



The Cemetery from the South-west after excavation
(Photo : J. Gibson, St. Mary's)

THE EXCAVATION OF A CIST-GRAVE CEMETERY AND ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES NEAR HUGHTOWN, ST. MARY'S, ISLES OF SCILLY, 1949-50

By PAUL ASHBEE

INTRODUCTION

It is hardly necessary to point out the archaeological importance of the Isles of Scilly. Dr. Borlase in the 18th century, and Copeland Borlase in the 19th, commented on the great numbers of chambered tombs beneath barrows extant on the islands. Mr. George Bonsor, at the beginning of this century, appreciated the strategic position of Scilly in relation to the 'Atlantic' route and he excavated and planned some of the chambered tombs, as he wished to test the hypothesis that they were the Cassiterides, the fabled tin islands. More recently Dr. O. G. S. Crawford and Dr. H. O'Neill Hencken have described the antiquities of Scilly in some detail. Even more recently, excavations and field-work by the late Mr., and by Mrs. B. H. St. J. O'Neil have shown that the islands were inhabited in Iron Age and Roman times, and indeed during the so-called 'Dark Ages'. Thus a cist-grave cemetery shown by associated relics to belong to Roman times need occasion no surprise.

The cemetery was situated just to the south of Hughtown (fig. 1), in what was until recently termed the 'Parson's Field'; this field is the southern extremity of the middle and lower part of the slope from the eminence of the Garrison to the low ground which separates Porth Cressa

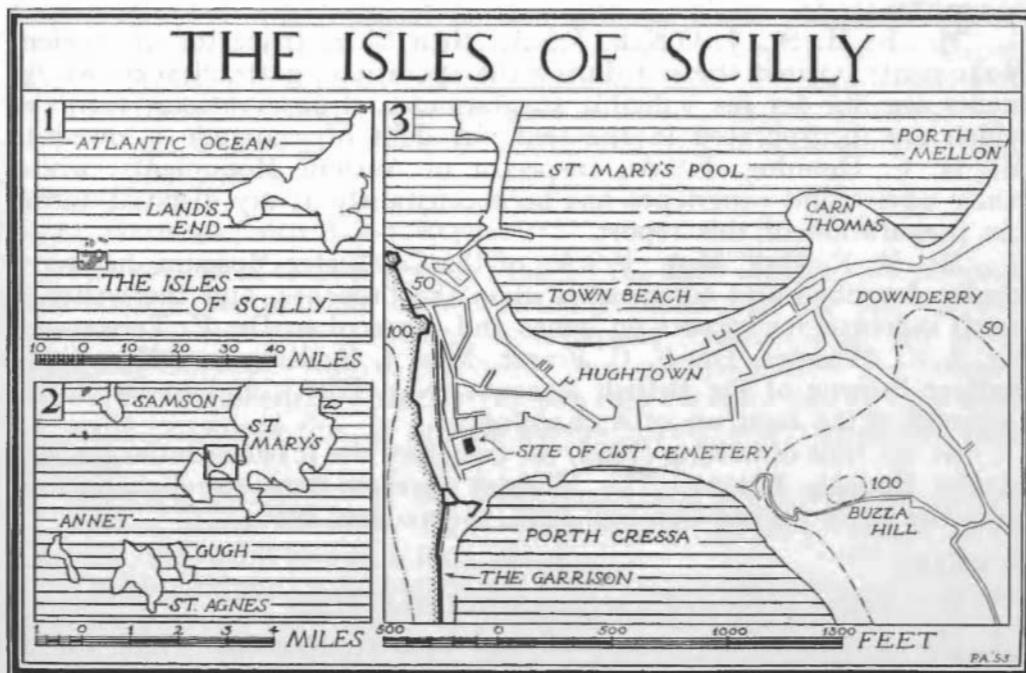


Fig. 1. Maps showing location of site
(Based on the Ordnance Survey Map by permission of the Director-General, Ordnance Survey)

from St. Mary's Pool.¹ The greater part of Hughtown stands upon this isthmus. At the time of excavation the field had been incorporated into the Council of the Isles of Scilly's Post-War Housing Estate.

The circumstance of discovery was the excavation of foundation trenches for Nos. 12 and 13 of the Housing Estate. The trench designed for the central dividing wall between two semi-detached houses revealed cist No. 1 and also the southern end of cist No. 2. The remaining trenches dug by the builders gave no indication of the extent of the cemetery or of associated structures. A former tenant of the field spoke of 'obstructions' to cultivation, and cists Nos. 4 and 9 had been damaged, the latter by a fencing stake. Other than this, there has been no previous excavation, nor is there any record of past discovery.

The excavation was conducted by the Ministry of Works under the supervision of the writer. Throughout, every possible facility was granted by the Council of the Isles of Scilly, the authority responsible for the Housing Estate, and tribute must be paid to the ready co-operation and practical assistance of Mr. E. J. Dunt, Land Steward of the Duchy of Cornwall. Mr. R. M. Stephenson, Clerk to the Island's Council, was a constant and helpful visitor, while the Housing Contractor, the Clerk of Works and the General Foreman did all within their power to assist a task carried out often in inclement weather. Mr. J. Treneary, a local resident, was of great aid on the site whenever he was free of his commitments.

Mr. B. H. St. J. O'Neil, F.S.A., then Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments, visited the site during the operation; grateful acknowledgments are due for his valuable suggestions and observations, many of which are incorporated in the text. A debt of gratitude is owed to Mr. G. C. Dunning, F.S.A., Inspector of Ancient Monuments, whose ready advice and experience has been constantly at my disposal during the preparation of this report.

Mr. M. R. Hull, M.A., F.S.A., of the Colchester Museum, has most kindly described and commented upon the brooches, and the writer is much indebted for reports on bones and charcoal to Dr. E. Trewawass, Mr. A. C. Wheeler, Dr. F. C. Fraser, Miss J. E. King and Mrs. F. L. Balfour-Browne of the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), and to Dr. I. W. Cornwall of the Institute of Archaeology.

At the time of writing (1952) the cemetery site is beneath the gardens of the Housing Estate. The Ministry's excavations were continuous from the latter part of October, 1949, to January, 1950.

SUMMARY

Excavation suggested a sequence of three events :

- (1) A massive dry-stone wall had been constructed, which on its uphill, i.e. west, side retained a considerable depth of loamy

¹ 6 ins. Cornwall (Isles of Scilly). Sheet LXXXVII, S.E. Lat. 49° 54' 48", Long. 60° 18'

5". On the 25 ins. Sheet it is Plot 759. Nat. Grid. Ref. is 093106.

soil. This soil contained potsherds, some abraded, and a few flint flakes and artifacts. This structure and the soil retained by it pre-dated the cist-cemetery, and it seems that it was because of the depth of soil available within the retaining wall that it was chosen as the site of the cemetery. Its original function may have been a cultivation terrace.

- (2) A cemetery of ten cists was made with one grave of allied form. The cists were built in pits in the loamy soil of selected granite blocks and slabs, and were similarly covered. The interstices of sides and cover stones were lined with sandy yellow clay. The rite was contracted inhumation with the head to the north, and, as far as could be seen, the body was laid on its right side. Grave-goods were a series of provincial Roman brooches, deposited in the cists in pairs, or in one instance singly, and twice with pots. The contents of these last were indeterminable. Many of the brooches are unparalleled, but the known forms, with one exception, appear to belong to the 1st century A.D.
- (3) Stratified above the robbed remains of the terrace retaining wall was an extensive midden, comprised almost entirely of limpet shells. A spread of this material also occurred above the retaining wall in a place where it was still intact. The midden was confined on one side by large granite boulders, perhaps robbed from the terrace wall. In addition to limpet shells, the midden contained animal, bird and fish bones, and above, in, and below it, were a small number of distinctive 'grass-marked' potsherds, considered to date from the 9th-10th centuries A.D.

LOCAL GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The geological solid is granite; indeed the Isles of Scilly are entirely granite and the products of weathered granite. At the foot of the Garrison Hill the rock is covered by a deposit termed 'head' by H.M. Geological Survey. Above the head, and probably the 'B' horizon of the soil profile here, is a thick moor-pan called locally, and in Cornwall, the 'rabb'. Above this, in turn, is a light leached soil, and finally, rich humus.

Here by Porth Cressa, the monuments and relics were all in the 'A' horizon above the pan. The wall and cist builders have, in most instances, utilised it as a firm foundation.

The approximate height of the site above sea level is 25 feet, and before excavation there were traces of a terrace or flattening of the hillside.

On the upper hillward side, the site was bounded by a dry granite boulder wall. It was impossible to investigate this wall as it in part carried a modern road.

The site in relation to present topography is shown in fig. 1, 3.

