

VII. A Letter from Mr. Ralph Thoresby, to
Dr. Martin Lister, Coll. Med. Lond. & S.R.S.
giving an Account of a Roman Pottery, near
Leeds in Yorkshire.

S I R,

I Had once the Happiness in my Father's time to see
you here, and take very kindly your honourable
mention of him in your curious Letter Published in the
Philosophical Collect. N° 4. The Altar is yet with me,
with a considerable addition of other Curiosities, relating
as well to Antiquitys as natural Rarities, to which (if I
misremember not) you was a Benefactor, in bestowing
some valuable scars of a Coraline Urn, and of a Jet
ring, with some Indian Fruit, &c. my natural Pro-
pension to such things steals away more time than I
can well afford, and makes me also troublesome to such
generous tempers, as I find as well willing as able to as-
sist me; and therefore I presume this once to desire
your thoughts concerning a *Roman Pottery* that I have
recently discovered in my Survey of this Parish. 'Tis up-
on *Blackmore*, about two Miles from *Leedes* (the old
Neogeolium) the Name *Hawcaster rig* gave me the first
occasion to hope for some *Roman* Ruines there; but
instead of the Remains of a regular Camp or Fortifica-
tion, I was surpris'd to find several Rounds, or circular
heaps of Rubbish, abundantly too small for any Mili-
tary use; one by the Wheel was Sixteen Perches round,
another in walking Seventy six Paces, and these I take
to be Ruines of some of the very Furnaces; 'tis a San-
dy Ground, yet plenty of Clay at no great distance;
the Countrey People tell me of heaps of Staggs and Cin-
ders, but I had not the hap to meet with any, the place

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being

being grown over with Moss, &c. and the whole at present covered with Snow, that I can make no further Discovery till more seasonable Weather; in the mean time I should be glad to know of you the bigness of those *Metæ* you observed at *Santon*, and what Authors treat of the *Roman Plastics*. I am ready to fancy these might befor their *Bricks*, because of the great plenty of Clay in the Neighbourhood, and the great number of those *Roman Bricks*, yet to be seen in the Ruines of *Kirkstall-Abbey*, and that it belonged to the *Romans*, I conclude, partly because the Inhabitants have no Tradition of any Modern Pottery, but chiefly because it is seated upon a Branch of the *Roman-way*, or one of their *Vie Vicinales*, that leads from the great Military Road upon *Bramham-moor*, by *Thorner*, *Shadwell*, and *Kirkstall* to *Cambodunum*, besides the very name seems to import some *Roman Castrum*. Near the adjoining Eminency that the *Saxons* call'd *Haws* or *Hougs*, and the word is yet retained in some parts of *Torkshire*, witness *Hamleton-Hough* in the Road to *Selby*; and to conclude the Village that succeeded the *Old Pottery* is called *Pottery Newton*. If you please, Sir, to favour me with a Line, that I may have your Sanction, if these Conjectures be so happy as to merit it, you will thereby very much honour,

Worthy Sir,

Tours, &c.