

PRESENTED

23 MAY 1952
ANNUAL REPORT

AND

TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

YORKSHIRE

PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

FOR THE YEAR

1951

PRESENTED TO THE ANNUAL MEETING,

7th APRIL, 1952.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE COUNCIL.

1952.

THE interests of THE YORKSHIRE MUSEUM are primarily devoted to Natural History and Archaeology. Its fine collections cater not only for the general public, but also for specialist students in these two branches of cultural activity.

The Keeper would be interested to hear at all times of collections, large or small, which other institutions or private persons may have for disposal, and which could be used to extend the educational facilities already afforded the archaeologist, systematist and biologist at THE YORKSHIRE MUSEUM.

The Yorkshire Philosophical Society.

(Founded 1822.)

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REPORT OF THE COUNCIL
OF THE
YORKSHIRE PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
FOR 1951.

1951 has seen progress in most departments of the Yorkshire Museum.

In the department of Vertebrate Zoology, the Bird Room has been re-organized, and was opened in April by the Rev. Canon C. E. Raven. The thanks of the Society are especially due to Mr. Adam Gordon, of Duncombe Park, for twenty specimens of Yorkshire birds which he has mounted, and for a number of bird skins which he has prepared.

In the Entomological department a commencement has been made to unite the various coleoptera and hymenoptera collections. Many specimens have been identified for outside enquirers.

In the Botanical department, all the British specimens have been re-mounted and are to be incorporated in the near future. Some critical plants still remain to be named, but all the more ordinary plants are now named. All the botanical collections have been examined during the year. Throughout the year the wild flower table has been a source of interest and more than 600 species of the British flora have been exhibited. The thanks of the Society are due to Miss C. M. Rob, F.L.S., for her work in this department.

In the Geological department the thanks of the Society are due to Mr. J. A. Dell, M.Sc., who has sorted those of the type specimens which lost their labels. The work of boxing our enormous fossil collections continues. The present state of the geological collections should cause the Society concern. It is perhaps the finest collection outside London, Oxford and Cambridge. There is a life's work for two full-time professional geologists on this collection, and we urgently need an offer from some competent person to act as honorary curator in this department. These collections, properly arranged and cared for, could become a geological museum for the North of England.

In the Archaeological department the most notable event has been the excavation by Mr. L. P. Wenham, M.A., of part of the Roman Cemetery on the Mount. All the finds from this site have been treated and repaired in the Museum by the Keeper. A notable addition has been the Anglian gold ring found on the site of the present Glass Factory in Fishergate, presented on behalf of the late H. E. Leetham, Esq., J.P., by his daughters, Mrs. Ethel Robinson, Mrs. Constance Terry and Mrs. Kathleen Terry. The loan of the Morfitt Collection by the East Riding County Council has added some important Iron Age finds to the collections. In the Prehistoric section the thanks of the Society are due to Mr. T. C. M. Brewster, of Flixton, for the loan of his prehistoric collection.

In the medieval section, the architectural gallery has been largely cleared, though a great deal remains to be done. The booklet on the statues from St. Mary's Abbey, by Dr. Marcousé, has been published by the Society, and has been widely acclaimed. It is worthy of note that whereas the Museum has been asked for copies of this booklet from all over England and from America, the sales in York, and especially among members of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, have been disappointing.

The Ormside Bowl, perhaps the Museum's greatest treasure, has been restored and cleaned, and has been lent for three months to the British Museum. The exhibition in London has been greatly appreciated, and photographs have appeared both in the *Illustrated London News* and in *The Times*.

In the Hospitium and in the Central Hall there has been re-arrangement and cleaning.

The Ceramic collections have been enriched by a superb early Meissen Tea Service presented by Col. and Mrs. C. H. Grey.

An important addition to the Numismatic collection has been two coins of King Edgar with privy marks hitherto unrecorded.

The Report for 1951 would not be complete without a reference to the Festival. The background of St. Mary's Abbey will be an unforgettable memory to the thousands of spectators who attended the Mystery Plays.