A CIST CEMETERY AT HUGHTOWN ST MARY'S

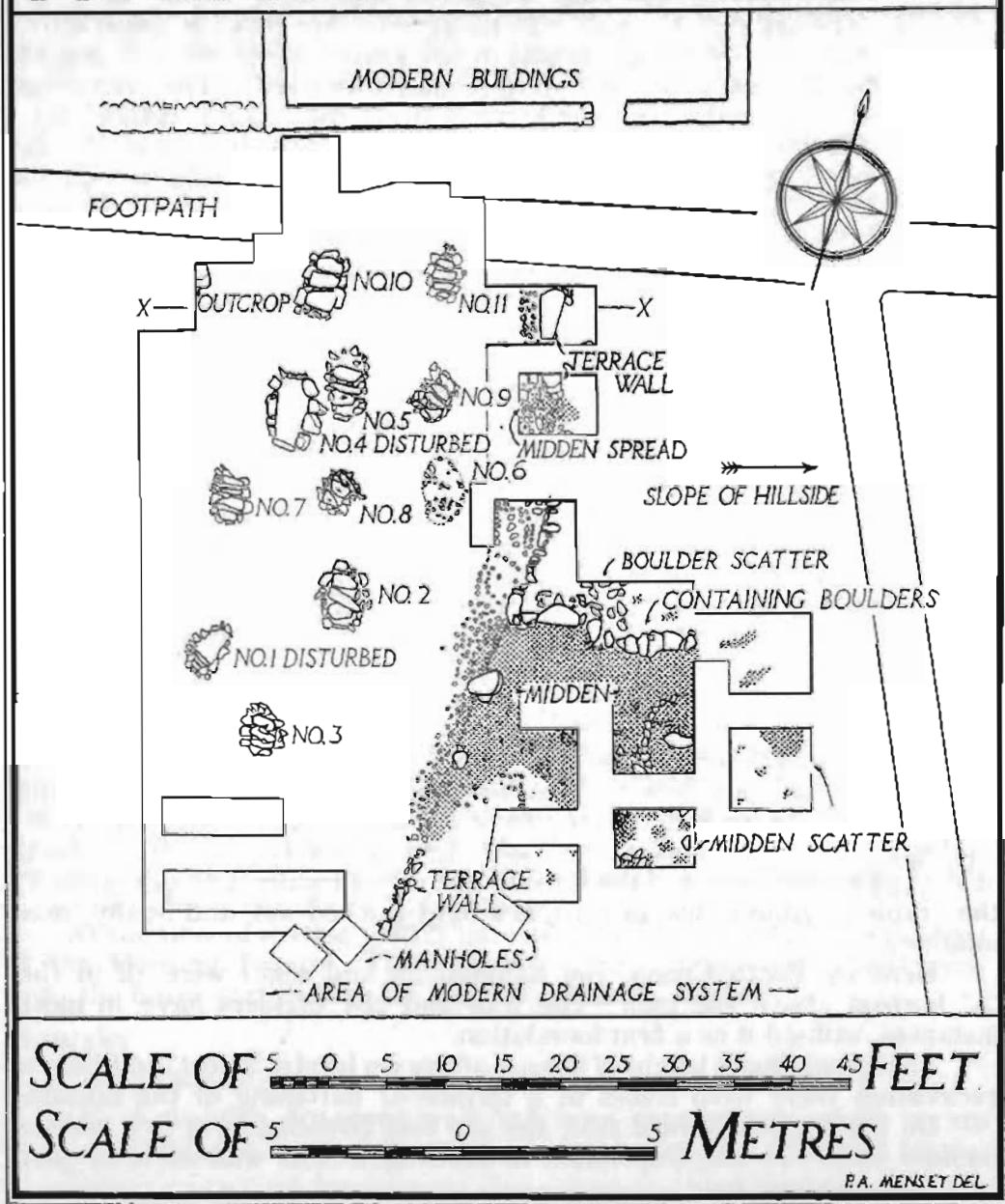


Fig. 2. Plan of excavated area

THE CIST CEMETERY AND ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES

Ten cists were examined, and one grave of allied form may be added to this total. These cists and the grave are thought to comprise the entire number in this immediate area (plan, fig. 2). This assumption is based upon the fact that uphill upon the western side, and to the north of the excavated area, apart from the area marked by modern building, there is an insufficient depth of soil above the 'rabb' to allow a grave pit to be dug and a cist to be built to the minimum required dimensions. It was possible to observe a small commercial excavation behind the buildings to the north of the excavated area, and the insufficient depth of soil condition obtained there also. The eastern or downhill side was limited by the 'terrace' retaining wall discussed below. On the southern side the cemetery appeared to end; search beyond the area of the modern drainage system and the road was made by probing, but no other cists were found.

THE WALL AND TERRACE

An explanation was needed for the depth of humus and soil into which the pits had been dug and the cists built, as the depth was greater than elsewhere on similar lower slopes. This considerable accumulation contained in the top soil a quantity of recent material but some small amorphous abraded sherds may well be prehistoric. It will be convenient to discuss the layers in the terms of soil profile notation (section, fig. 3)—

A CIST CEMETERY AT HUGHTOWN ST MARY'S SECTION SHOWING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CIST CEMETERY, TERRACE, AND WALL.

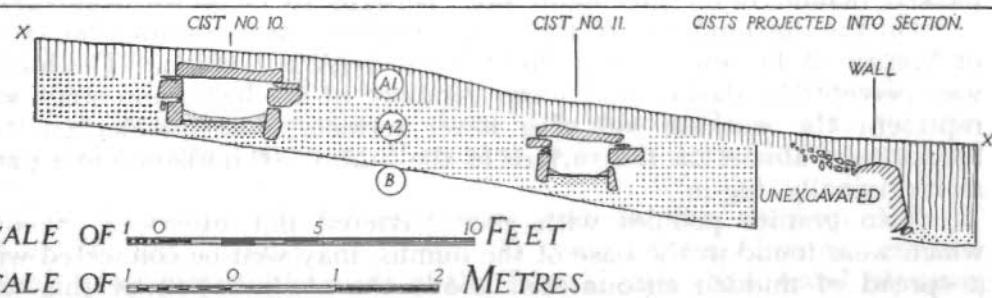


Fig. 3. Section through cemetery and wall

thus the humus or top soil will be termed the A.1 horizon, the light grey leached material beneath it the A.2 (or leached) horizon, and the moorpan (or 'rabb'), the B horizon: this last rests upon unaltered granite debris. This is a convenient system, but must by no means be taken as a final appreciation of the soil problems of Scilly, although this interpretation seems likely in view of the phenomena observed during the excavation.

The A.2 or leached horizon which coincided generally with the cist covers was sterile of recent material except for an odd sherd or two at the extreme top. Below this, however, it contained a quantity of small, generally amorphous, sherds, including some rim fragments (see below under 'finds') and a number of flint cores and flakes, some of these last bearing secondary working. As well as occasional small sherds in the grave pit fillings (see below) which were, it would seem, dug out and thrown back again and were of no significance, these sherds and flint fragments were scattered throughout the soil. The leached soil was almost all removed during excavation of the cemetery, which left most of the cists free standing.

In view of this depth of soil, something in the nature of a terrace was considered likely. To test this hypothesis, probing was undertaken in the shelving bank just below cist No. 9 and a solid rock obstruction of considerable magnitude and solidity was encountered. Accordingly, two cuttings were made in the vicinity of the obstruction and a wall was found (plan, fig. 2, section, fig. 3). A further series of cuttings were made on the assumed line of this wall (fig. 2), but it deviated from this course and the boulder-girt midden was encountered.

Further cuttings revealed the actual line of this terrace wall, and it became clear that only the northern exposed half and the southern extremity were at all intact. While there may have been some fall, a great part was robbed.

The first part of this wall to be exposed was a massive boulder, secured in position by packing blocks beneath the outside edge, thus throwing its weight uphill and presumably against soil thrust. Smaller stones were packed behind it on the uphill side, perhaps to facilitate drainage.

On the downhill side of this great boulder was a considerable depth of humus (A.1), and a very slight leached (A.2) horizon. The humus was perceptibly darker and more compact at its base, and may well represent the working soil of a lower terrace. The boulder packing blocks were almost on the surface of the 'rabb' (B horizon, moor-pan), as if originally dug in.

Two granite pebbles with ends battered but otherwise smooth, which were found in the base of the humus, may well be connected with a spread of midden encountered above the continuation of this wall in the next cutting (fig. 2). Here the wall built of large blocks was tumbled and fallen. Several fallen boulders were removed, exposing an identical behaviour of humus and leached layer.

Further to the south, the terrace wall was marked by a regular row of orthostats, with smaller material packed behind them. From a point just by cist 2 (plan, fig. 2) to the southern extremity, with the exception of two large boulders with their appropriate packing blocks, the wall had been robbed of large stones, and only the smaller back packing material remained *in situ*. The accumulation of 'Dark Age' midden covered much of this remaining stonework.

The careful construction at the extremities showed that this wall was never intended to be a mere bank of small stones. At the southern end the wall consisted of approximately tabular blocks laid in courses, and standing above the pan, upon which they were bedded, to a height of about two feet.

The stones retaining the northern side of the 'Dark Age' midden were of the same general character as the large stones of the wall; if the terrace in which the cemetery was sited was not now used, because of the cemetery, the wall would be a convenient quarry. It would seem unlikely that much labour would be undertaken just to demarcate a midden; perhaps the stone was originally taken for the purpose of building the structure to which the midden belonged. The robbed area might well then be used as a rubbish dump, and the limit of this either accidentally or purposely indicated by whatever stones the builders had thrown out as being either unsuitable or superfluous to their purpose.

Nothing of archaeological significance was found in the wall structure, nor in a position which would have implied contemporaneity with its construction, but it is convenient to note at this juncture that a fine partially perforated mace-head (fig. 8, 13) was recovered from the top soil above the southern part of the wall.

THE CIST-GRAVES

Of the ten cists which (together with the uncisted grave) comprised the cemetery (Pl. I), eight were of approximately uniform size and form. Two, however (Nos. 4 and 10) were larger, of different form, and of more massive construction. It will be convenient to refer to the former as Type I and the latter as Type II : (Pls. II A, III B, IV A (Type I); II B, IV B (Type II)).

The cists were built of boulders such as would result from the weathering of the granite outcrops termed 'carns' in Cornwall and Scilly, or from the sea-cliffs. Most use was made of this tabular weathered material, but a small number of beach-worn blocks were also used.

