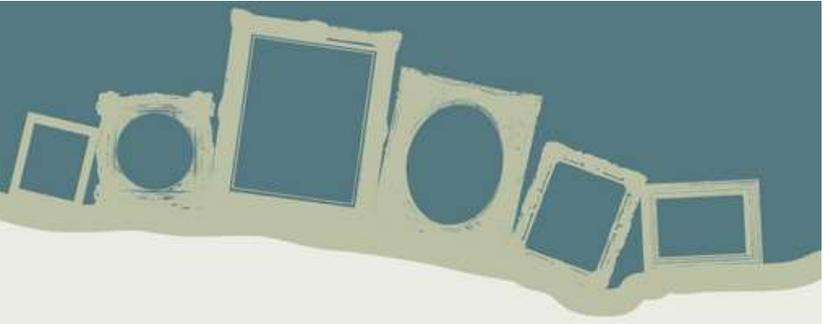


Wall Face



Antiquarian Image Card #5: Sir Ian Richmond by Walter Bird

Bromide Print, 24th February 1965, NPG x159909

Linked to Corbridge Roman Town Museum (Northumberland)

Sir Ian Richmond (10 May 1902 – 5 October 1965)

Chair of Archaeology of the Roman Empire as a professor of Oxford University at the time of his death, Sir Ian Richmond worked on Hadrian's Wall for many years. A superb archaeologist, lecturer, illustrator and author, he was the leading authority of Hadrian's Wall studies. He was President of the Society of Antiquaries of London, made CBE in 1958 and knighted in 1964 and edited three editions of the 'Handbook to the Roman Wall'.

Key achievements

- After graduating in 1924 he spent two years in Rome studying the Aurelian Wall, and became Director of the British School in Rome, studying Trajan's Column.
- Excavated extensively across Britain, and along Hadrian's Wall and outpost forts
- Set up the influential *Corbridge School* training excavations for Durham University

Links to Hadrian's Wall

- Appointed to Durham University at Newcastle as a prolific excavator and academic.
- Developed small-scale investigations, answering specific questions by testing with a spade, often digging just a single trench.
- Excavated right along Hadrian's Wall – from South Shields in the east to the Turf Wall in the west –including Housesteads, the Mithraeum at Carrawburgh and Corbridge.
- Corbridge Roman Town was excavated so intensively there is still work to be done analysing the material Richmond and his predecessors discovered.
- Richmond was a great advocate of the Wall through his own research and editing of three editions (10th – 12th) of John Collingwood Bruce's *Handbook to the Roman Wall*.

Character insights

- A devoted Anglican churchman with a measured manner, he spoke clearly and with authority. He was a searcher, recovering information by analysis and interpretation, and he enjoyed life, having a sense of fun which he imbued to others.
- *'...a sturdy body topped by a large distinctive head, that with his rosy apple cheeks combined to give the odd, unexpected appearance of a wise and friendly creature from another kind of world, as if it were an imp or a gnome'.*



Sir Ian Richmond by Walter Bird © National Portrait Gallery, London



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