Notwithstanding the many and varied activities mentioned above, this is no time for complacency. The Council realize that there is a great deal of leeway to make up both in the general arrangement of the Museum and in its finances, and they confess to a feeling of deep anxiety with regard to its future. Our Society was founded very many years ago to forward the interest of science, but since then many associations of a learned nature have been founded, all competing with us and with each other, and probably some system of co-operation will have to be considered. Our own Society, principally through lack of funds, has not kept pace with the advancement of knowledge, and we shall have to consider its future with great care, and the Council now has this matter under urgent consideration. In the realm of finance, the Society is not receiving the support to which its age and importance entitles it, and we would urge on all our members their duty to secure new members, and those with specialized knowledge of the various branches of study to volunteer their services.

FINANCE

The accounts show a balance of excess of ordinary expenditure over ordinary income of £208 9s. 7d., but a balance of income over expenditure of £70 14s. 7d. when items peculiar to the year are included: this latter figure is comparable with £19 11s. 5d. for the previous year, 1950.

The expenditure for the year was increased on account of a rise granted on certain salaries and wages, and by the rise in price of materials, and the income was considerably increased by the occurrence of the Festival.

MEMBERSHIP

There were 36 new members for the year 1951, and deaths and resignations numbered 31. There has thus been a net increase of 5, and the membership on 31st December, 1951, was:

Honorary Members	...	...	...	...	22
Members	...	...	...	...	349
Lady Subscribers	...	...	...	...	5
Associates	...	...	...	...	2
Student Members	...	...	...	...	4
Ticket Holders	...	...	...	...	48
					<hr/> 430 <hr/>

This Report would not be a true reflection of the year's work without a reference to the activities of our Keeper, Mr. Willmot. He is faced with an incredible amount of renovation and reorganization of the Society's collections which he has faced with courage and determination, and we record our confidence in his ability to meet and overcome the difficulties which face us.

METEOROLOGY.—Honorary Curator, Mr. A. Wentworth Ping, M.A.,
F.R.Met.Soc.

Recorder, Mr. A. Colley.

Statistics of Station: Longitude $1^{\circ} 5' W.$; Latitude, $53^{\circ} 57' N.$; height above mean sea level, 56 feet.

Rainfall. Rain or snow fell to the amount of 31.10 inches as against 26.96 inches for 1950, an increase of 4.14 inches, and 6.68 inches above the average of 24.42 inches for the preceding 50 years. The wettest months of the year were August 5.74 inches and November 5.26 inches. The driest months were April 0.87 inches and June 1.08 inches. The heaviest fall of the year occurred on 6th August when 1.66 inches was recorded.

Temperature. Temperature ranged from $78^{\circ} F.$ on 1st July to $22^{\circ} F.$ on 29th January; the range of temperature for 1951 being $56^{\circ} F.$ as against $69^{\circ} F.$ for 1950.

The mean temperature for the year (mean of max. and min.) was $48.6^{\circ} F.$ as against $49.3^{\circ} F.$ for 1950. July gave the highest mean with $61.5^{\circ} F.$, then August with $58.9^{\circ} F.$ January and February were the lowest with $37.7^{\circ} F.$ and $38.5^{\circ} F.$ respectively.

Barometer. A mean pressure of 1010.9 millibars (29.85 inches) (1000 millibars= 29.531 inches of mercury) at M.S.L. (corrected for diurnal variations) has been recorded as against 1012.2 millibars (29.89 inches) for 1950. February gave the lowest mean of the year, 999.8 millibars (29.52 inches). October was highest, 1020.8 millibars (30.14 inches). The highest reading of the barometer was taken on 12th December, 1032.7 millibars (30.50 inches), and the lowest on 5th February 963.3 millibars (28.45 inches), all readings corrected to M.S.L.

The extreme range was, therefore, 69.4 millibars (2.05 inches) as compared with 56.8 millibars (1.67 inches) in 1950.