Type I cists Nos. 3, 5, 7 and 8 were ovate in plan, the plan of No. 2 was a 'D' form, whilst Nos. 1 and 11 could be described as 'coffin' shaped. In contrast, the plans of the Type II cists (Nos. 4 and 10) were approximately rectangular. As can be seen from fig. 4 the dimensions of the cists were such that they permitted only the rite of contracted inhumation. This is confirmed, to a limited extent, by the fragmentary skeletal remains found in cist No. 7.

The method of construction of the cist sides and ends varied. For some orthostats had been used, for others dry stone walling, while others again had a combination of orthostats and dry walling (Pls. IV, V, VI). Each cist had been covered by capstones. They were selected slab or 'bolster' form stones, placed upon the cist at right angles to the long axis (Pl. II A and B).

These cap or cover stones varied in number according to the size of the cist, and whether slabs or 'bolsters' were used. Thus there were two slabs and a 'bolster' on No. 2, and five 'bolster' stones on No. 11. It does not appear that a definite type of capstone is allied to a definite form or character of wall masonry. Rather, it would seem, available material had been collected and used as needed. Thus the sides of cist 2 were built of orthostats, and had two slabs and a 'bolster'-like rock covering it, whereas the sides of cist 8 were entirely of dry walling, and the capstones were identical forms (used in a different sequence) to those of cist 2. The sides of cist had been built of orthostats and dry walling together; the capstones were entirely 'bolsters'. Where capstones were of insufficient length to span a cist, the device of oversailing courses to lessen the gap had been used (cist 1).

The Type II cists (Nos. 4 and 10) were not only greater in size than the others, but were of more massive construction. The sides were built of large granite blocks, too large in one instance for two or even three men to carry with ease (Pl. IVB). In cist 10, the lower course of the eastern side was one entire rock. The internal dimensions of these two cists were almost double those of the internal dimensions of the remainder.

In cists built of orthostats or large blocks (cists 1 and 2), the interstices of the sides had been filled up with broken fragments of granite, bedded in bright yellow sandy clay (Pl. IIIA). In almost every instance where capstones were undisturbed, this practice had been followed in the gaps between them. Larger gaps were filled by the insertion of convenient blocks from the outside (Pl. IIIB).

The packing blocks behind the orthostats of cist 2 showed that the cists had been built in grave pits. The packers had been inserted during construction to secure the stones in an upright position in the pit. In the leached (A.2) horizon, in which the cists had been built, it was almost impossible to detect by observation in a section the precise outline of the grave pits. Nevertheless, the compact nature of the soil for a short distance around the cist sides, the behaviour of rootlets (which followed the sides of stones, and, in some instances, the sides of compact fillings), and humic clods beneath flat stones, projecting out into the pit, all strongly suggest the conclusion that the pits had been dug into an existing soil. (See sections, fig. 3). Again, when certain cists were stripped (after the removal of cover stones and burial) and left free standing, it was clearly seen that many stones had relied entirely upon soil support. Although in no case could the entire circumference and profile of the original excavation in which a cist had been built be recovered, the observations made above applied in all cases. In all instances, the compact nature of the 'grave pit filling', as contrasted with undisturbed leached soil, was readily detectable by probing. There is no doubt that this is the correct conclusion, although it is not possible to show it with precision in the drawn section (fig. 3).

THE BURIALS

With the exception of the remains found in cist 7 (Pl. VA), actual skeletal remains were confined to bone scraps. This is due perhaps to the acid nature of the soil. The cists were in most cases built directly upon the 'rabb' and the bottom was consequently the hard surface of this material. It may here be remarked that the 'B' horizons of podsols are impervious, and therefore retain water, and in time produce boggy conditions. Here, the surface of the 'rabb' retained water, as was indeed often noted during rainy weather, and the downhill drainage seeped laterally above this surface. When dug, the leached material above the 'rabb' was wet and soggy. This may well account for the absence of skeletal material, and may explain why No. 7 (up the hillside) was the best preserved burial. As the slope of the 'rabb' was the slope of the hillside, the cist bottoms had been levelled by putting down soil on the lower (downhill) sides. (See section, fig. 3).

As dug, the skeletal remains, such as they were, were embedded in a compact yellow or even white clay, forming a thin layer on the bottom of the cist. If the corpses had been actually packed in this material it would have been reasonable to have expected impressions or replacement material. This was not the case, although the skull of the burial in cist 7 (Pl. VA) was partially embedded in this material, the long bones being free of it with none beneath them. We must account, therefore, for bone fragments covered, in certain instances, by this clayey material, remembering that the long bones in cist 7 show that there was no question of covering the corpse with clay. The grave goods were in many instances also covered with clay, and clearance and excavation of bronzes showed that they were in a deposit which represents an accumulation later than their deposition in the grave. There was in no case any indication that the grave goods had been placed in position and packed around and above by wads of clay. It is suggested, therefore, that while in certain instances some clean clay was most probably put down on the cist floor prior to the insertion of the corpse, the bones and grave goods became clay-covered as a result of the washing-in of clayey material from the sandy luting of the capstones and perhaps from the luting of the sides. The likelihood of this being the case is suggested by the fact that often when crumbly soil had penetrated the capstones and was heaped against the inner sides of the cist it was pigmented slightly by a washing-in process. Such washing-in would tend to be rapid to begin with, if yellow clay had been used liberally on the capstones.

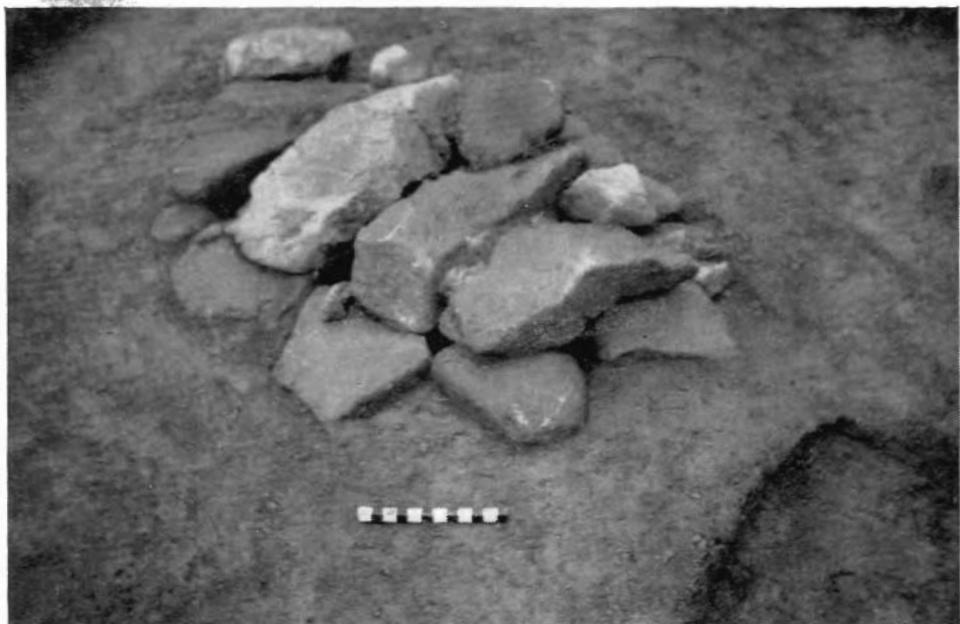
In connection with the method of usage of clay in the cists, there is the question of the part that the yellow clay played in the uncisted burial, No. 6. This was discovered when the humus and some of the leached (A.2) material was stripped from that area (fig. 2). At first it was thought to be yet another cist, but clearance showed that here the now familiar slab or 'bolster' cist cover stones were lacking. Instead there was an oval setting of rather small flat stones set on and peripherally

around, an expanse of whitish-yellow clay. This clay, when cleared was six inches in depth in the middle—the deepest point—and less at the sides. Indeed, in section it appeared as a lens. Clearance revealed human long bones at the southern end (fig. 4. No. 6). There were no accompanying grave goods.

The possibility of this stone and clay complex being an uncisted burial had been entertained, and it was possible, as with the cists, to study a cross-section. It was impossible in the A.2 leached horizon to detect the grave pit. The tops of the covering stones were three feet below the present surface, and, like the cist cover stones, could have been only just beneath a surface corresponding, at this point, with the top of the terrace wall; so a deep grave pit was out of the question. As there were at least three inches of clay beneath the long bones, it does seem possible that the corpse was laid upon a prepared surface of this material. However, it was impossible to detect any line of junction between the clay below and above the bones. What seems clear, however, is that clay was put over the interment and then covered with the small stones. The leached (A.2) material of the soil profile below the 'lens' was, however, heavily coloured; therefore it would seem likely that, however the clay had been used in the original burial rite, the processes of soil profile formation had welded the clay into an homogeneous mass. The size of the grave (fig. 2, 6) compares well with the cist series, and within these dimensions only a contracted inhumation was possible. (See below, p. 11)

The area immediately around and below this grave was cleared to the 'rabb' (B horizon). Immediately to the west of the grave, at a depth that suggests association with a pre-terrace surface, was a lens of small charcoal fragments and grey muddy material, twelve inches in diameter and two inches in average depth. This could not have been the carbonised remains of a wooden object, as the fragments were in great disorder, nor could it represent the remains of a fire, as the immediate vicinity exhibited no signs of burning, nor were the fragments scattered. It could well represent fine charcoal which had been deposited from a receptacle and almost immediately covered up.

In the surface of the 'rabb' (B horizon), immediately below the centre of the grave (No. 6), which was undisturbed, was a funnel-shaped hole, nine inches deep, eight inches in diameter at the top and three inches at the bottom. It contained smashed angular granite fragments set in a darker grey leached material. There was no trace of carbonised wood or the like. Four feet to the south of this hole was another of similar form and filling. No more were found, nor was there any associated structure. The antiquity of the first (at latest earlier than No. 6) is clearly demonstrated. They appear to be stake-holes connected with some activity on this hillside, prior (as possibly was the charcoal) to the cemetery and possibly also the terrace wall. However, in spite of their apparent artificiality, the possibilities of natural phenomena should not be entirely ignored.



