

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<sup>o</sup> 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 Propension 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 assist me; and therefore I presume this once to desire your thoughts concerning a *Roman Pottery* that I have lately discovered in my Survey of this Parish. 'Tis upon *Blackmore*, about two Miles from *Leedes* (the old *Leogeolium*) 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 Fortification, I was surpris'd to find several Rounds, or circular Heaps of Rubbish, abundantly too small for any Military 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 Sandy Ground, yet plenty of Clay at no great distance; the Countrey People tell me of heaps of Stagg and Cinders, but I had not the hap to meet with any, the place  
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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 bignesse of those *Metæ* you observed at *Santon*, and what Authors treat of the *Roman Plasticks*. 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 *Via 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 *Yorkshire*, witness *Hamleton-Hough* in the Road to *Selby*; and to conclude, the Village that succeeded the *Old Pottery* is called *Potter-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.