Winds. Observations of winds show that during 1951 "strong" winds (force 4—8 Beaufort Scale) were recorded on 63 days as against 65 in 1950. The winds observed at 9 a.m., G.M.T., were W. 64; S. 63; S.W. 58; S.E. 54; N.W. 54; N. 32; N.E. 27; E. 13.

Thunder, Snow and Hail. Thunder was heard on 10 days as against 14 in 1950; snow or sleet fell on 18 days as against 17 days, and hail was recorded on 4 days as against 7 days the previous year.

Sunshine. Sunshine recorded at Bootham School amounted to 1331.5 hours as against 1338.5 hours in 1950, a decrease of 7 hours. The daily mean was 3.65 hours.

THE YORKSHIRE PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

LIABILITIES.

31st Dec., 1950. £ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	Capital Account.		
42757 0 2	Balance-at 1st January, 1951		42757 0 2
31 15 11	Subscriptions paid in advance		50 0 3
278 17 2	Sundry Creditors		384 16 4
1098 13 4	REORGANISATION FUND ACCOUNT		—
	<i>(Now transferred to Income and Expenditure Account)</i>		
	Income and Expenditure Account:		
	Balance at 1st January, 1951	477 2 6	
	<i>Add:—</i> Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year	70 14 7	
	Balance of Re-organisation Fund Account at 1st January, 1951	1098 13 4	
		1646 10 5	
	<i>Deduct:—</i> Expenses chargeable against the Re-organisation Fund to 31st December, 1951 110 13 4		
	Suspense Account:		
	Ellis Collection, written off ... 265 10 9		
	35 St. Olave's Road, written back 1250 0 0		
477 2 6		1626 4 1	20 6 4
—	Midland Bank, Limited (Overdraft)		245 11 4
£44643 9 1	Carried forward		£43457 14 5

BALANCE SHEET, AT 31st DECEMBER, 1951.

ASSETS.

31st Dec., 1950.

£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
			Freehold Property and Land.									
			(Not valued for the purpose of this Balance Sheet)									
			Museum Gardens and Museums.									
			32 and 34, Bootham (Tempest Anderson Bequest).									
			Manor Cottage									
			St. Mary's Lodge.									
			Baths Cottage, Marygate.									
			10 Bootham.									
			<i>At Cost.</i>									
1250	0	0	35 St. Olave's Road									
			Investments									
			TEMPEST ANDERSON BEQUEST (At Cost).									
10183	8	9	£10,271	1s.	8d.	3½%	War	Stock	10183	8	9	
			<i>Add:—</i> £1181 9s. 0d. Purchased									
			during year					1000	0	0		
									11183	8	9	
2500	0	0	£2,500	York Corporation	2½%	Loan			2500	0	0	
7967	11	0	£12,876	13s.	8d.	3%	Treasury Stock		7967	11	0	
1509	8	10	£1,649	6s.	9d.	3½%	Conversion Stock		1509	8	10	
8000	0	0	£8,000	Mortgage, Ings Property Company Ltd.					8000	0	0	
				4%								
617	13	5	£621	7s.	2d.	British Electricity	3%	Guaranteed Stock 1968/73	617	13	5	
2000	0	0	£2,000	2½%	Defence Bonds							
			At Conversion Value on 1st January, 1948.									
900	0	0	£900	Rotherham Corporation Mortgage at	3%				900	0	0	
7377	5	0	£7,377	5s.	0d.	British Transport	3%	Guaranteed Stock 1978/88	7377	5	0	
			RAWDON BEQUEST (At Cost).									
856	8	10	£935	17s.	10d.	3½%	Conversion Stock		856	8	10	
			ST. QUINTIN BEQUEST (At Cost).									
250	0	0	£247	11s.	2d.	3½%	Conversion Stock		250	0	0	
			WM. DOVE BEQUEST (At Cost).									
500	0	0	£500	3%	Defence Bonds				500	0	0	
			42661	15	10				41661	15	10	
			Note—Market value at 31st December, 1951 = £38,513 5s. 0d.									
81	11	8	Sundry Debtors							82	2	9
			Cash at Bank—									
	68	9	11	York County Savings Bank					1095	4	4	
				<i>Midland Bank, Limited:—</i>								
	95	4	4	Capital Account								
	49	14	10	Current Account								
213	9	1							1095	4	4	
£44206	16	7	Carried forward...						£42839	2	11	

THE YORKSHIRE PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

LIABILITIES.