A. Cist 7 (Type I) from the North-west



B. Cist 10 (Type II) from the East

PLATE III



A. Cist construction by orthostats. Cist 2 (Type I)



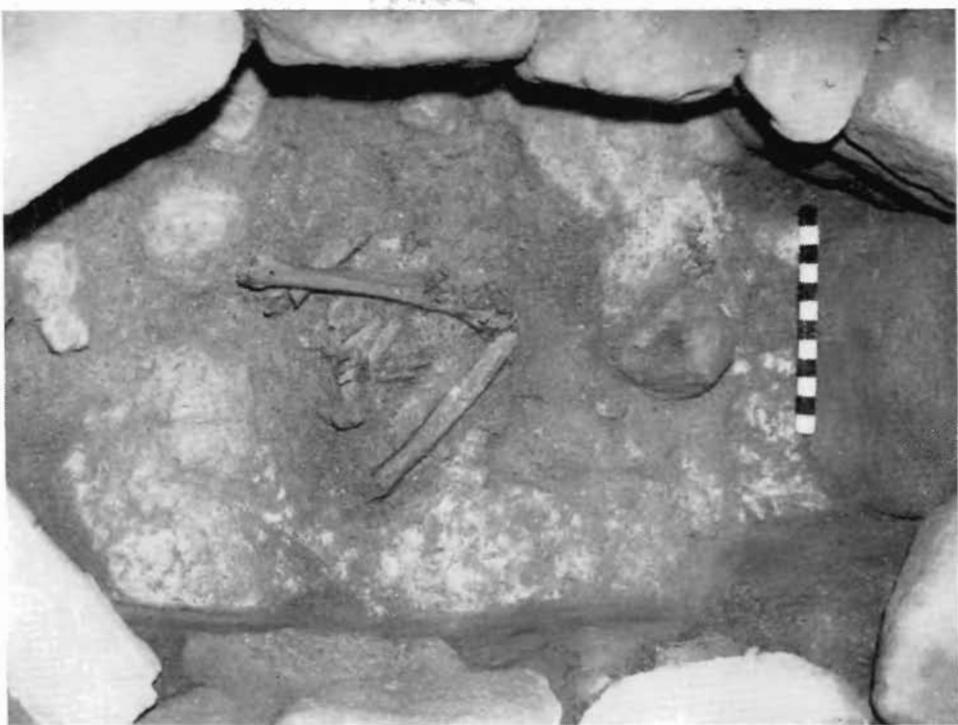
B. Cist construction by dry walling. Cist 7 (Type I)



A. Cist construction by orthostat and dry walling. Cist 3 (Type I)



B. Cist 4 (Type II) from the South-west
(Photo : J. Gibson, St. Mary's)



A. Cist 7 (Type I) the interment
(Photo : Western Morning News, Plymouth)



B. Cist 11 (Type I) the pot and brooch *in situ*

THE BURIAL RITE

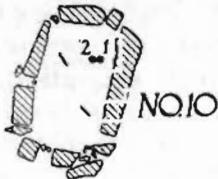
It seems from the deposition of the long bones and skull in cist No. 7 (Pl. VA), and from the internal dimensions of the cists, that the rite was contracted inhumation. In cist No. 7, the head was to the north; the position of the skull, lying on its right side, suggests that probably the corpse was contracted and upon its right side. The position of the long bone fragment, which was all that remained of the burial in cist No. 2, suggests similar deposition, as do also the long bones of the uncisted burial No. 6. Elsewhere in other cists, the skeletal remains were mere scraps, which throw little light on this problem. The internal dimensions of the cists, in any case, show that the corpses were contracted.

In three instances, two brooches had accompanied the deceased to the grave; in another instance, one. In two more cases, a brooch and a pot, and in another a brooch, pot and a bead, were the grave goods. Thus in nine graves, excluding the two disturbed ones (which make a total of eleven), six were accompanied by grave goods, whilst three were unaccompanied. The precise positions of the grave goods, and their relationships with the remains of the interments, can be seen on the plans of the cists and grave in question (fig. 4).

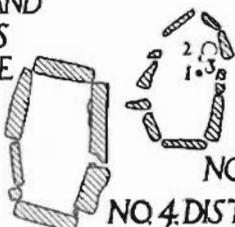
The position of the grave goods in relation one with another in the different graves was analysed, but with only six relic-accompanied burials out of nine undisturbed graves little can be deduced. However, in four instances the grave goods were in the northern part of the grave; in the other two the southern part. One pot was in the north-western corner of the cist, the other was in the south-western corner. The latter was partly broken, and a fragment was missing before insertion into the cist (Pl. VB). In cist No. 7, the brooch was opposite the face of the skull, in cist No. 10, the two brooches were together; in the other instances they were apart. It is not clear whether the brooches were deposited separately, or, as seems more likely, were used as clothing or shroud pins.

There was no trace of posts or markers of any description associated with these graves, but the structure surmounting the fallen-in cover-stones of cist No. 8 is of importance in this respect. The capstones of this cist carried a mass of stones and humic earth. The latter seemed little altered by the leaching processes of the A. 2 horizon in which it was. The stones were cleared in their entirety and left free-standing. In the main, this structure, as structure it must have been, consisted of two elongated beach-rolled boulders reared on end, one supporting and one leaning over the other. These were packed under and around with humic material which, on account of its chunky nature, may well have been sods. In section the mass was, as noted above, incorporated in the A. 2 leached horizon and was thought at first to be the capstones of this cist. It had, however, fallen down and to one side in the direction of the fallen ends of the capstones of the cist (fig. 2, direction of arrows on cist cover-stones). Had the capstones not fallen, or before they had fallen, this

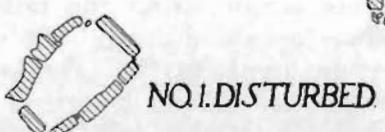
A CIST CEMETERY AT, HUGHTOWN ST. MARY'S



PLAN SHOWING LOWER
STONES OF CISTS AND
RELATIVE POSITIONS
OF GRAVE FURNITURE



NO.4 DISTURBED



CIST NUMBERS ARE EXCAVATION
SEQUENCE. GRAVE FURNITURE
NUMBERS REFER TO THE TEXT

P.A. MENS. ET DEL.

SCALE OF 2 10 5 10 15 FEET
SCALE OF 1 0 1 2 3 METRES

Fig. 4. The Cemetery

structure would have been visible above a surface corresponding with the top of the terrace wall (fig 3) and would have marked the position of the grave. If, on the other hand, this was not the function of this structure, the stones could represent an extra heavy filling put into the grave pit. The two stones reared and packed upon end suggest that the former interpretation is the correct one.

In no other instance was there superincumbent rock upon cover-stones, and the neatly sealed appearance of the series weighs against any suggestion that such rocks had been removed by recent cultivators, who left the cists intact.

THE MIDDEN

Cuttings, designed to trace and allow examination of the 'terrace' wall, revealed at a point to the east of cists Nos. 2 and 3 a midden, or rubbish heap comprised mainly of limpet shells.

This midden had been contained on the north side by a kerb or wall of large boulders. Its limits are shown by the stippled area on the plan (fig. 2). It was separated from the 'rabb' (B horizon) by a dark greasy soil some six inches or less in depth which contained at the top much shell presumably trodden in. This midden covered on its western side the small stones of the presumably robbed terrace wall, almost completely isolating two large boulders *in situ*. These were bedded firmly upon undisturbed soil with midden around, but not beneath them.

It was not possible to detect any stratification in the midden; in point of fact it was remarkably homogeneous. In the north-western corner it was some fifteen inches in depth, elsewhere about twelve inches, while at the eastern and southern margins it was but about three inches. Beyond the actual midden on these sides, the dark basal layer above the 'rabb' was readily detectable beneath deep super-incumbent humus, slightly leached at its lower levels, which contained recent material, i.e. 19th century china. In the surface of this dark basal layer, there was a considerable scatter of limpet shells, presumably trodden into this surface during the life of the midden.

The midden-containing 'kerb' or wall was roughly coursed from its junction with the terrace wall to a transversely set angular boulder; the larger stones were set upon smaller stones. From the transverse stone to the termination of this structure they had been placed directly on midden material. Beneath both parts of the wall, in fact, there was midden material. In the first instance, it may well have been due to percolation of the closely packed shells, but in the second instance there were limpet shells beneath heavy boulders. It would seem possible that the two differing methods of constructing this containing kerb or wall represent an initial and a subsequent effort to contain the midden on this side.

In the vicinity of the terrace wall, small stone rubble scattered on the soil beneath the midden may well represent debris from the robbing

process. On the eastern side, a line of stones set on the midden might have been yet another effort to contain it on this side, but with little effect.

The compact, level, and homogeneous, appearance of the midden, when explored, may well have been due to pressure of soil. In many cases, limpet shells were packed one into another, as many as 8 or 9 being together. It cannot be imagined that this would have been deliberate, although it might have been done whimsically prior to deposition. When the upper surface of the shell layer was exposed, it was noticed, particularly on the eastern side, that there were broken shells, as if persons had walked on to the midden to empty containers. The peripheral and isolated patches of shells, some 70 or 80 shells in number, trodden into the basal layer, may represent such containers of shells deposited short of the main midden.

