the surface. Near there were found the lower leg bone of a cock with strong natural spur remaining and also a piece of the antlers of a deer. In the lower part of "The Butts" near the hedge and lying to the south-west there was brought to light on digging in the bank a large work^{ed} stone having in the middle a hole in which was probably the hinge of a door or window had worked and close to this was a pavement of common pebbles or boulder stones running for a short distance towards the west which had the appearance of having once been a road. Near to this spot a large quantity of plaster with stripes of red, green and brown colour upon it were turned up together with very many oyster and snail shells. It is well known that the Romans used oysters and snails as articles of food.

In Castlecroft which lies to the east of "The Butts" the remains of a strong wall eleven feet in thickness in some parts entirely broken down to its foundations were easily traced for about fifty yards from west to east. I had the ground excavated on each side of the wall for a considerable distance and at intervals in order to see whether any buildings branched off from it, but I could not find any. The ground thus turned over produced many fragments of beautiful samian ware none of which, with the exception of a few small pieces, had ~~not~~ been previously met with. More had been found in "The Butts". These pieces had on them many curious patterns and three bear the marker's name of 'C'.

SFCV Secu for Secundi and Albini.

Here, too, a few brass coins were discovered, but most of them are very much injured. There were traces of the action by fire by the side of this wall, many pieces of charcoal and cinder being met with.

A whetstone and a piece of flint was found here, in addition to several pieces of broken glass, some green, some yellowish-whitish hue bottles.

On the south side of Castlecroft immediately adjoining the road which runs through Wall from east to west, some holes were dug in order to prove whether any Roman remains existed there or not, as no masonry could be discovered. When at a depth of about four feet from the surface a layer of charcoal six inches thick was come on, many animal bones were found, in some places covered by a layer of charcoal.

in Brigsdale road
Footnote: There is a tradition that from the field "The Butts", there is a subterranean passage or tunnel leading to Castlecroft which lies a little distance to the east nearest to the residence of Mr. Line.

In 1796 when Shaw visited Wall he states that he saw in the hedge below where the church now stands, the crown of such a subterranean arch and since that date the tunnel is said to have been seen when the road by Mr. Line's house was lowered, but although the spot was pointed out where it was reported to have been opened I have not yet been able to find it, although search was made for it with great diligence during several days.

Continuing with narrative -

I also discovered here, in addition to fragments of iron cinder, many pieces of that metal, but generally speaking, so much corroded that it is almost impossible to say what their use had been. Still one is I think part of a blade of a sword or spear. Another I imagine to be part of a bridle ~~bit~~ and, on taking it out of the ground and shaking off the soil which had adhered to it, four large teeth fell from it. Two other large pieces I supposed to have been used as door handles. They are about sixteen inches in length curved in the middle and flattened at the end. There was very little pottery found here, but several pieces of lead and copper.

Of the former some were reduced to a white paste but many whole pieces were obtained. Two seemed to be weights. They are about $1\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter, one is $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick and the others are very thin; another was nearly round. Other pieces of lead curved at one end and presenting the appearance of hole fasts were dug up here. There were many pieces of copper articles here too, one of which is, I think, a key. Two are parts of fibulae, others are undoubtedly small nails and rivets and there were also small pieces of sheet copper. Here again ashes were found with fragments of metal and burnt clay also showed the action of fire. A few brass coins were found here and some broken pieces of glass.

In a field on the south side of the road before mentioned as running from east to west through Wall I found a large quantity of animal bones and also clay and charcoal as in Castlecroft but no metals. On the opposite south side of this field are the remains of a paved road as before described with pebble stones or boulders, like the one mentioned as existing in the baths which has been traced into an adjoining field. About one hundred yards distance to the west and on the southern side of the road are the remains of a wall which has long ago been thrown down and which is probably the outer wall of Itocetum. On the south side a road similarly paved was found on digging out the foundations ^{of} Wall Church. There is in the Museum at Lichfield an urn containing bones which was discovered in Castlecroft about fourteen years ago and I am told that in the road from the north to south by Castlecroft and near to the ^{on} ~~Traber~~ Inn a stone coffin was discovered containing some human bones. This discovery was made when the road was lowered about thirty years ago.

A large quantity of fragments of Roman pottery can be found at any time in the field in the immediate vicinity of Wall but especially in these that lie to the south. I have not, however, as yet met with any foundations there.

Dr. Plot, page 401 mentions that a Roman villa and some other antiquities were found at Chesterfield which lies about a quarter of a mile to the south of Wall, and Camden says - Volume 2 page 495 - the place is called Wall from the pieces of Wall remaining there and including about two acres called Castlecroft, to which the ancient city is said to have joined on the other side of the road, that is the south side, destroyed before the conquest according to the old tradition of the inhabitants. They show a place where by the great foundations they supposed stood a temple. This is said to be where the church now stands at the east end of "The Butts". The reason that the church was erected in the particular spot is as follows. It was intended originally to build a church in a field near the junction of four roads close to Mr. Moss's house to the south-east of Castlecroft and the building had actually risen to the height of three or four feet from the ground when it was discovered that the land could not be conveyed by the gentleman who had wished to give it for the site of the church, and consequently, the walls had to be pulled down and the materials removed to another site. ^{why} Singly to relate the only place to be obtained was that which is said to be the site of the ancient temple of Minerva. 1823

The following extract from Mr. Lomas's Guide to the City of Lichfield, etc. page 58.