31st Dec., 1950.

£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
446	43	9	1		

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	434	57	14	5		

 44643 9 1

 43457 14 5

FUNDS FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES.

WM. REED BEQUEST.

Balance at 1st January, 1951	676	3	4		
<i>Less</i> :—Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year ended 31st December, 1951 ...				1	15 11
	676	3	4		674 7 5

H. J. WILKINSON MEMORIAL FUND.

233 0 3	Balance at 1st January, 1951	205	1	6
—	<i>Add</i> :—Creditors for Expenses at 31st December, 1951	8	4	8
<hr/>		<hr/>		
233 0 3		213	6	2
	<i>Less</i> :—Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year ended 31st December, 1951	11	4	11
205 1 6		<hr/>		202 1 3

 £45524 13 11

 £44334 3 1

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF

We have examined the foregoing Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Accounts with
have verified the Cash Balance and Investments.

8, Coppergate, York.

6th February, 1952.

BALANCE SHEET, AT 31st DECEMBER, 1951—continued.

ASSETS.

31st Dec. 1950.											
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
44206	16	7				Brought forward ...			42839	2	11
171	1	9				Payments in Advance ...			155	5	0
						Stock of Museum Publications No. 1					
						(At Cost) ...			355	17	6
						Less:—Sales to 31st December, 1951 ...			17	11	0
									338	6	6
						Stock of Coke on Hand at 31st December,					
						1951. (Estimated) ...			125	0	0
						Suspense Account (Ellis Collection)					
265	10	9									
44643	9	1							43457	14	5

FUNDS FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES.

WM. REED BEQUEST (At Cost)

650	0	0	£579	12s.	5d.	4%	Consolidated Stock (at cost)	650	0	0		
			Note:—Market Value at 31st December, 1951=£518 15s. 2d.									
			26	3	4		Cash at Midland Bank, Ltd. ...	24	7	5		
676	3	4									674 7 5	

H. J. WILKINSON MEMORIAL FUND.

185	0	0	£164	8s.	6d.	4%	Consolidated Stock (at cost)	185	0	0		
			Note:—Market Value at 31st December, 1951=£147 3s. 2d.									
			20	1	6		Cash at Midland Bank Ltd. ...	17	1	3		
205	1	6									202 1 3	

£45524 13 11

£44334 3 1

THE YORKSHIRE PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

the Books and Vouchers of the Society, and certify the same to be in accordance therewith. We

PULLEYN, CREER & CO.,
Chartered Accountants

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS For the Year Ended 31st December, 1951.

Dr.

31st Dec. 1950.

EXPENDITURE.

£ s. d.
24 8 2

To New Books and Binding ...

£ s. d.
24 19 7

Wm. REED BEQUEST.

31st Dec., 1950.

£ s. d.
23 3 8

By Interest on £579 12s. 5d. 4% Consolidated Stock (Gross) ...

By Balance being Excess of Expenditure over Income carried to Balance Sheet

£24 8 2

£24 19 7

£24 8 2

£24 19 7

INCOME.

£ s. d.

23 3 8

1 15 11

H. J. WILKINSON MEMORIAL FUND

£ s. d.
34 10 3

To Herbarium Expenses ...

£ s. d.
17 16 5

£ s. d.
6 11 6

By Interest on £164 8s. 6d. 4% Consolidated Stock (Gross) ...