In addition to limpet shells, of which 29 barrow loads were removed (and tipped separately into a cairn which was finally three feet in height and seven feet in diameter), winkles and a scallop shell comprised the shellfish debris. About two pounds of fish bones were recovered.¹

A half barrow load of mammalian bones² (domestic animals) was also recovered. They had all been smashed into small fragments; indeed, few complete articular ends or readily identifiable fragments (except teeth) were found. Several small fragments had been burned. Several of the larger bone fragments showed regular incisions, made in removing the flesh, while other, smaller, fragments of long bones showed bruises, perhaps made in smashing them for their marrow content.

The material culture of those responsible for this midden was represented by sherds of red, 'grass-marked', heavily gritted, local ware found above, in, and below, the limpet accumulation. These included a rim and a base fragment. Pottery with these characteristics is known from a number of sites in south-west England, and is assigned to the 9th-10th centuries A.D. In addition, an amorphous scrap of iron and a number of flint splinters were recovered from among the shells.

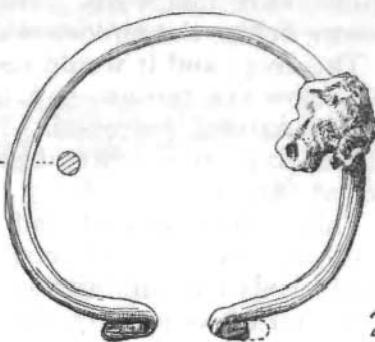
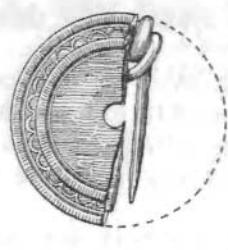
Only one piece of charcoal³ large enough for identification was found among the shells, although occasionally quantities of flecks occurred, while pockets of dark soil, small granite fragments, and washed granite

¹ Dr. E. Trewavass and Mr. A. C. Wheeler of the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) examined the shells and fish bones from the midden. The mollusca were mainly the common limpet (*Patella vulgata*) fragments of *Patella sp.* being present as well. An edible scallop (*Pecten maximum*) and four top-shell specimens of *Mondonta lineata* were also noted.

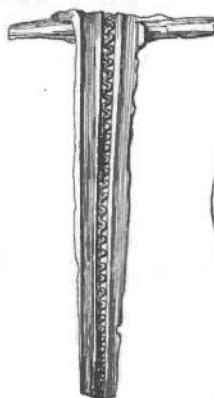
² Dr. I. W. Cornwall of the London University Institute of Archaeology identified:—Ox: 3 carpals, a right humerus, rib fragments, a fragment of horn core, and 6 lower teeth, including a lower milk molar; Horse: half of a maxilla with a set of cheek teeth, the third molar is erupted, suggesting a youthful beast perhaps

about three years of age; Sheep: fragments of long bones, many immature; fragments of pelvis, ribs, talus. These sheep were a small light breed; Pig: 3 teeth. Dr. F. C. Fraser of the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) noted the femora of a small carnivore such as a fox and another from a very young rabbit or hare. Miss J. E. King noted remains of the common frog (*Rana temporaria*, L.).

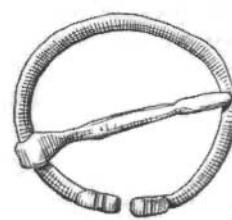
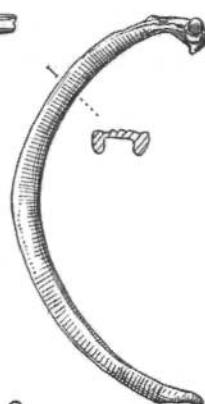
³ Mrs. F. L. Balfour-Browne of the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) reported that the charcoal submitted to her for examination was warped and twisted, and was probably part of an oak root.



2

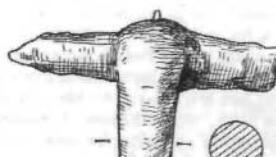
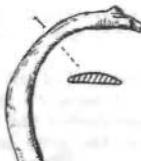
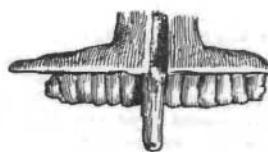


3



I

4



particles were met with. These last may represent weathering due to exposure before the midden was mantled with soil.

The deep, and it would seem recent, soil covering, even on the lower slope below the terrace, is a feature of the site not readily explicable in terms of natural processes. It is possible that, as is often the case in Scilly to-day, humus was brought from elsewhere to augment the soil cover at this spot.

This midden and its neat containing kerb on the northern side seem to indicate that a domestic site of the period of the midden was not far distant. Existing buildings and gardens, and the fact that the excavation had a limited objective, did not permit further investigation. Shell debris and previously disturbed rocks, some of which were beach boulders, noted in commercial excavations in gardens to the north and north-east of the cemetery, may denote occupation connected with the midden.

FINDS FROM THE CIST-GRAVES

Associated Groups

| Cist | Objects |
|------|---|
| 2 | Brooches (1) and (2), fig. 5, 1, 2. |
| 3 | Brooches (1) and (2), fig. 5, 3, 4. |
| 5 | Brooch (1), Pot (2), Glass Bead (3), fig. 5, 5(1); fig. 6, 10(3); fig. 7, 2(2). |
| 7 | Brooch (1), fig. 5, 6. |
| 10 | Brooches (1) and (2), fig. 6, 7, 8. |
| 11 | Brooch (1) and Pot (2), fig. 6, 9(1); fig. 7, 1(2). (For the position of grave goods in cists see fig. 4.) |

BROOCHES (FIGS. 5 AND 6)

By M. R. HULL, M.A., F.S.A.

- No. 1. Half a disc brooch which has a central hole for the attachment of some large circular ornament. The perimeter has been gilt, but no traces are visible on the central part. These are dated from about A.D. 250 onwards,¹ but as the large semi-circular stamp has not been noted on this group, and the central hole is quite unused, the relations of this example to this group both as regard type and date is not clear. Moreover, since it was associated in the same grave with a penannular brooch of 1st century type (No. 2), a date earlier than that conventionally accepted for the series would seem admissible.
- No. 2. Large penannular brooch, with round section; the ends were hammered flat and then clinched into tight coils which lie in the same plane as the main ring. The pin seems to have been of iron, judging by the lump of corrosion on the ring. These brooches with flat, rolled terminals, are typical of the first half of the 1st century A.D.², but the coil is always set vertically to the plane of the ring. I have no record of a parallel to the present one, which, nevertheless, I would regard as probably of the same date.
- No. 3. Large, flat sectioned, semi-circular brooch, hinged. (Two of the nine brooches have this peculiar semi-circular outline, and both are so built that the bow widens at the top and is rolled, downwards, around a fairly stout pin which hinges the bow). This is, in detail of the bow, a fairly close copy of an Aucissa brooch, but there is no attempt to copy the head, nor (I believe) the foot. The workmanship is quite peculiar, for the bow is hollow behind at the head, and seems to have been tapered below and rounded behind by hammering, at the same time clasping a separate plate inserted for the catch plate. I have no close parallel at all, and would pin my faith on its mid 1st century date owing to its obviously copying an Aucissa brooch.
- No. 4. Small penannular brooch of thinnish, round wire. The terminals are cast and return in the manner of those with zoomorphic terminals. But, though these are cast with slight transverse mouldings, I cannot see that they are zoomorphic. The pin is deeply curved, which could, of course, be accidental, but somehow I do not think it is, and it seems to have been habitual in some cases to do this, especially in the Iberian ring-brooches.³ This brooch could be 1st century, but might be considerably later.

¹ Bushe-Fox, *Richborough II*, 42-3.

² Hawkes and Hull, *Camulodunum*, fig. 59, 1-5.

³ B. M. Guide, E.I. Age, 1905, 79, fig. 62.

No. 5. Smaller brooch, bow convex in section, semi-circular in profile. Head too corroded for certainty, but part of a slot is probably for a hinged pin, as on No. 6. It may be compared with one from Rotherley¹, another from Ham Hill in Taunton Museum, several from Maiden Castle, and even with one from Leicester.²