In digging in the neighbourhood of the locality pointed out, that is by Shaw, I have found a large quantity of oak timber, but no whole piece. Still I have no doubt they are part of the ancient Roman barricade. Some bear the marks of the sword but most are so much decayed as scarcely to bear the touch of the hand. I have two very curious pieces of wood, however, which were found last week in the place above named bearing some very rude carving on them but the fragments are so small that I do not know what they have been. A poor description of coins follows. Cestershoe to smaller brass. One is of Constantus, the rest unknown.

Footnotes:

Two pieces of lead piping found 6'8", two-inch bore and 2'8" 2½" bore found at the lower end of "The Butts" and probably connected with the baths. Pieces of cinder and slag in the same field, possibly iron made at Wall. Several quarries 10" square P. found next to the pipes.

6.11.11
Journal of the Archaeological Association Volume 29 of 1873 on Itocetum by W. Molyneux, pages 53 - 55. Just general and quotations of Camden, Plot and Shaw, page 55.

I believe that to my friend Mr. Robert Games, the well known naturalist and historian of the County, is due the credit of first suggesting and then practically carrying out in a limited degree the idea of a systematic examination of Itocetum, and about fourteen years ago he showed by the result of a few days' excavations what was likely to be achieved by more strenuous and persistent efforts. In the Castleoft, he says, two trenches brought up pottery of ^{four} different kinds. A broken ring of bronze and also portions of the upper and lower stones of a quern. Another trench dug northwards through the foundations of the wall from which the place is named brought to light the base of a square apartment with its walls of strong masonry and its floor of plaster laid in extremely hard concrete. This apartment had been plastered and coloured in red, green and yellow and white with well made stripes. There were also numerous pieces of large tiles turned up at the side, and Xnotched and bevelled at the corners. One brick had P. upon it. Others double-circular rings, cross scorings or the marks of fingers. A brass stud; a coarse earthened panner; slates; nails; oyster shells; charcoal; bones of the ox ~~or~~ horse; three coins one apparently a Nero, a second with an Emperor's head the reverse having a figure and the words Genio Populae Romanae. These results of three or four days of exploration are now deposited in the Lichfield Museum and I have copied Mr. Garner's description of what he did as agreeing with in a large degree with what has been yielded by the present excavations. These excavations I may be permitted to explain were commenced in the hope that something would be turned up worthy of the visit and individual interest of the

members of the British Archaeological Association and, although it would be difficult to define the line where that individual interest ceases, it is hoped that the renewed and much desired attempt to successfully exhume the relics and unearth the history, ~~can~~ so to speak, of a ^{city} history of a ^{city} grandeur, wealth and importance of Itocetum will meet with the best wishes and kindly encouragement of the Association generally.

In the few days since these excavations were commenced in the Castlecroft, we have laid open a small chamber, the walls of which are about two feet thick. Whether these are apartments described by Plot and which were in all probability public baths, is uncertain but there is no question that the whole of the space between this point and the brook is occupied by the foundations of the buildings. So far we have met with no coins, but we have examples of samian ware; black, brown and red pottery both plain and ornamental; large thick quarries one foot square; fragments of roofing tiles; quarries with double-circular rings, plaster with floral design; lead drain pipes; bones of deer and wild boar together with blocks of concrete made up of pounded brick and Walsall lime. Also pebbles, lime and a great variety of other remains connected with buildings.

We have also laid bare the wall from which the village derives its name and find it built externally of sandstone laid in regular courses and filled with coarse concrete. It is 3'6" thick and ran due north and south. In the orchard to the south of Mr. Line's residence, whom we are indebted for the kindness of land excavations to be made, we also laid bare a portion of the south wall of the castle and we hope to follow both this and the western wall 'til we come to one or more of the gateways by which the town was entered. The present excavations are merely preliminary.

Same Journal page 115, Wolverhampton, 1872, Tuesday August 6th describing the visit of the Association to Wall.

The conveyances having stopped in front of "The Seven Stars" in a field, almost immediately behind the house, known of old as "The Butts" field, were found the excavations made recently by the kind permission of Messrs. Bagnall, Molyneux and Lines the tenants, and here Mr. Molyneux read the paper as on previously dictated.

In addition to the excavations mentioned in the pages an inspection took place of one made the previous day showing a series of chambers in which were found a number of tiles and various remains of Roman building materials, amongst others of round tile piping. An excavation had also been made in the field which had been the original site of the castle and there digging down the rampart wall had been reached which from observations elsewhere was found to be a uniform thickness of nine feet. Even human remains were not wanting as in addition to several bones of animals one had been disinterred that had once formed part of the thigh higher animals man. A visit was ~~made~~^{paid} to the closely contiguous church which is built over a buried temple to Minerva.