By Balance being Excess of Expenditure over Income carried to Balance Sheet

£34 10 3

£17 16 5

£34 10 3

£17 16 5

TRANSACTIONS
OF THE
YORKSHIRE PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,
1951.

A BRONZE AGE BEAKER FROM STAXTON, SCARBOROUGH, YORKS.,
AND A NEW LOCAL BEAKER COMPLEX

By T. C. M. BREWSTER.

The circumstances which led to the discovery of the Beaker are not without interest. One afternoon in 1943, Mr. T. E. Newham, of Scarborough, who operated a sand quarry, or pit as it is locally called, at Staxton, was on the point of leaving the site when a fall of sand from the "face" attracted his attention, at the same time a barrel-shaped object became detached from the wave of debris and crashed against a stone. On investigation this turned out to be a crude pot, which he took home and cared for until after the War. No bones were observed at the time, neither was a grave-hollow visible. If the vessel had been associated with a burial it is possible that the skeleton may have become buried in the "fall". Newham's Pit, where the find was made, is located in a fork formed by the Filey to York road at Spital Corner, Staxton, East Riding of Yorkshire. The find spot was situated upon a low hill formed by one of the many beds of sharp sand and chalk chips laid down by the local glacial meltwaters, and lying between the carrlands and the Wold foot. The average depth of the deposit is about 20 ft. underlaid, generally, by boulder clay and overlaid by a covering of sandy loam, which varies in thickness from six inches to ten feet. Unfortunately the exact provenance of the Beaker is not known, but from measurements made since, the position can be calculated to be between 75—80 yards E.S.E. of the Spring Head marked on the O.S. 6 inch Sheet CIX. N.E.