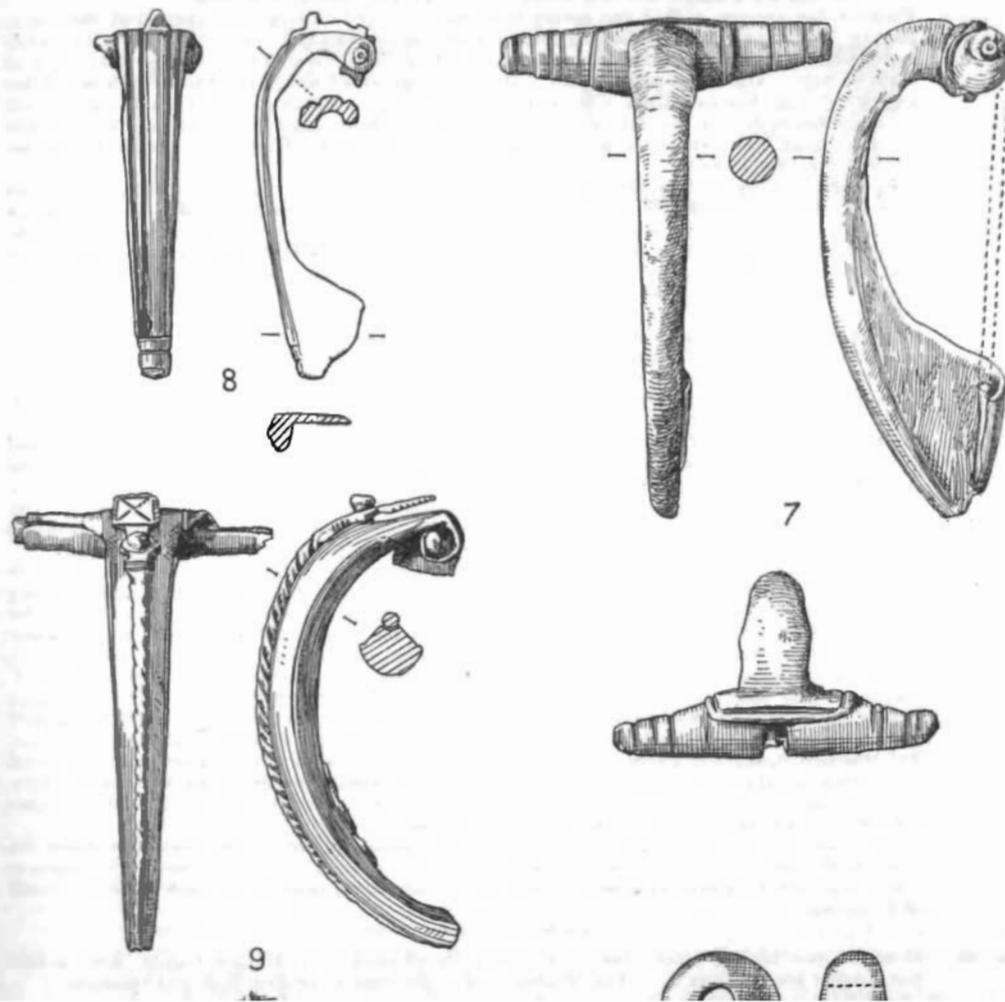


Fig. 6. 7-9, bronze brooches ; 10, glass bead (1)

No. 6. A heavily cast brooch with bow of round section, much corroded. The head is most remarkable, and I cannot satisfy myself about it :—
 (a) The long wings are slightly curved and of the type prepared to protect a spring, they are in one piece with the main brooch casting.

¹ Pitt-Rivers, *Cranbourne Chase*, ii, Pl. XCIX,
77.

² Kenyon, *Jewry Wall Excav. Leicester*,
fig. 80, 11.

- (b) There is a spring (or at least, so I take it), but it is made of a different bronze. I cannot see that it ever functioned, nor how it is secured to the head.
- (c) The pin is (not too certainly I admit) of different bronze from the spring, and works in a large slot specially prepared for it in the head of the bow, as if it were hinged, but I cannot see a hinge, but this could be through the curious thin crest.

Perhaps the answer is that the spring is actually hinged through the crest and the pin is part of it, coming out on the wrong side of it and so needing the slot in the bow. But, even so, it must be noted that there is no trace that the spring ever had a cord, nor any trace of hook or hole. The catch-plate is cast, not hammered, and I would put this brooch in a series beginning with the one from Chipping Sodbury¹ and continuing with such things as one from Rotherley.² But the latter has what I term a 'knife-edge' foot, whereas this has the flatness of the bow carried along the top of the catch-plate. Curiously enough I have no parallel for this brooch.

No. 7. Large and heavily cast brooch with bow of round section and cast catch-plate. The head is solid and drilled through for a pin to hinge the pin of the brooch. The long arms are moulded, and there is a curious raised moulding on each side of the head of the bow. The same remarks apply to this as to the last (Cist No. 7 (1)), in the matter of form and derivation, and again I have no exact parallel. The point of the pin remains in the catch-plate. The detail of the raised moulding is shown below the normal drawing.

No. 8. Smaller brooch (than No. 1), the bow rather straight and cleanly moulded. The head bears a thick and functionless crest, and is drilled to hinge the pin. The upper part of the bow is hollow behind. The catch-plate is cast, and proceeds from one side of the bow. There are slight mouldings across the toe.

I could make a specious pretence of quoting things remotely similar but not really connected. This I do not propose to do. This brooch again stands on its own.

No. 9. Large hinged brooch of nearly semi-circular form and of peculiar construction. The twisted rib down the centre lies in a groove made for it. At the top it expands and is pinned to the bow by a stud through a round disc, beyond which the same member is contained in a squarish engraved plate. How this member is secured at the toe is not visible, but the end of the bow has a saw-cut into which the hammered catch-plate is inserted. The head of the bow was expanded, and was rolled over downwards to clasp the axis for the hinged pin.

I am very glad to have another example of this technique. One in the British Museum³ (flattish bow, hollow behind) has a similar separate piece attached by studs and running down the bow. In this case the brooch is sprung on the 'Polden Hill' principle and the attached plate is continued to form a hook to hold the cord. This does not happen in our case, for there was no spring, and the attached plate is complete. The same technique is seen in a beautiful brooch from Barnham, Suffolk,⁴ but the attached plate goes only half-way down the bow, which is also the case with brooches from Stamford Hill.⁵ The head is very small, but must have had a spring, and indeed the hook of the plate still holds part of a very thin cord. The form of all three of these brooches is very nearly semi-circular, but this one is of remarkably fine bronze and in fine condition. The catch-plate is pierced with stepped pattern, and has a marginal ridge which runs right up to the head of the bow, which is hollow. I would say it was definitely of 'Celtic' origin. An extra drawing shows the terminal of the rib and its relationship to the spring.

NOTE.—There are two brooches of this type with applied plates running half-way down the bow in the Black Gate Museum, Newcastle on Tyne, with no indication of provenance. They, together with several others of mid 1st century date, must have come from the South of England.

BEAD (Fig. 6)

No. 10. Bead of pale blueish-green glass now partly de-vitrified. Cf. Maiden Castle, from a late pre-Roman level on site G.⁶ The Maiden Castle specimen is smaller than our example.

POTTERY (Fig. 7)

Cist

- 5. 1. Pot of reddish-buff sandy ware with occasional small worn quartz grits. Deep, slightly angular neck and slightly flaring rolled rim. It was cracked, and two fragments of the rim were missing before insertion in the grave. The surface had been finished on the wheel by the fingers or a spatulate tool, giving, where it is more marked, the appearance of almost broad shallow corrugations. This surface is pitted in places with thermal fractures. The base angles are fresh and sharp.
- 11. 2. Bowl of reddish brown ware with traces of a darker brown slip. The paste is sandy, but worn quartz and organic matter have been included in the temper. It is wide-mouthed with a beaded rim. The bowl, wheel-turned, has a dark interior and a part of the rim was

¹ *Antiq. Journ.*, viii, 519.

² Pitt-Rivers, *op. cit.*, Pl. XCVIII, 1-3.

³ Brit. Mus., 91, 3-20, 12.

⁴ Camb. Mus. Arch. and Eth.

⁵ *Arch.* xl, Pl. XXX.

⁶ Wheeler, *Maiden Castle*, 293, 13.

missing before insertion in the grave (Pl. X). The base, interior and one side are flaked and fragments are missing ; the fractures appear to be thermal. The base is slightly convex, and is defined by three concentric circles of shallow and rather indefinite 'V' section. The rim is rolled over into a beaded rim.

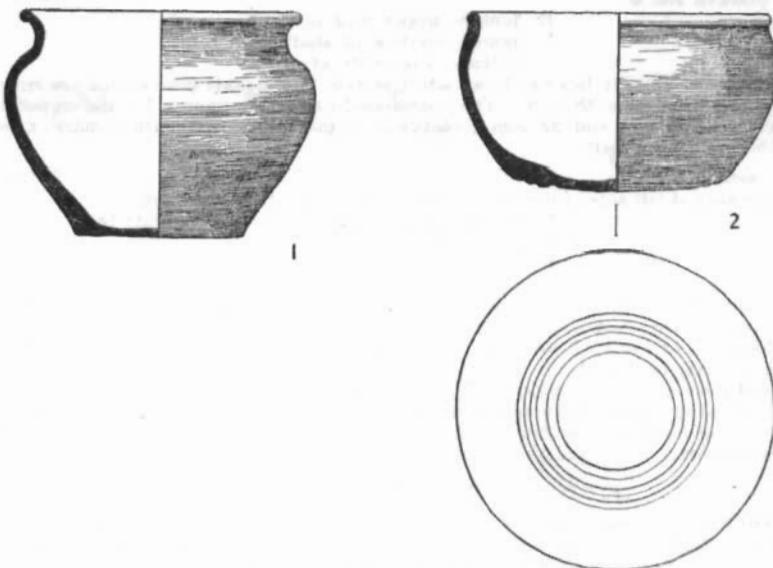


Fig. 7. Pottery : 1, from Cist 5 ; 2, from Cist 11 (1)

The pot from Cist 5 (No. 1) is of a general form, which is widespread and not uncommon ; indeed it is possible to cite 'cooking pots' not unlike this example from Roman sites as far distant as Colchester, Leicester, and Richborough. However, the 'squared neck' and slight rim stand close in form to a vessel in the 'J' series from Hengistbury Head,¹ while in a more regular form it is a feature of the Iron Age C series at Maiden Castle.² These latter vessels are, however, haematite coated. No precise parallel exists in the Iron Age B material from Maiden Castle, but an almost precise parallel for rim and neck, though not for ware, has been noticed amongst the late Iron Age B series from St. Mawgan Camp, North Cornwall, which has been seen by the kindness of the excavator, Mrs. P. Murray-Threipland, F.S.A. The bowl from Cist 11 (No. 2) has a beaded rim which is within the Iron Age B series at Maiden Castle,³ and the globular form may owe something to this source. Concentric circles with elaborations are also a prominent feature of base decoration at Glastonbury.⁴ On the other hand, the concentric circles and the convex or slightly sagging base might well be distantly connected with the Maiden Castle Belgic Bowl class,⁵ which has a bead rim in the general Iron Age B tradition of that site and area. The Iron Age B series is dark grey in colour and coarse in texture, the Belgic is grey also, but the ware is smooth and almost lustrous. The ware of this Scillonian bowl is not as coarse as the former, but it is by no means as fine as the latter, although in its original state it may well have been lustrous. Angularity is a characteristic of the Maiden Castle Belgic series, but one exception is present which is less angular and in profile not far removed from the example in question. The Scillonian bowl does display some slight angularity, but it is no more than a flattening of profile which is also a feature shared by certain of the Maiden Castle Iron Age B series.⁶ Provincial Roman parallels to this bowl are almost non-existent. A characterless bowl from Wroxeter⁷ approximates to this shape, but is much smaller, coarser, and has a clubbed rim quite unlike our example.