Archaeologia, 1949 page 37 gives derivation of the name on the Revena Cosmography.

Litoceto 94, I.T. A.T. 470.2, now Lichfield. W. Kyel Wintgowed. Derivation Lito W. Thlewid care list grey. This is a case in which the cosmography undoubtedly preserves the correct form. Cito from Kyeto see Walled pocerography volume 1 page 328, route cato or 'oyt or Loy', Goylish Koyto, the original meaning is Wood and the final meaning is therefore grey wood.

Shaw, Volume 1, page 19.

He owns the field called the Baths where I saw great ruins of walls equally distant twelve foot and twelve foot high like square cellars. I saw there bits of pavement, Irish slate, Roman bricks, some pieces marked thus ~~XX XXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXX~~.

The walls are a yard thick of strong mortar, rubble, stone, etc. The Watling Street parts the two villages, Chesterfield South, all north. By the side of the road going northwards from thence to Pipe Hill I immediately espied the Roman walls notorious by their manner of their structure of ragstone and coarse laid sloping this way, a course that way with very strong and white mortar. This lies under a hedge and the roots of old oak trees for the length of a hundred yards 'til intercepted by a dwelling house. They say the building in Bath Close was a temple, and probably they are not mistaken. A little below the temple we saw the crown of a subterranean arch in the hedge. The castle stood on the north-west angle between the Watling Street and another road going to Lichfield up on a gentle southern declivity. The old walls are founded upon a solid rock and much more of them was left in living memory. Now they pull them down to build ~~was~~ withall. That called the temple is upon the westward declivity much lower in elevation than the castle which is upon the highest ground in the neighbourhood and somewhat raised above the common level by heaps of rubbish and foundations which I could observe above the ground in the orchard. William Milner at "The Swan", is an antiquary and knows the old names of the place. He showed me ~~an~~ ^{an} old Roman wall in his cellar and says it goes backwards by the garden. No doubt there were houses all the way on both sides of the road from the castle to the brook which is a street descent westwards.

Shaw is quoted by Blay referring to the barricade.

In the estate of Mr. Bradburn at Pipe Hill are the remains of a great Roman Valum or barricade extending from Wall northwards through Pipe Hill parallel to the Brook which passing east of Pipe Hill goes through Wall. This wooden fortification was composed of the whole trunks of oak trees standing on end close to each other and some depth in the ground. The valley on the east or outside^{of} this fence, now good meadow ground, was doubtless then a ~~crass~~, perhaps scarcely possible but the Romans Station was rendered more difficult of access by the wooden wall, etc. etc.

Antiquaries Journal of 1959 B.R.L. ~~229312~~ 201312. A provincial Roman spur from Longstock, Hampshire, and other spurs from Roman Britain.

Spurs were not in general or even common use in the Roman Empire. John has traced this development in three main types all stemming from the spurs of the Letaine cultures of the first century B.C., illustrated by Deshalette and Echealforae. They all occur both in bronze and iron or in bronze with iron pricks or iron rivets but there is a propensity towards bronze in the Roman provinces. The arms of the Letaine spurs are short and weakly splayed ending in large circular studs, the references to all that are German.

Page 63. A small and delicately fashioned bronze spur preserved in the Ministry of Works Museum at Wall in Staffordshire and found on the Roman site there, appears to provide a connecting link between the early loop spurs and the rivet spurs of the second century No. 27 figure 2. The holes at the end of the arms, one of which is defective, are too small to be considered as loops and may have held rivets. There is no plate to correspond in diameter with the head of the rivet. The prick is also missing. The slender proportions give an air of fragility and there is no hook above the heel plate nor is there any ornament. The prick is exactly centered between the rivets, in fact all the characteristics except for the rivet holes point to an early date and one is not surprised to learn that Wall was a military camp in the mid first century A.D. Later it became

a small town on the Watling Street.

Litocetum by W. J. Blay, B.R.L. 321098.

Horseley in Britannia Romana B.R.L. 99529 gives the text of the Anthonine Itinerary and the Revena cosmography and mentions utriconion corn noneninoron Roxeter uriconium cornevorum and Lectoceto, Lichfield, Lectoceto V. The Anthonine Itinerary Ita 2, A valo add portum ritupass M.P. CCCCLXXXI mentions penacrucio Etoceto Manducedo Venonis, etc.

History of Birmingham 3rd Edition by Hutten, page 218.