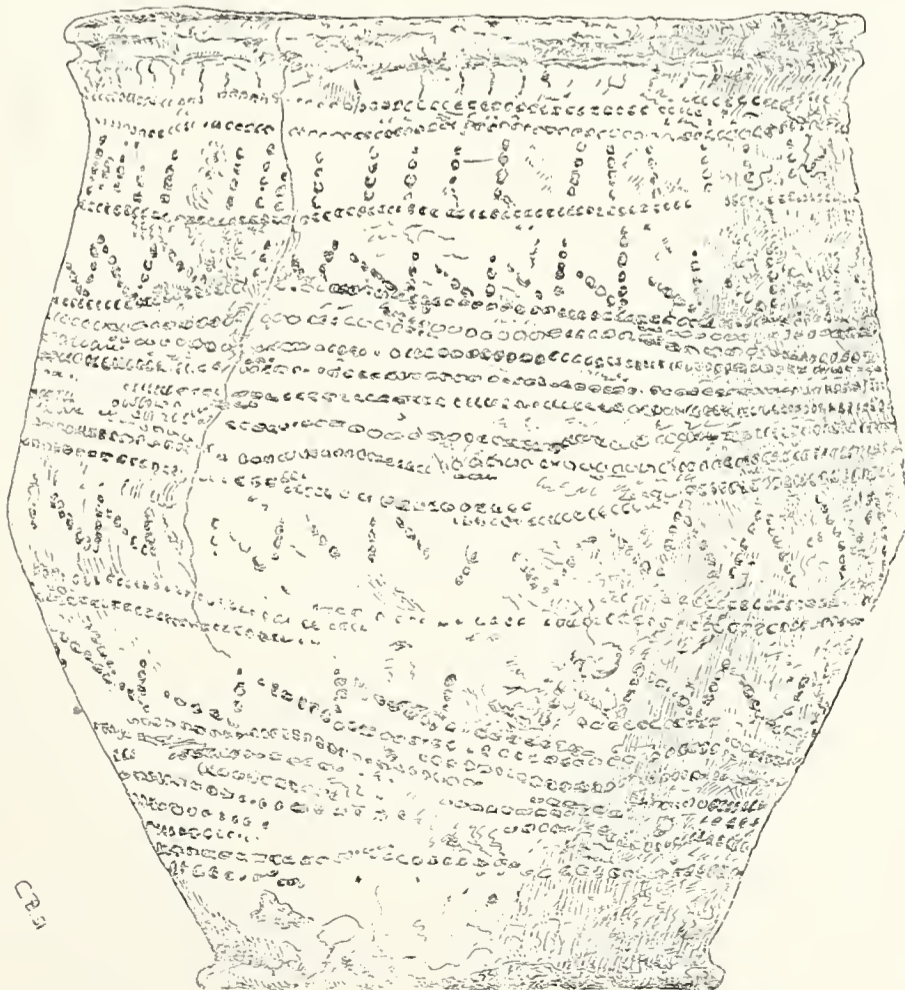


FIG. 1. (Scale $\frac{1}{2}$) BEAKER FROM STAXTON, YORKS.

Due to the Beaker hitting a stone when it fell, a large fragment was broken off from the wall and the rim, this fortunately was in one piece and has now been replaced. At the same time the base and the remainder of the lip received some abrasions, and the walls as a result have become slightly warped and cracked. Little restoration, however, was necessary and the specimen is now nearly in its original condition. In colour the fabric varies from buff, to buff with reddish tones. Portions of crushed flint are incorporated in the bisque which is fairly hard and smooth. The height of the pot is 15.8 cms., the mouth 12.9 wide, greatest width of the body 14.7 and the maximum diameter of the foot 8.6 cms. As can be seen the shape is roughly biconical, the base is out turned and forms a rough foot. It is possible that the Beaker, in common with some other examples, was made in two parts, i.e., the bottom and top, this junction creates an angle in the profile just below the midway line from base to rim, which is turned outwards with a slashed cordon just below the lip. Decoration consists of hyphenated lines executed with a square toothed comb or stick. Decorative motifs carried out by this method commence just above the base, and consist of three zones of asymmetrical chevrons separated by plain lines. Topping the uppermost chevroned band is a "ladder" design, which is isolated from the rim cordon by means of a single line. Vertical slashes cut the cordon at intervals of about 5 cms. throughout the circumference, these incisions have been made with a blade or finger-nail.

Parallels.

Appertaining to Abercromby's type "B", sub-group B2, the Beaker's fairly squat form, base and decorative detail, has several interesting parallels and affinities in this country and the Continent. Two Beakers from Erith, Kent,¹ have the same basic outline, fabric and foot, less the cordon. This is the case also with the "B" example from Weerseloo, Gelderland,² which is noticeably similar in many respects to the Staxton find. In addition the Globose B2 from Felixstowe, and its parallel at Drenthe, Holland, have the same fundamental decorated motifs and basal shape.³ Rim cordons are to be found amongst others on the following Beakers:—Court Hill, Dalry,⁴ Ayrshire; Sutton 268, Llandow Parish, Glam.; Penderyn, Brech.; Sutton Courtenay, Berks.,⁵ and an example illustrated by Abercromby from Banff⁶, this latter specimen, a corded B1, can be matched with the B1 from Raindale, exhibited in the Yorkshire Museum, York.⁷ A stray example from Egton, N.R. Yorkshire, is illustrated by Elgee. In view of this data it can be seen that rim cordons are on the whole not so uncommon, and are a feature of both B1 and B2 types.

Conclusions.

The ultimate source and inspiration of the Staxton example is to be sought in the Netherlands and the Lower Rhine area, in the former of which it has certain affinities. The "foot" is an interesting factor in this direction. Rim cordons appear to be a feature of the Dutch and Lower Rhenish school, especially of the first, where the "glockurne" with rim cordons occur, an example of which was discovered in this country at Lion Point, Essex.⁸ B2 Beakers are not exactly common in Yorkshire, and this example stands out clearly from the rest of the material, and points to direct, or indirect Dutch influence in this part of the East Riding.

