

'Hope, L'

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HOPE, L

1914

Hummer

3 July 1914.

Dear Sir,

I have just heard from Professor Keith with reference to the skulls and pieces of pottery excavated in Carlisle which you forwarded for examination. He states, "If I were asked, independently of other evidence, the probable date of the skulls, I would say Roman period, because the skulls are of the form and type most characteristic of that time here in England. Reginald Smith says the pottery is medieval. The skulls also may be, but if so, the Roman type has bred true in Carlisle. Details are appended to each skull, there are 3 men and 2 women, all adults, the wear of the teeth shows that they are medieval or older. For my part I would assign them provisionally to Roman period."

I am having the objects carefully packed tonight, and will forward them to you by passenger train tomorrow. Kindly let me know of their safe arrival.

Faithfully yours,

Linnaeus Hope Esq.
Carlisle Museum,

C. I.

Carlise Museum

City of Carlisle.



LINNAEUS E. HOPE,
CURATOR.

Art Gallery & Museum,
Tullie House,

Carlisle June 15th. 1914

Dear Sir,

I am requested by Mr. H. Barnes to forward to you some portions of Crania (human) found during recent excavations in Carlisle.

These were found at a depth of 3 feet in disturbed earth, overlying clay (undisturbed).

A narrow trench, ^{2 1/2 ft wide} only was cut for the foundations of a building but evidently burials had been numerous and in some little order, a row of heads & a row of feet coming into the narrow trench.

It is suggested by one of my Committee that this was the burial place of the Black Friars whose Monastery was about 300 yds. distant.

Will you please draw attention to number 36-14. There is in this cranium a large slit apparently

contemporaneous with the death of the person & therefore no doubt the cause.

The curious thing to me is the fact of the tissue being so decomposed, much more so than in crania found amongst Roman debris here. I did not see any apparent difference in the soil which would conduce to rapid decomposition unless nearness to the surface has effected it. The nearness to surface (3 ft.) may have been caused by a levelling for earlier buildings, & pavement.

Personally I am rather sceptical as to these being the crania of Ecclesiasts & the close rows of bodies coupled with the cut in No. 36-14 suggest to me the dead of some battle or raid to which this City was subject up to the 18th century & from very early times, ~~in the~~ ~~the~~ ~~Roman era.~~ No. 36-14 is possibly the foramen magnum & occipital condyles of a dog.

The pottery, (4 pieces) of these, 3 look like portions of a 14th Century pitcher of the ^{Portuguese} played type, unglazed parts only being found. The glass I cannot hazard an opinion on.

The Committee of this Museum & Dr. Byrnes are extremely grateful to you for undertaking to submit these bones to expert examination for us. I am yours sincerely

Quindus E. Kopl
Curator.