Then Wall near Lichfield which I have examined with great labour or rather great pleasure, here^{the} two famous consular roads g cross each other. We should expect a fort in the angle commanding both, which is not the case. The Watling Street is lost for about half-a-mile leading over a morass. Only the line is faintly preserved by a blind path over the enclosures. The Ickneal Street crosses it in this morass, not the least traces of which remain but by a strict attention I would point out their junction to a few yards. Six furlongs west of this junction and one hundred yards north of the Watling Street in a close now about three acres are the remains of the Roman fortress. This building of strength and terror is reduced to one piece of thick wall visibly of Roman workmanship from whence the place derives its modern name. "Can you," says I to a senior peasant, for I love to appeal to old age, tell the origin of that building?" "No, but we suppose it to have been a church. The ruins were much larger in my memory, but they were lately destroyed to bring the land in that improved state of cultivation in which you see it." And so you reduce the fortress in four years that the Britons could never hold in four hundred.

For a trifling profit you craze the work of the ancients and prevent the wonder of the modern. Are you apprized of any old walls under the surface? "Yes, the close is full of them. I have broke three ploughs in one day. No tool will stand against them. I have been more expensive to bring the land into its present condition than the freehold is worth." "Why you seem more willing to destroy than your tools and more able than time.. The works which were the admiration of ages you bury underground. What the traveller comes many miles to see, you assiduously hide. What could be the meaning that the Romans erected their station on the declivity of this hill, when the summit five hundred yards distant is much more eligible. Are there no foundations upon it?" "None. The commandry is preferable, the Watling Street runs by it and it is near the Ickneal Street." "Pray are you acquainted with another Roman road which crosses it?" "No." "Do you know of any close about the village where a narrow bed of gravel which runs a considerable length has impeded the plough?" "Yes, there is a place half-a-mile distant where, when a child, I drove the plough. We penetrated a land of gravel and my companion's grandfather told us it had been an old road." "That is the place I want, lead me to it." Being already master of both ends of the road like a broken line with the centre worn out, the gravel bed enabled me to recover it.

Margery "Roman Roads in Britain", B.M.L. 648032, page 17.

Where the roads continued to be used there was of course no maintenance or up-keep. This process that is decay, etc. continued until the turn-pike system was introduced and provided at last a proper means for the up-keep of roads, the first since Roman authority lapsed. It often happened that the road was re-aligned.

Volume, 2, page 26. Watling street.

The construction of the road was observed in ~~Gaken~~ gates during sewer works near the school at Hart's Hill. Quoted by H. . Forest in the Shropshire Archaeological & National History Society Transactions volume 49, page 88.

Here it was built upon a foundation of logs, laid diagonally and four feet apart, having a diameter of eight to twelve inches each, upon which was a layer of vegetable material consisting of leaves, twigs and moss with clay, and on this rested a piece of rock or sandstone nine to twelve inches thick which probably formed the base of the road surface.

Air Reconnaissance over Southern Britain, Journal of Roman Studies 1953, B.R.L. 234076, page 83.

At 11/2

A wall S.K.O.99065 in Staffordshire.

Three broad ditches have been seen and recorded, forming 625 of the south side and the rounded south-east angle of an enclosure. Page 84 Redhill, page 94 Shenstone, page 91 Brough. Thorpe from Easthorpe.

Excavation of the Wall Cemetery by Blay, B.R.L. 321098. C. 1925

It was customary for the Romans to bury their dead outside their city walls. If Litocetum were a populated place, that is more than a rest station, then it must have had to have its burial ground and that too not far distant from the city. Until quite recently this site was unknown, but for some time it has been thought that a field to the west of Wall on the site towards Hammerwich would prove to be the cemetery. Parts of urns and other remains have been unearthed there. In all probability there is a similar stretch of burial ground on the opposite side of the road. Permission having been granted for the ground to be excavated, some members of the Walsall Historical Association, together with friends from Wall, commenced operations on November 22nd, 1924. Many fragments of buried urns, charcoal, nails and pieces of subsidiary urns were brought to the surface. The latter were used as a store for food and drink required by the deceased persons on his journey beyond.

Remembering that this field has been ploughed for centuries, we were indeed fortunate in finding a perfect unbroken urn sealed with charcoal as on the day of interment and containing some of the remains of the decayed person. It was found about two feet from the surface, its height is $7\frac{1}{2}$ " , its mouth $4\frac{1}{2}$ " and its base 3" in diameter. It is simply decorated with wavy vertical lines and on its bulged surface, probably made by pressing the flats of the thumbs downwards when the clay was soft. A very interesting find in the cemetery was a superimposed burial dark-grey cinerary urn to which reference has already been made, was found near the surface and close to it was a large two-handled jar made of buff ware. Beneath there was an earlier burial. Here was a smaller cinerary urn still containing human remains and made of cream ware and with a screw neck. Accompanying this were broken fragments of assamian bowl probably broken at the second interment. The decorations were quite clear and as it was the first specimen of its kind that we had found we submitted it to the experts at the British Museum and Mr. R. A. Smith expresses opinion that it is a montain fabric of late first century. He added - "we have a thirty-seven bowl with the same lower freeze and said to be from the mould of that factory." This definite date has assisted us in investigations we have made to fix a foundation of Litocetum in or near the year 50 A.D. Two other urns were unearthed on the following day. In one urn, in addition to the charcoal, there were two lumbar vertebrae, a patella, a piece of skull, fragments of leg, arm and rib bones, a coffin nail and a hob nail from a sandal. These were the remains of a child about twelve years of age.