Bushe - Fox, *Hengistbury Head*, 43-6, XXIII.

Wheeler, *op. cit.*, 231-3, fig. 72.

Ibid., fig. 66, 97.

⁴ Bulleid and Gray, *Glastonbury*, ii, 136, Pl. LXXIX.

⁵ Wheeler, *op. cit.*, fig. 72.

⁶ *Ibid.*, fig. 66, 97.

⁷ Bushe-Fox, *Wroxeter* (1912), fig. 17, 15.

THE SKELETAL MATERIAL

By G. C. DUNNING, B.Sc., F.S.A.

Only two graves contained remains of skeletons sufficiently well preserved for examination. The material is too fragmentary for measurements of the skulls and limb bones to be possible.

Grave No. 6

R. femur—upper half of shaft.

L. femur—middle of shaft.

Tibiae—fragments of shaft.

The femur probably belongs to an adult female. Mid-shaft dimensions are entero-posterior 28 mm., transverse 28 mm. The corresponding measurements for the upper third of the shaft are 23 mm. and 32 mm.; platymetric index 71.8, indicating marked front-to-back flattening of the shaft.

Grave No. 7

Fragments of left side of frontal bone and orbit of a rather thin skull.

R. femur—upper half of shaft and separate head.

L. femur—shaft.

R. Tibiae—part of shaft.

L. Tibiae—shaft and lower end.

The femur has the male characteristics well marked and is a robust bone. Mid-shaft dimensions are : antero-posterior 33 mm., transverse 30 mm. The measurements for the upper third of the shaft are 29 mm. and 34 mm.; platymetric index 85.2, so that flattening of the shaft is absent.

The stature cannot be estimated in the absence of extremities of the long bones, but the individual appears to have been of medium height, between 5 ft. 6 ins. and 5 ft. 9 ins.

The tibiae has the following measurements at mid-shaft : antero-posterior 34 mm., transverse 25 mm. No 'squatting-facet' is present on the lower end.

FINDS FROM THE CEMETERY AREA

It will be remembered that the soil within the terrace wall, in which the grave-pits were dug and the cists built, consisted of two layers or horizons : A.1, humus containing recent material, i.e. the top soil of the hillside constantly disturbed during recent years, and A.2, or leached, horizon, containing material earlier than the cist cemetery. This soil must pre-date the cemetery, as the grave-pits for the cists were dug into it.

POTTERY

The pottery from the A.2 horizon consisted of 93 sherds, of which only three are larger than 1 inch by 1 inch. Upon a basis of wares it is possible to divide this unpromising material into two classes :

- (1) Coarse red ware, heavily gritted with waterworn quartz and micas.
 - (2) Coarse, but less so than the former, dark ware, also tempered with small quartz and mica.
- (The waterworn quartz and mica should represent the granite sand, available anywhere in Scilly).

The sherds of Class 1 are uniformly abraded. The sherds of Class 2 are relatively unabraded. Of the former class, two sherds exhibit special characteristics—a bevelled plain and a simple turned over rim. In the latter class, two sherds also have rims, these being comparable with provincial Roman forms ; in addition, there is a base angle, a rim chip and another sherd with a toolled half circle not unlike the base decoration of the bowl from Cist 11. In texture, the sherds of Class 1 are not unlike sherds recovered from the Bronze Age Hut at English Island Carn on the neighbouring island of St. Martins, excavated and brought to my notice by Mr. O'Neil. However, the raw materials available determine the texture of pottery as does the method of firing determine the appearance.

Thus the criterion of age, in these circumstances, is rather the relative degree of abrasion of the sherds found in the same layer, than similarity of appearance. It would seem likely then, that the dark sherds were scattered when the wall was built and the soil deposited to form the terrace, while the red sherds, which were more abraded, must have been scattered and had weathered for a period before their incorporation in the terrace soil. Thus the erection of the wall and the accumulation of soil to form a terrace should, on account of the characteristics of the Class II pottery, not long antedate the cemetery.

FIG. 8

CLASS I WARE

- No. 1. Abraded bevelled rim, buff paste. Red slip on bevel of rim and outside.
- No. 2. Sherd ornamented with two incised lines, slightly abraded.
- No. 3. Abraded beaded rim, slight internal bevel.

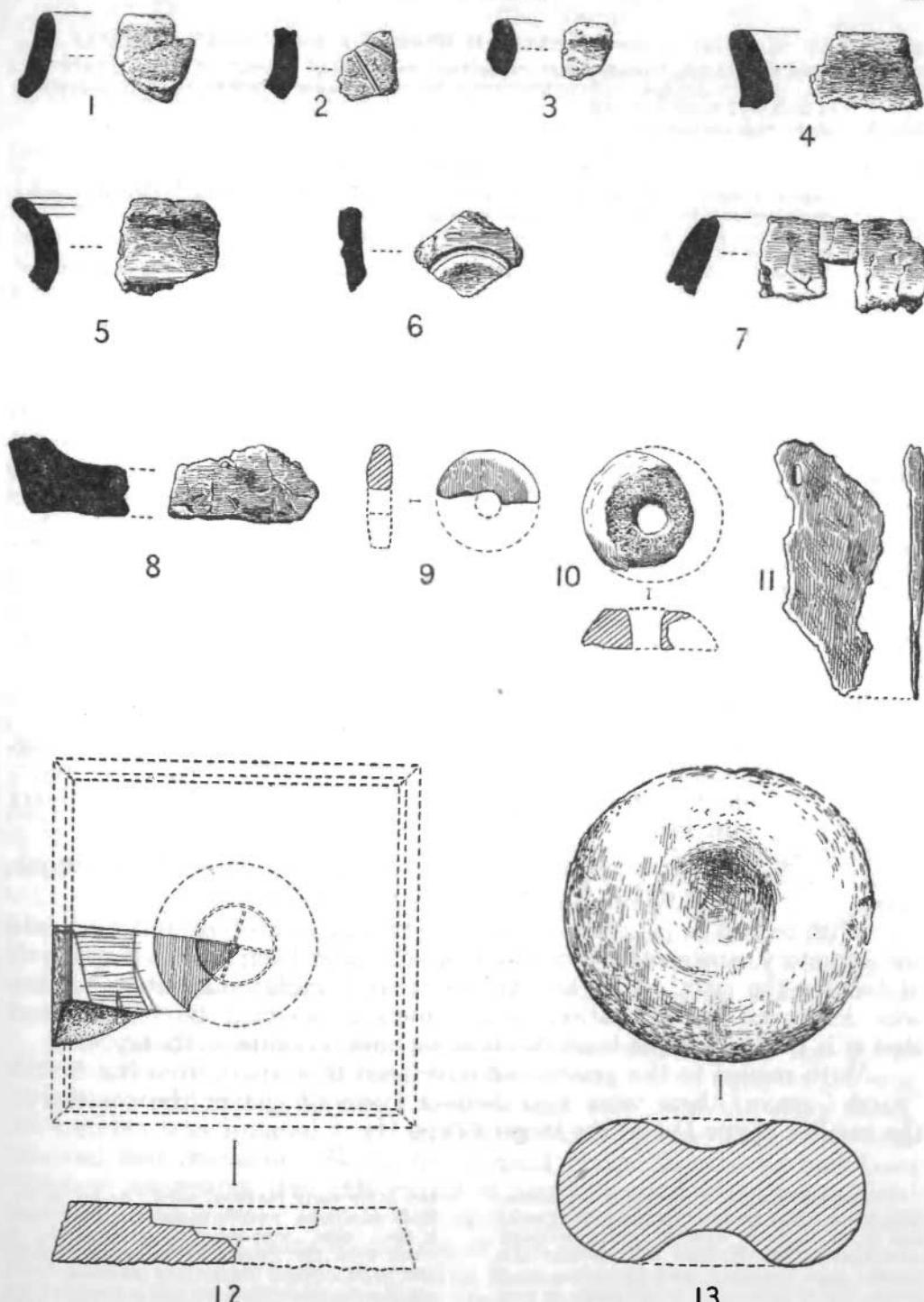


Fig. 8. 1-6, pottery from Cemetery area; 7-12, pottery, whorls, iron knife, and mould, from Dark Age midden; unfinished? mace-head, unstratified (1), 12 (1)

CLASS II WARE

- No. 4. Plain everted rim, broken at point of juncture with neck of vessel.
 No. 5. Rim slightly abraded, well-marked groove below rim inside. Broken at point of juncture of neck with body of vessel.
 No. 6. Sherd with shallow grooving on exterior.

FROM THE 'DARK AGE' MIDDEN

- Sherds of thick, coarse, heavily quartz gritted ware. The outer surfaces bear the impressions of matted organic material, i.e. grass markings.
 No. 7. Rim of this ware, thinner, but without grass markings.
 No. 8. Base angle of this ware. Grass impressions upon the base and side.
 No. 9. Broken half of a spindle whorl. Sandy, bright red ware. Minute fragments of quartz and mica comprise the temper.

BONE

- No. 10. Bone disc perhaps a spindle whorl. The perforation is worn.

METAL

- No. 11. A worn and much corroded iron object, perhaps a worn-out knife.

