

ROMAN ROADS IN BRITAIN

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649695294

Roman Roads in Britain by Thomas Codrington

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THOMAS CODRINGTON

**ROMAN ROADS
IN BRITAIN**

THE
PUBLISHED

ROMAN ROADS IN BRITAIN

ROMAN ROADS IN BRITAIN

BY THE LATE
THOMAS CODRINGTON

M. INST. C. E., F. G. S.

*WITH LARGE CHART OF THE ROMAN ROADS
AND SMALL MAPS IN THE TEXT*

REPRINT OF THIRD EDITION

LONDON
SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING
CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE
NEW YORK: THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

1919

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
LIBRARY

1 11 1918

First Edition, 1903
Second Edition, Revised, 1905
Third Edition, Revised, 1918
" " (*Reprint*), 1919

PREFACE

THE following attempt to describe the Roman roads of Britain originated in observations made in all parts of the country as opportunities presented themselves to me from time to time. On turning to other sources of information, the curious fact appeared that for a century past the literature of the subject has been widely influenced by the spurious Itinerary attributed to Richard of Cirencester. Though that was long ago shown to be a forgery, statements derived from it, and suppositions founded upon them, are continually repeated, casting suspicion sometimes undeserved on accounts which prove to be otherwise accurate. A wide publicity, and some semblance of authority, have been given to imaginary roads and stations by the new Ordnance maps.

Those who early in the last century, under the influence of the new Itinerary, traced the Roman roads, unfortunately left but scanty accounts of the remains which came under their notice, many of which have since been destroyed or covered up in the making of modern roads; and with the evidence now available few Roman roads can be traced continuously. The gaps can often be filled with reasonable certainty, but more often the precise course is doubtful, and the entire course of some roads connecting known stations of the Itinerary of Antonine can only be guessed at. All vestiges may have been destroyed, but chance discoveries show that much may yet be learned from remains buried beneath the soil.

The network of roads might easily be made more complete, as a glance at the map will show; but it seems best to refrain from conjecture as much as possible, and to follow the roads only so far as there is evidence available for tracing them. Where routes of the Itinerary of Antonine can be identified, the position of the stations will be fixed by distances, or other evidence, and the dimensions

of camps and walled stations on the courses of the roads will be given; but no attempt will be made to describe the remains of towns and stations.

To no one can the imperfection of this attempt to describe the Roman roads of the country be more evident than it is to myself. The materials available are incomplete, and though I am indebted for information to many under whose notice remains have come in recent years, it must happen that, in so wide a field, vestiges known locally, and perhaps described, have been overlooked.

My acknowledgments are due for the facilities for reference which have been afforded me in the library of the Society of Antiquaries with the ready help of Mr. George Clinch. My thanks are also due to the Rev. E. McClure for his valuable advice, and especially to the Rev. George Herbert for undertaking much troublesome work in looking through the proofs, and aiding in the preparation of the map.

T. C.

PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

A SECOND edition, issued in 1905, was a reprint of the first with an appendix containing some additional particulars which had come under my notice. These have now been embodied in the text with others matters, which have been since published, or have been courteously communicated by correspondents, or are the result of my own observation. Very few roads have been added. Claims of others to be considered Roman roads have been made, and further examination may strengthen these claims, but at present they do not seem to me to be conclusive.

While fresh remains and traces of Roman roads have been brought to light, some of those which were visible fourteen years ago may be so no longer. I am unable to verify how far that is the case, and it seems best to leave the record of traces as it was in 1903.

T. C.

Twickenham, 1918.