Footnote - page 24. So far only one coin, and that a silver coin, of Julius Caesar has been found in the cemetery, but this does not mean that other coins are not there. Coin finding in acres of land dug to a depth of three feet or more is not an easy task

1926?

North Staffordshire Field Club Reports, 1925 to 1956, volume 60 page 180. The following is an extract from a letter from a Miss E. D. Henderson to Mr. H. V. Thompson which the latter has forwarded to me for the purposes of this Report.

I have obtained from Mr. W. G. Collingwood, the Roman expert, a translation of the small bronze plate with punctured inscription found in the 1912 - 1914 excavations but not deciphered. It reads - Vitalis primis, that is century of Vitalis of the first cohort. It is a ^{PHAL} ~~scabbard~~ which was attached to a leather corselette and survived as a sort of identification disc. The wearer belonged to Vitalis's century. Mr. Collingwood also identified the words on the base of an amphora found in the above. They read - Nae Atique, 17 K.I. That is Niatica the seventeenth day before the Naelins of J., N.I. being the abbreviation for the first name of the potter and Atisae his surname.

In the same Journal, volume 63, 1928/29 page 147/148, Wall.

Further interesting items have recently been revealed. An expert engaged in these excavations had discovered the precise spot at which Ickneal Street crosses Watling Street. The actual cobble road surface and the convincing details have been brought to light. The same explorer has unearthed a number of burial urns of a most interesting type. They are stated to have belonged to the first or second century. The find, however, which must be regarded as an almost unique relic, is a small model of a Roman slave which has lately become into the possession of Miss Henderson. By her courtesy I have been able to examine it and she explained all the features. The figure which is of lead is modelled as naked to the waist. Round the neck is a collar and one arm bears an armlet. The face wears an expression of suffering and an arm is lifted as if warding off a blow. The lower portion of the figure has obviously been damaged, possibly centuries ago ^{and} ~~was~~ subsequently repaired. Miss Henderson states that there is a similar model in bronze in the British Museum but the Wall specimen is unique in Britain.

Same Journal, volume 58 page 110/112.

During the past year work has continued at the south-west end of the Bath block, to the full extent of Mr. Mott's property in that direction and the rooms previously started upon were completed. And it was clearly shown that this great block of building was continued in the adjoining field. The exposure of these rooms complete the block in this direction as far as it is practicable. It will be remembered that though the walls of the great space to the east of the block have been explored the area of it had not even been touched but during the Autumn and Winter months steady work has been progressing, and as a result the whole area of this great court has been dug up displaying various floors at different levels and several cross walls. But the great gain of the work has been the number and character of finds to be noted on later. It is a great satisfaction to have cleared up what was contained in the large area of the coast and in fact the work clears up the whole of the investigation within the area of the Bath block and goes to prove the somewhat remarkable fact that neither the villa nor in the Bath block was there any ~~tastefully~~ pavement but that all the floors were of concrete. The more important of them having coloured decorations on the surface. The last spade work has been carried out northwards of the Bath block where a hard floor has been found and in the clearing of it the finds have been remarkable. It has always been known that there existed a disused well in the gardens of the ^{anc} ~~Tru~~er Inn. Its position as reported by Mr. Brooks has now been found at 105 feet from Wall street and 64 feet from Holloway Lane leading to the church. At the surface of the well there is a thickness of two feet of earth, then a lining of stone work for 1'9" and the rest to a depth of over 15' is cut through the solid rock 3'10" in diameter. Dr. Heard has been good enough to furnish a statement in relationship to the water supply of the locality showing that geologically there was no doubt as to an abundant quantity.

It is satisfactory to know that Mr. Mott has built a museum 27' long by 19' wide for the finds which are now laid therein, conveniently situated close to and pointing Watling Street and adjoining the site of the excavations. The terms of the tenancy have to be arranged.

The finds of the year have been numerous and of early and late date comprising the coins of the second century A.D. onwards.

(One of them is of the time of our Cromwell) jet ornaments. Sea shells, fibulae, ivory disc, brooches, one direct brooch, various wares including castor, samian, ^{he}enish, black upchurch, ivory and pitcher counters, flints; also glass, tools of various kinds, bones, deer horn, beads, horse-shoe, a portion of a sandal, poker nails of skull of boar, prints in clay of finger ends and foot of wolf, charcoal from ^{he}urloomis, safety pin brooch, scent locket, key without words, arrow head, back tile, sacrificial knife, etc.etc.

This next is a reprint from ^{from} present unknown source. "The Baths".

LETICIVM
W.F. BLAY,
WALSALL
HIST. ASSOC.
1925
p. 21.

