

Edward Jacob
Observations on the Roman earthen ware taken
from the Pan-Pudding Rock
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Observations on the Roman Earthen Ware taken
from the Pan-Pudding Rock, by Edward Jacob,
Esq. F. S. A.

Read April 20, 1780.

GENTLEMEN,

Relying by our constitution upon the freedom of discussing subjects of antiquity with decency, and on the candour of Governor Pownall, I beg leave to offer some remarks upon his memoir on the Roman Earthen Ware, printed in the fifth volume of the *Archaeologia*, p. 282.

It should seem that Mr. Pownall hath been misled into the notion of two different places being *one and the same*, by his brother's calling that where the earthen ware is *only* taken, by the name of Pudding-Pan-Sand or Rock. But the Pudding-Pan Rock (or as our people call it the Pan-Pudding Rock), and the Pan-Sand are distant from each other above three miles north east and by east. The Pan-Sand is close to and forms the north side of the Queen's Channel, consists intirely of sand, becomes dry for some part of every tide, and is *never* dredged upon by our fishermen. On the contrary the Pan-Pudding Rock is *never* dry. It is conjectured to be in length near half a mile, and in width about thirty perches; its surface is covered

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with loose stone of different magnitudes, every dredge net that was cast bringing up a large quantity of them. Its length runs almost east and west, and it lays right in the passage from the Narrows or the Woolpack to the Buoy of the Spaniards, and about six miles south east from the Reculvers, is well known to all our fishermen (as if often affords plenty of oysters) from its having about three or four feet water less upon it than the other parts thereabouts, excepting only one other rock called Hick-Mays at a small distance off that bears west by north from it.

When the discovery of this curious and not inelegant ware was first made is uncertain, but I have in my possession some pieces which were dredged up above sixty years ago, and they continue to be acquired in small numbers to this day; for though I have been attentive to procure them, yet in the course of above forty years I have not to my recollection seen above sixty of them. The commissioner therefore was exceedingly successful in taking three intire pans besides fragments in so short a trial, whereas our fisherman hath for above these thirty years dredged upon and round this rock, and yet never procured more than one intire pan, though many fragments of them. He further informs me that during the greatest part of last winter the fishing vessels of this town *only*, to the number of twelve or more, dredged for three days in every week upon and about the rock, and yet I cannot learn that above five or six of the pans have been brought hither.

After reading Mr. Pownall's memoir I determined to take a trip to the rock, and in the month of July last on a fine day, went accompanied with the Rev. Mr. Thomas, late a

member of the Society. No difficulty occurred in finding it, and we continued trying with the dredge-net for near three hours over and round about it, yet were we so unlucky as not to obtain even a single fragment of the pans; thus our disap=

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pointment seems to confirm the commissioner's fisherman's observation, that the pans were chiefly procured after stormy weather.

From our fruitless tryal (by which I conjecture that the pans are confined to a small space of the rock), and the great variety of the names of the potters impressed on the pans as given below, I am induced to think that the idea of a wreck is more consistent than that which Mr. Pownall hath so ingeniously offered as a solution of the cause of these pans being there deposited. Indeed I am apt to conjecture, that if he had had an opportunity of examining a greater variety of them, he would have saved himself the trouble of drawing up his curious investigation, as, setting aside the mistake of the place, it seems founded chiefly upon his having seen the name of one potter only impressed on them, namely Atillianus, and a large piece of cemented brick-work. Now whether the cause of these curious remains of the Roman pottery discovered there was by a Roman vessel freighted with these wares and cast away upon this rock, as hath been the general opinion hereabout; or that there hath been erected upon this spot a storehouse or manufactory of this ware, and that Atillianus was director of the college of potters, and had his works there, is readily submitted with the greatest deference to the consideration the society,

By their devoted humble servant,

EDWARD JACOB.

Faversham, Dec. 8, 1779.

The names impressed on those pateræ in my possession, which amount to twenty five, being all of the red earth and various shapes are,

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ALBVCINI.
ATILIANI.
ATRVGINI.
CADANVS.
CINTVS.
CARATIN.
CARETI.
DECFI.
MARN:C.
MATERNNIM [a].
MATERNI.
NAMILIAN.
PATT:O.
SATVRNINI.
SEVERIANI.

It is worthy observation that those pateræ which have rims to them, whether ornamented with a foliage or without, have no name impressed on them.

P. S. The Rev. Mr. Thomas since our visit to the rock has collected amongst the fishermen at Whitstaple a dozen of these vessels, and a curious thin [b] brown black one in the form of a sugar bason, having two handles and a foot to it, the

diameter is about five inches, and its external circumference ornamented with a pretty foliage, which last piece since Mr. Thomas's death has come to my hands.

- [a] This name is in a smaller type than the following with only one N.
- [b] Or rather made of red earth covered with a black glazing.

<C.F. October 2012.>