

The Field Study Group, 1953-1957

Reputed Roman Road.—There is little to add to the interim report on the so-called Roman Road from Galloway into Ayrshire, which was given in Volume 3. Through the co-operation of the Royal Commission, Ancient and Historical Monuments (Scotland), aerial photographs of Patna Hill (Map Ref. 406109) were examined but did not reveal anything of archaeological interest. All that could be seen was a number of agricultural boundaries of relatively recent date and some slight disturbances which are almost certainly old mineral workings. The possibility of a Roman Camp on Newark Hill, Maybole Parish (317167), hinted at by aerial photography, proved on inspection of the site to be illusory.

Survey of Sites.—Some members of the Group have been carrying through a survey of a number of forts and other sites in the county, which it is hoped to tabulate for future reference.

Possible Early Christian Find.—During 1954 Mrs. A. Hallifax Crawford discovered in a ruined building at Lochlands, Beith Parish (379555), a stone slab measuring roughly 19 by 20 inches and 4 to 6 inches thick, bearing an incised circle 15 inches in diameter, surrounding an incised cross with one arm extended to form the shaft. It has been suggested that this may be a Christian carving of the 7th or 8th centuries, but this has not yet been confirmed or disproved. The stone has been removed to The Weaver's Cottage, Kilbarchan, for safety. It is hoped to publish further information in the next volume.

The Society would be pleased to receive information about any fresh discoveries in the county, so that as complete a record as possible may be kept and published.

Any members wishing to join the Field Study Group should communicate with the Hon. Secretary.

A. K.