A bath was an important part in the life of a Roman. It was the chief item in a programme of social entertainment. As some Romans had eight to twelve meals a day, so they had several baths a day. The baths were social clubs. As a rule only the traveller and the common people took advantage of the public baths for the rich possessed their own bathrooms which were luxuriously equipped, wonderfully decorated, delightfully lighted, and enchantingly perfumed by vapours from the choicest spices.

The slaves anointed the bathers from vials of gold, of alabaster or of crystals studded with precious gems and containing the rarest unguance gathered from all quarters of the world, while soft music was played in an adjoining chamber.

You will remember that Lord Lytton in the last days of Pompey makes gloous exclaim, "Blessed is he who invented baths". Whether he were Hercules or Baccus he deserved deification and later the same speaker tells us that at Rome there were many who lived only at the baths.

They repair there the first hour in which the doors are opened and remain 'til that in which the doors are closed. Senacre gives a vivid account of life in the baths. He said - "I live near a bath, sounds are heard on all sides. Just imagine for yourself every conceivable kind of noise that can offend the ear. The men of more sturdy build go through their exercises and swear their hands heavily weighted with lead. I hear their groans when they strain themselves, or the whistling of laboured breath when they breathe out, having held in. If one is rather lazy and merely has himself rubbed with unguance, I hear the blows of the hands slapping his shoulders, the sound varying as the massagist strikes with flat or hollow palm. If a ball player begins to play and to count his throws, it's all up for the time being, or there is one in the bath who loves to hear the sound of his own voice. The hair plucker from time to time raises his thin shrill voice in order to attract attention and is only still himself when he is forcing cries of pain from someone else."

A number of these hair plucking tweezers have been found ^{in the Baths} at Wall, but thank Heaven these instruments of torture are not fashionable today. There are more merciful methods employed at present for the removal of such axillary hairsuit appendages.

On a slab of the furnished chamber there are eight very interesting letters which often escape notice. The letters are C.A.N.S.I.S.U.S. These, put together, form the word Cansisus. This was the Celtic name of a person and it may have been the name of the person who built the baths or the name of the mason engaged on the work of that part of the building where the name is found.

The Cemetery.

It was customary for the Romans to bury their dead outside their city walls. If Litocetum were a populated place, that is more than a rest station then it must have had its burial ground and that too not far distant from the city.

Until quite recently this site was unknown, but for some time it has been thought that a field close to the west of the wall on the side towards Hammerwich would prove to be the cemetery. Parts of urns and other remains have been unearthed there. In all probability there is a similar stretch of burial ground on the ~~other~~ opposite side of the road. Permission having been granted for this ground to be excavated, some members of the Walsall Historical Association, together with friends from Wall, commenced operations on November, 22nd 1924. Many fragments of burial urns, charcoal, nails and pieces of subsidiary urns were brought to the surface. The latter were used as a store for food and drink required by the deceased person on his journey beyond. Remembering that this field had been ploughed for centuries, we were indeed fortunate in finding a perfect unbroken urn, sealed with charcoal as on the day of interment, and containing some of the remains of the deceased person. This was found at about two feet from the surface, its height is 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " , its mouth 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " and its base 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter. It is simply decorated with wavy vertical lines on its bulged surface, probably made by pressing the flats of the thumbs downwards when the clay was soft.

A very interesting find in the cemetery was a superimposed burial, the perfect dark-grey cinerary urn to which reference has already been made, was found near the surface and close to it was a large two-handled urn made of buff ware. Beneath these was an earlier burial. Here was a smaller cinerary urn, still containing human remains and made of cream ware with a screw neck. Accompanying this were broken fragments of assamian bowl probably broken at the second interment. The decorations were quite clear and as it was the first specimen of its kind we had found, we submitted it to the experts of the British Museum and Mr. R. A. Smith expresses opinion that it is Mountain fabric of the late first century. He added "we have a thirty seven bowl with the same lower freeze and said to be from the mould of that factory". This definite date has assisted us in investigations we have made to fix the foundations of Leeton in or near the year 50 A.D. Two other urns were unearthed on the following day. In one urn, in addition to the charcoal there were

two lumbar vertebrae, a patella, a piece of skull, fragments of leg, arm and rib bones, a coffin nail and a hob nail from a sandal. These were the remains of a child about twelve years of age. The position of these urns confirmed the knowledge of this subject gained in other parts of the country, that is, it was the custom of the Romans to bury their dead parallel to and as near to the ~~side~~ roadside as possible in order that the dead could continue their interest in and find company with the living who were constantly passing to and fro, and possibly too that the living could be interested in the dead. This idea would lead to the cemeteries extending for long distances on both sides of the road, rather than extending for a great distance inland.

