



BRONZE DISC FROM SAXON CEMETERY

Camerton Excavation Club

PUBLICATION FUND, 1955

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In a letter to the late Abbot Horne of Downside Abbey, Sir Mortimer Wheeler wrote the following remarks concerning the archaeological site at Camerton :—

“There can be few archaeological sites in England which combine features of such varied interest as the Camerton site by the Fosseway. The Fosse itself is the dominant feature of the present plan, ruled across the landscape with all the rigidity proper to a historical datum-line. The flanking ditches and the Roman settlement which seems to have grown up nearby extend from this datum line over an area which is itself rich in relics of earlier ages. Iron Age huts and ditches, barrows, presumably of the Bronze Age, combine to form a complex which focusses important aspects of Prehistoric Britain ; and indeed, the very complexity of the site, by bringing differing cultures into stratigraphical contact with one another, adds materially to its interest. Here are no dramatic earthworks or upstanding ruins, but rather a typical piece of English countryside which folk of many ages have found apt for settlement and use. I can imagine no more proper objective for continued excavation.”

With the exception of the war years, excavations have been conducted on the Camerton site for the past twenty years or so, by kind permission of the owner, the late Sir Frank Beauchamp, Bart., and later by Mr. F. Wells of Camerton Farm.

The excavations have revealed that this site lying on the oolitic plateau between the Camerton and Radstock valleys has been occupied intermittently from Neolithic times until the use of part of the site as a Christian Saxon cemetery in the sixth and seventh centuries, A.D.

Ample evidence has been forthcoming of early Iron Age occupation and within a few years of the Roman Conquest, with the construction of the Fosseway, a flourishing Romano-British settlement quickly developed.

The settlement continued to be occupied throughout the four centuries of the Roman occupation of Britain, and during this period it changed in character from a predominantly agricultural community to one which became partly industrialised with the setting up of iron-smelting and pewter-making industries.

A mass of archaeological data has been accumulated over the years, as a result of careful excavation in the field.

This evidence has now been prepared for the press and will, it is hoped, form an important contribution to our knowledge of the site which will be of use to students of the periods concerned and of interest also to the general reader.

The report will contain some 250 pages of written material, a number of plates illustrating the various buildings and finds, and a large number of scale-drawings, including sections and plans and the many finds which include pottery, brooches, etc. There will also be a comprehensive catalogue of the various types of pottery.

The author, W. J. Wedlake, has had many years experience in archaeological field work on many important sites, both in Britain and on the Continent, with Sir Mortimer Wheeler and other well-known archaeologists.

The expense of publishing this comprehensive report is far beyond the resources of the Camerton Excavation Club, and we therefore appeal to all who may be interested to support us in this venture. You can assist by either purchasing a copy of the report, or by sending donations, large or small to the Treasurer :

H. F. MOORE, Esq.,
41 BECKHAMPTON ROAD,
OLDFIELD PARK,
BATH.

The published price per copy of the report will be £2/10/0, but copies will be sold to subscribers to this appeal for £2/2/0 per copy post free. A list of subscribers to this appeal will be published in the report.

Cheques may be made payable to :
"THE CAMERTON EXCAVATION CLUB PUBLICATIONS FUND."

I enclose ^{cheque} _{postal order} for £ : : as a donation
to the "Camerton Excavation Club Publications Fund, 1955,"
and/or I enclose herewith ^{cheque} _{postal order} for copy/copies of "The
(Excavations at Camerton, Somerset " by W. J. Wedlake.

Name

Address