STONE

- No. 12. Fragment of a mould¹ for casting metal objects, probably bronze. The depressions were worked with a bow drill.

UNSTRATIFIED

- No. 13. A discoidal pebble with an incomplete 'hour-glass' perforation. The edge suggests that it has been 'pecked' or 'battered' uniformly to its present regular form. The twin depressions are smooth, which may indicate that they were ground out, rather than pecked. The rock is a fine grained local granite.

EVALUATION AND DISCUSSION

An attempt at this falls naturally into two parts :

- (a) Analysis of the foregoing factual account, which must include what light, if any, the structures and the relics shed upon the social and economic history of their builders and users.
- (b) An appreciation of the chronological and cultural significance of the cemetery in Scillonian Prehistory.

With regard to (a) : It is clear that the wall and terrace must predate the cemetery, since otherwise there would have been insufficient depth of soil for the cists. If it be objected that a useful cultivation terrace was destroyed by utilisation as a cemetery, it must be remembered that it is likely that the land shortage was not so acute as to-day.

With regard to the graves, we have seen that apart from No. 6 (the 'earth' grave) there were two distinct types of cist in the cemetery ; the smaller (Type I) and the larger (Type II).

¹ I am indebted to Mr. J. B. Calkin for technical details concerning the manufacture of this mould, and to Mr. C. A. R. Radford for its functional classification. Mr. Radford tells me that such moulds were probably used for casting small bronze box or book-cover attachments or even pennanular brooch terminals. They are, it would seem, not uncommon on Celtic monastic

and other early medieval sites. As far as Mr. Radford knows, moulds of this type only occur in the 'Celtic' west not in Saxon England. A series from the Brough of Birsay in Orkney (*R.C.A.M., Scot., Orkney and Shetland* ii, 1) are of note, while there are also a number from the Mote of Mark, Dalbeattie (*P.S.A.S.*, xlvi, 125).

Thus, as these two types of cist graves were both in the same cemetery, and as far as can be seen the grave goods were much the same, where present, in both types, what, if any, was their significance?

The Type II cists are larger and built of larger rocks, and would therefore have taken more labour in their construction than the smaller, Type I. It is possible to claim that, if anything, the two brooches from cist No. 10 are more ornate than the remainder. Finally, it can be seen from the plan, that while one (No. 5) is in close juxtaposition to No. 4 (Type II), the remainder could be described as partly around Nos. 4 and 10, but at a respectful distance. Can it be that here we have the more substantial and elaborate cists of more prominent members of the cist-burying community, whose interment accordingly expended more labour than the remainder? On the other hand, it could be argued that, in view of the greater size, they are double cists, a contention that can scarcely be refuted in the absence of skeletal remains. The records of cist cemeteries, cists, and graves elsewhere do not provide us with many examples of double burial, but they are known, often of mother and child.

From evidence summarised above, it can be seen that two interpretations are possible. If anything, the former interpretation seems likely, as cist No. 5 (close by Type II, cist No. 4) appears to have contained a female interment.

Differentiation between male and female graves is difficult, as in the absence of skeletal material the relics are uninformative. Six out of nine undisturbed graves contained brooches. It seems unlikely that men were in such a minority. However, two of the six graves contained a pot in addition to a brooch, and one, No. 5, had a bead. The last might well have been a female grave, in view of the bead. If the former of the two interpretations offered above be accepted, the position of cist No. 5 close to No. 4 might even suggest that of man and wife. Other than this there seems little concrete evidence concerning sex differentiation, although that of relative status might well seem clearer. Mr. G. C. Dunning has examined what little skeletal material it was possible to collect; from this it appears that the interments in Nos. 6 and 7 were female and male respectively.

The midden should reflect from its nature and content the life of those who made it. The life that it reflected was one of extreme poverty with limpet collecting playing the dominant role. On the other hand, the midden was isolated from its context and its use may have been seasonal and transient. What few animal bones there were had been smashed, suggesting that this source of nourishment had been exploited to the last fragment; indeed, the smashed fragments of a horse skull in midden material point to the use of this creature as a source of food. The quantity of fish bones discovered in the midden was small, and fish can be captured in all rock pools. It is possible, therefore, that fishing was merely an ancillary to shell-fish collecting.

With regard to (b) : Where it was possible to assign dates based upon approximate parallels, the brooches, with one exception, fell within the 1st century A.D. The exception is the disc brooch from cist No. 2, which has affinities with later Roman brooches. The two pots from the cists would not be out of place in a fusion of Iron Age B and C in the West, but as precise chronological indicators they are worthless.

The striking point with regard to the brooch series is the difficulty which Mr. Hull has had in finding parallels among the very large number of Roman brooches from Britain known to him. It may be that parallels should be sought in Gaul. If so, this cemetery would not be the only Scillonian instance of a closer affinity with the south than with the north-east. The Bronze Age pottery found in Knackyboy Cairn, St. Martins, finds no parallels in Britain, but may well have its inspiration in Brittany.¹

Precise analogies to the Hughtown cists have been sought, but they exist only in Scilly. One cist, comparable to the Type I series of the Hughtown cemetery, was discovered by Mr. C. F. Tebbutt on the small island of Old Man off Teān during the summer of 1933. A photograph showing its construction and the plan were published together with details of the contents.² From these, it is possible to see how close is the resemblance. The contents included portions of two brooches, thought at the time to be 'among the latest examples of the La Tène style', and probably dating from the 1st century A.D. They also were 'difficult to parallel'.

One end of a cist, the remainder having been washed away by the sea, is exposed in the cliff at Halangy Bay St. Mary's. Its plan, the calibre of the stones used for its construction, and its sandy clay luted interstices, all point to it having been one of the 'Hughtown' series. Burial in cist-graves is a rite that contrasts markedly with that of the 'entrance graves' which are so numerous in Scilly. If one may judge from the evidence of Knackyboy Cairn, St. Martin's, already quoted, at the end of the 2nd millennium B.C. and for part of the 1st millennium B.C. the burial rite of the Scillonians appears still normally to have been inurned cremation, the urns being stacked in these communal chambered tombs which were, in most cases, beneath kerb-retained circular mounds.

On the other hand, a cremation was in one exceptional case deposited unurned in a carefully constructed rectangular cist, large enough to have contained an inhumation, as is known by the results of a barrow excavation conducted by Mr. Augustus Smith on the island of Samson in 1862. Apart from one other possible cist, also at one time beneath a barrow of some size, on Buzz Hill, St. Mary's, all the other cists of this type in the islands appear to have been less massive in concept. Several of these cists (see Appendix for list and references) were approximately rectangular, but none of those now extant is really like the cists of the Hughtown Cemetery.

¹ *Ant. J.*, xxxii, 1.

² *Ibid.*, xiv, 302.

Somewhat similar cist-cemeteries to that at Hughtown are known in Cornwall. The best known and recorded was that at Harlyn Bay, where a considerable number of slate slab-built cists containing contracted burials were encountered. In plan and appearance they were quite unlike the Hughtown series. To account for this difference, dissimilar building material could be invoked. However, while two of the Hughtown cists were approximately rectangular in plan, the remainder, with one partial exception, were coffin-shaped. That the particular form of the Hughtown cists and the Old Man cist was intentional seems likely, in view of the fact that among the cists recorded in Scilly a number of deliberately rectangular ones are extant, showing that in spite of different materials the form was a matter of deliberation.

Thus the Hughtown cemetery stands almost alone, and it is to be hoped that the abode of the people who used this form of grave will one day come to light in these islands.

APPENDIX

CISTS IN THE ISLES OF SCILLY

1. *Arthur*. A triangular or boat-shaped kerb-surrounded 'cist' of considerable size, contained an inurned cremation. *Antiq. Journ.*, xxxiv, 235.
2. *Old Man* (off Tean). Skeletal remains had disappeared. Two broken brooches were recovered from the cist. *Antiq. Journ.*, xiv, 302.
3. *Samson*. A rectangular cist beneath a barrow contained an unurned cremation. For the best account and photograph see *Antiquity*, ii, 420.
4. *St. Martin's*. A cist was exposed in the cliff between Knackyboy Carn and Yellow Rock Carn. Two amber beads and a scrap of iron comprised the grave goods. *Antiq. Journ.*, xxix, 84.
5. *St. Martin's*. Perhaps a cemetery. A cist on the shore, between Crethus Hill (i.e. Cruthers) and English Island Carn contained a contracted inhumation. Nearby, to the west, were two or three other cists of the same type, and many years ago yet others were observed, both round this bay and at Lawrence's to the west of Crethus Hill. *Antiquity*, ii, 420.
6. *St. Martin's*. During 1949 Mr. B. H. St. J. O'Neil excavated a small barrow-covered cist on Par Beach. A sherd of Bronze Age Pottery was close by, but unstratified.
7. *St. Mary's*. A small almost rectangular cist was discovered in the Klondyke Field by Telegraph Hill at the close of the 19th century. The contents and probably the entire cist are no doubt preserved in the Gibson Collection.
8. *St. Mary's*. Halangy Bay. The end of a cist was noticed in the cliff face during 1949.
9. *St. Mary's*. Town Lane. A cist was formerly visible in the road. Another is said to have existed close by, but repeated searches by local workers have failed to find it. *Antiquity*, ii, 420, Pl. III.
10. *St. Mary's*. A slab-built cist produced pottery pronounced by Mr. R. A. Smith as belonging to the 'Megalithic Period' of Scilly. *Torquay Nat. Hist. Soc. Proc.*, v, Pl. III, 243.
11. *St. Mary's*. A small, almost rectangular cist discovered in 1939 just to the south-west of Content Farm. *Archaeological Newsletter*, Oct., 1950.
12. Site dealt with in present paper.

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