Our rather irregular digging gave us the impression that the interments were two or three yards apart, but the ground explored was not extensive enough for us to come to a decision on this point. Just at the time we were becoming enthusiastic in our work we were called to a halt by the farmer who wished to excavate with his plough and give the dead an opportunity of coming to life again. There are two or three points worthy of special notice. First there was a great difference between the Roman idea of cremation and that of today. The object of the Roman was to destroy the fleshy parts of the human body as a sanitary measure as well as to reduce its bulk. Certainly the heat they employed in the open air was not equal to that of the furnace of a crematorium of the present time. Some bones showed no signs of the applications of heat; even the delicate internal grooves of the skull in which the blood vessels rested were uninjured. The long bones, however, had been sufficiently heated to allow easy fracture for nothing but fragments of long bones were found. On the other hand, short bones like the vertebrae and the patella were unaltered. The method of cremation is a matter of conjecture. Although no crematorium has as yet been uncovered a store of charcoal has been found. At other places rectangular walled spaces have been discovered and the presence of large quantities of charcoal and calcine bones would tend to show that cremations took place at particular spots.

At some cemeteries it appears that the bodies were cremated at the time of interment. A large hole was dug at the place of burial and the body was burnt there. Some of the smaller bones and fragments of the longer bones were then placed in the urn which was sealed with a layer of charcoal and buried a foot or so below the surface amidst the remaining fractured bones and charcoal.

At Wall the smallspace occupied by calcine bones and charcoal shows that the cremation took place at a spot yet to be discovered. The full and sealed urn was buried and the other remains were placed round the urn. We knew that we should probably find an urn or its fragments when we met the black patches in the red sand. Another point of interest is that the cremation of the body and the method of burial are evidence that Christianity had not reached Litocetum. No skeletons have been found, at least we have found none and Bingham says that the Christians always buried and never burnt their dead. In Christian burials about this time, skeletons have been found with crossed arms and some have been found with a cross resting on the chest. Here, however, I must state that upon a block of stone obtained from the Villa is cut a Christian cross. So far only one coin and that a silver coin of Julius Caesar has been found in the cemetery, but this does not mean that other coins are not there. Coin finding in acres of land dug to a depth of three feet or more is not an easy task. It was usual to place pieces of money in the mouth of the corpse previous to burial. This was to pay Charon whose office it was to ferry the soul of the deceased over the sticks, a river of the infernal regions round which it passed seven times and which had to be crossed in passing to the region of disembodied souls. A rather puzzling matter was to find out what became of the teeth. We found no traces of teeth in all the remains we examined. Finally, however, with indomitable perseverance and by washing the fragments Miss Henderson discovered the root of a molar and a complete canine amongst the contents of an urn.

The Well.

The Romans were famed for securing an ample supply of good water and this matter has been given much consideration by those interested in Litocetum. A well of supposed Roman origin has been discovered at the rear of the Truber Inn. Excavations were commenced here in 1914 but owing to the outbreak of war, work was discontinued and the part emptied was refilled. On December 13th, 1924 we found the site of this well by a depression in the ground and after removing the soil to a depth of two-and-a-half feet, we met the round coping formed of worked blocks of local sandstone which had been strengthened by narrow bricks of a much later date. This extended to a depth of two feet when we reached the Well proper cut out of the solid sandstone. After clearing away another three feet of rubbish we were seven-and-a-half feet below the surface and at the end of what we considered a good day's work for all the material was thrown out by the use of a spade.

On the following Saturday by the use of rope and bucket we went down another three or four feet. With the additional help of Mr. Brooks ~~was~~^{an} enthusiastic student of Litocetum a man who has done more excavation in the locality than anyone, a depth of thirty feet was reached on January 17th, 1925. A boring rod showed that the bottom extended beyond another ten feet. A windlass was then fixed to facilitate the work. The well was finally emptied and its bottom reached at a depth of forty-seven feet from the masonry. The width at the bottom is 4'4", the depth to water fissure is 27' where the width is 5'6".

This is taken from the North Staffordshire Field Club Transactions of 1912/1913 Volume 47. It was given by the Chairman, Mr. Lincham. YNAM, F.S.A.

At the commencement of last year's work of the club, another project of the utmost importance was brought before the council which was no less than ~~that~~ the proposition ~~of~~ the club should enter upon a scheme for making excavations at the Roman city or station of Itocetum near to Lichfield.

The owner of part of the site thereof, a Mr. E.J.K. Mott of Wall House, situated within the boundaries of Itocetum, and he welcomed the proposal frankly and fully, whereupon an agreement was entered into between Mr. Mott, the owner, and the Club through the council. Applications for the necessary funds were extensively advertised which brought response sufficient to justify the committee and Mr. Mott in making a practical start. The first point for settlement was where the digging should be commenced and, as there was in existence a definite indication of a fragment of the ancient walling, it was determined to break ground at that spot.

Soon a considerable length of wall was unearthed and in the course of time many others were thrown open until at length the foundations ^{of a} ~~was~~ complete ^{villa} ~~or~~ house were openly disclosed. During the ~~1~~ ^{progress} of this work Mr. Mott was quite indefatigable in his devotion to it, digging with his own hands where difficulties arose and watching minutely the results of his workmen's picks and spades. By these means adopted by Mr. Mott everything that was turned up was watched and recorded and, as a result, articles of every sort are now housed either at Wall House or at the temporary museum which has been erected ^{with} in one of the blocks of excavation next to be noticed.