A NEW BEAKER COMPLEX

It is worth noting that fragments of another "B" Beaker were discovered a short distance away from the Staxton B2 in 1941, and were sent to the British Museum by Mr. E. R. Cross of Scarborough.⁹ Two other examples have been found nearby, one a "B" Beaker; and burial at Flixton, was published some years ago.¹⁰ The other a type "A" with a skeleton has come to light in the last few years and will be shortly published.

Although many artifacts of the Bronze Age have occurred in the low-lying marsh hills and the upper sandy or gravelly slopes of the Vale of Pickering, this complex at the approaches to the Wolds is something new. Previously, Early B.A. inhumations and, or, funerary vessels have only come to light on the hills to the east, north and south of Staxton. One exception is the fragment of a "B" Beaker from East Heslerton, recovered in similar conditions to the rest, i.e., at the Wold base near a stream.¹¹

It should be noticed that the low sandy slopes and undulations at the southern fringe of Pickering Vale would provide a suitable zone for occupation in prehistoric times. The area could be easily traversed, there are suitable springs and the soil can be cultivated and handled with ease; in addition the land never becomes waterlogged or unduly damp. Furthermore the meres, both large and small, and the scrub forest at their edges were doubtless rich in game and wild fowl.¹² So far the inhumations and pottery of the Beaker period already mentioned have been concentrated near or around the springs which rise through the sand. This no doubt is due primarily to the presence of a permanent water supply, although there might be some religious significance.

The Staxton Beaker was presented to T. C. M. Brewster in 1950, and is now exhibited in the Yorkshire Museum, York.

References.

- ¹ Abercromby. B.A. Pot. Vol. I, 36 and 38.
- ² "Die Becherkultur in Den Niederlanden", Oudheidkundige Mededelingen (Nieuwe Reeks XIV) 1933. My thanks are due to Mr. G. F. Willmot, who kindly lent his copy of this journal which I had been unable to obtain elsewhere in this country.
- ³ Ibid. 86. Clark, *Antiquity*, 1931, p. 415.
- ⁴ Abercromby. B.A. Pot. Vol. I, 199.
- ⁵ *Arch.* 88.
- ⁶ Abercromby. B.A. Pot. Vol. I, 277.
- ⁷ Raindale, York Museum No. 1001.47
- ⁸ Lion Point, Essex. P.P.S. II. Fig.
- ⁹ This information was supplied through the kind offices of Mr. E. M. M. Alexander.
- ¹⁰ *Ant. Journal*, 1933.
- ¹¹ Found by Master James Jefferson in 1950 on the low hill to the west of the Church.
- ¹² *Scarborough Evening News*, 26th January and 8th February, 1951. T. C. M. Brewster.

A SPEAR FROM FLIXTON CARR, SCARBOROUGH, YORKSHIRE

By T. C. M. BREWSTER

In the summer of 1946 a Middle-Late Bronze Age spear-head was discovered in Flixton Carr, lying on the bank of a drainage dyke, which had recently been cut in the peat. Mrs. G. W. Patrick, of Flixton, was responsible for finding the specimen, and Mr. J. W. Moore brought it to the notice of the writer. Flixton

Carr is located at the eastern end of the vale of Pickering, north-east of Staxton and south-east of Seamer. Formerly a mere covered the greater part of the valley below Flixton, and it was the western, peaty, bed of this system from which the find was retrieved. The exact place of origin is situated near a plantation which lies north-east of Flixton Carr House Farm, and south-west of Star Carr Bridge. Slightly to the north-east is the former channel of the Hertford River.¹