The committee had paid sundry visits from time to time as the work proceeded and Mr. Mott exhibited his finds and explained their characteristics and position where found upon the site. Items of more or less interest were awarded the time taken to discover and secure them. They are too numerous to mention here but perhaps the principal feature is a rough wall stone low down in a foundation wall carved with two human heads facing one another and accompanied by an incised symbol, circular in form, with an upright line through the centre of it. Coins, bones of various kind, fragments of plaster floors with painted decorations have been common. Also the plastering of walls with colour decoration, bits of pottery and metal, glass in small quantities, ironwork, bricks, slates, incised initials on bricks and marks of animals feet are not uncommon.

The Committee have had photographs taken of particular features and they are to be had at Mr. Morris, Photographer, in Lichfield. A set of them accompanies this report.

Broadly speaking the dimensions of the building first excavated, now shown on Plan 2, they be given as 96' x 72' and it may be said to stand north and south through the extreme diagonal points.

It would be hazardous to attempt to define the particular uses of the various rooms, but an outline may perhaps be ventured upon, subject to future revision. To the south-east front was an open colonnade. In its centre was the entrance to the building forming the main front containing four rooms, that in the middle being the hall or atrium leading to a quadrangle about 39' square, having a covered corridor on all sides about 6'6" wide, the centre square being open. On the entrance side projecting into the open court was an apse or semi-circular building of thin rubble walling, probably used for some special purposes for a shrine as has been suggested, or it may be a fountain. On the north-east side of the square there were probably originally three rooms but a subsequent alteration brought a thick wall to interfere with the corridor and one of the former rooms. On the remaining side of the square were the chamber for heating the buildings in the manner known as channel hypocaust and possibly the bathrooms of the house. The general walls vary in thickness from 1'6" to 3'0". Some are put together as mere rubble work; others are roughly coursed, but none are smoothly tooled or jointed. It must, however, be borne in mind that the greater part of what is now seen is mostly of the character of foundation walling. Roman mortar is generally understood to have in it a proportion of broken brick, but that has not been seen in this case except very slightly. There are sundry doorways indicated in certain walls, the angles of which are slightly rounded off, but no elaboration occurs and the entire absence of windows of any form is a loss to investigation.

The second block of building lies to the south-west of the Villa on ground of a lower level and is some forty feet distant from the first block, but the main walls lie parallel with the other block.

This building is of a larger size than the first noticed being 128' in length and 99' in width. The characteristics of this building are decidedly expressive of and point directly to the purposes of a bathing establishment for public use. Unfortunately the plan cannot fully be traced because a fence dividing ownership exists at the southern ends of the buildings, but generally it may be said that the block consists of first an open colonade to the north-east then a vast enclosure not yet fully trenched followed to the west by a series of rooms of double depth. The exact appropriation of the various parts cannot perhaps be specifically stated but it would seem that the colonade flanked the apartments appropriated for the usual accommodations of the practice of bathing, consisting mostly of recreation rooms.

Then come the various apartments appropriated to the baths of the description we know as Turkish baths with their gradual application of warm and hot air and finishing of hot and cold air, cold and hot water.

In the north-west angle of the building is the furnace from which the various chambers were supplied with heated air and which distributed to the rooms above by flues especially formed in the walls, and the heating of the floors as is evidenced by the existing remains of the hypercausts. The water departments being finished by existing stone drains and pipes of lead and the finishing of the rooms themselves. This block is without an apse, but in one of the walls there is a semi-circular recess or ^{niche} ~~knitch~~. It will be noticed that the indications of hypercaused or heated floors extends to most of the rooms. It will be noticed also on the plan that in this block the cross walls are not at right angles to the main walls, but are slightly on askew but parallel to one another.

Not uncommon in these Roman buildings, but involving measurements of triangulation throughout. There is nothing about the works discovered which denote anything of the heights of the buildings nor even whether any of them were more than one storey in height, excepting perhaps in the furnace room nothing points to a staircase, but of course there may have been if existing of wood. The walls vary in thickness from 2' to 3'8". The masonry is mostly of roughly coursed work. Some of the external walls have projecting plinths and in some rooms there are projecting skirtings. Special linings to the walls were provided in the bathrooms where water was in use. The levels of the various floors vary as figured on the plans.

The general situation of the buildings is about forty yards to the north of Watling Street near its junction with Ickneal Street and lying westwards of Wall church as shown on the Block Plan No. 1. But it is understood that the city extended both to the north and the south of Watling Street and at present there is no evidence of what was its total area, nor indeed is its precise import defined. This being a sectional report of the Club, we willingly give prominence to the practical work as far distant as Lichfield, but archaeological efforts nearer home are not to be overlooked, the first of which to be mentioned is the recently published History of the Battle of Blore Heath by Mr. F. S. Tremlow of Peterwood.