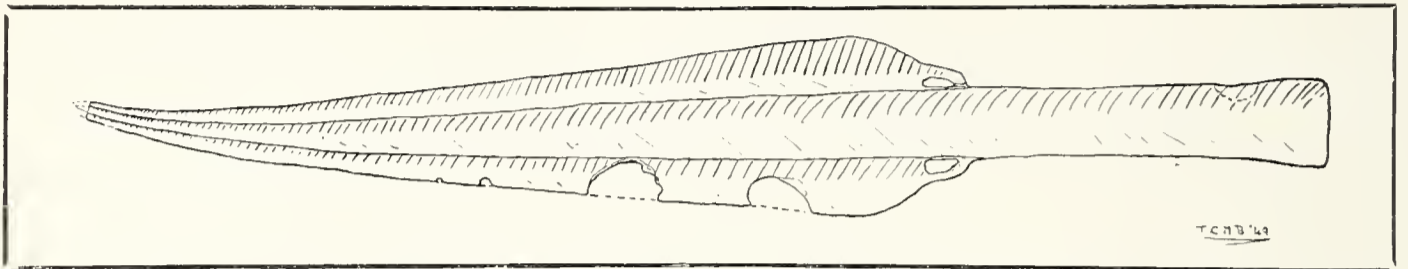


FIG. 2. (Scale $\frac{1}{3}$) BRONZE SPEAR FROM FLIXTON CARR, YORKS.

Belonging typologically to the basal-looped IIIa series, the lance-head is on the whole in good order, although heavily encrusted when found. Two small pieces have been broken off in modern times from one of the cutting edges, and the blade, about a quarter of the way down from the tip, had been twisted a little when lost. In addition, a fault is apparent at the base of the socket. This has the appearance of a rough peg-hole, but is doubtless a casting flaw. The overall length is 28.7 cms., the maximum width across the blades, which are slightly bevelled, 5 cms., and the distance from the loops to the blunted tip 20.3 cms. Greatest outside diameter of the socket is 2 cms. Approximate weight before removal of the encrustation was 8 oz. The basal-loops, which are nearly round in section, extend and break the curve of the blades for 8 mm. beyond the base. A similar example, both in form and size, came from the Maentwrog hoard.²

Type IIIa spears have a fairly wide distribution in the British Isles and occur in some cases in Continental Europe, where they are possibly indications of trade. The worn specimen from Liesbüttel³ and the broken example from Wiesloch in Baden⁴ are instances of such finds. In Yorkshire they have been found either complete or fragmentary in the following places:—Sheep, West Bradford and Morley in the West Riding, Northallerton and Bainbridge in the North Riding, and two more, one from the Wolds and the other from Holderness. This list, though not complete, gives a rough indication of the distribution in the immediate area of the Flixton discovery. Since the publication of Estyn Evans' article on the bronze spear-head in the British Isles⁵ it has been customary to date the basal-looped group to the Late Bronze Age. But as Mahr suggested⁶, and Childe⁷ and Cowen⁸ clearly argue, the development which led to the type IIIa series is to be found in the Middle Bronze Age of this country, and not the Late Bronze Age. The finding at Liesbüttel of a spear with basal-loops in a Montelius II grave group, and the presence of rapiers and lance-heads of this form in hoards found in this country, should be sufficient to date the type to Middle Bronze Age II and Late Bronze Age I.

Due to the heavy encrustation it was necessary to mechanically clean the specimen and prevent, if possible, further decay. This has been done; so far this action appears to be successful. The owner of the spear-head, Mr. G. W. Patrick, of Flixton Carr House Farm, kindly presented it to T. C. M. Brewster.

Thanks are due to Mr. E. M. M. Alexander for his kindness in permitting the examination of the British Museum Catalogue of Bronze Implements in the search for new or otherwise unrecorded specimens.

References.

- ¹ O.S. 6-inch Sheet CIX. N.E. Lat. 54 12 46. Lon. 0 25 42.
- ² V. Gordon Childe. Prehistoric Communities. Fig. 53. II.
- ³ Mainzer Zeitschrift XXIX. Tafel IX. 2.
- ⁴ Ibid. Tafel IX. 5.
- ⁵ Arch. 83 (1933). Page 173.
- ⁶ P.P.S. III.
- ⁷ V. Gordon Childe. Prehis. Com. P. 171.
- ⁸ J. D. Cowen. P.P.S. XIV. Page 233.



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23 MAY 1952

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