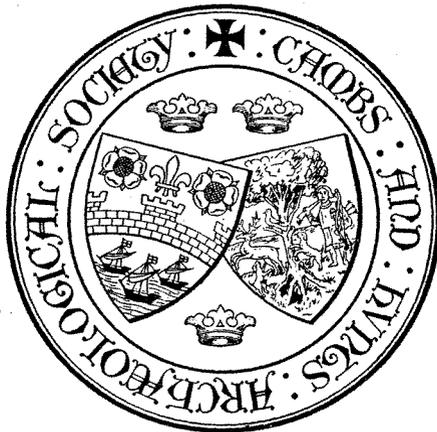


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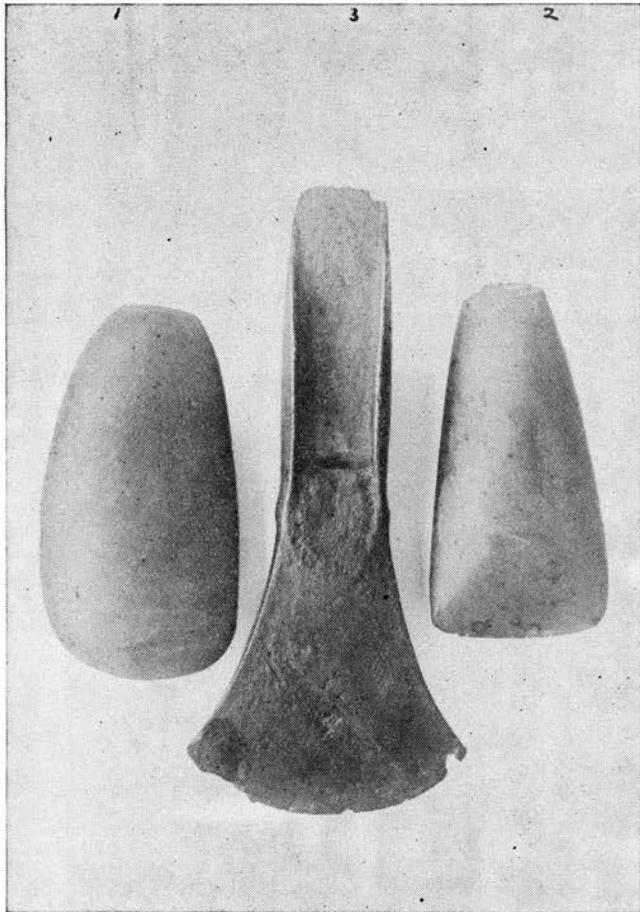
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THREE HUNTINGDONSHIRE CELTS.

RECENT DISCOVERIES.

The Editor hopes that Members will supply him with particulars of recent "finds" made within the area covered by our Society, so that he may print, from time to time, brief notices of such as seem to be of sufficient interest or importance. Photographs or sketches will be reproduced when possible.

The accompanying photograph and notes of four implements found in the Huntingdonshire Fens are kindly supplied by Dr. J. R. Garrod.

THREE AXES AND AN ARROWHEAD. The first implement (fig 1) is a Greenstone Celt 4 inches long and 2.25 inches wide. The curved cutting edge has been reground and is asymmetrical. The body is fairly thick, the sides slightly flattened and the thin butt is also flattened on the edge. The axe is ground and polished all over, though a little pitted on the upper part, no flake scars are present. It was found by Alfred Chance in "Gravel Pits Field," Castle Hills, Wood Walton, and has been presented to Huntingdon Museum by Mr. C. Hill.

The second (fig 2) is another Greenstone Celt which is referred to in V.C.H. Huntingdonshire I. 217; it is 3.75 inches long and 1.75 inches wide, the cutting edge is nearly straight, the body is thinner than the last, and the sides are slightly flattened, the butt is broken.

The axe has been ground and polished all over but the remains of a few flake scars are visible. It was found on the site of Ramsey (North) Station eighty to one hundred years ago and belonged to the late Canon W. M. Noble, our Vice-President, who placed it in the Huntingdon Museum.

No. 1 is probably earlier than No. 2 for it is thicker and the edge more curved, both probably belong to the latter part of the Neolithic period, for earlier types have a much rounder cross section and a pointed butt.

The third (fig 3) is a Bronze Celt 6.5 inches long weighing over a pound. It has slightly infolded flanges which extend below the small stop ridge which is formed by a general thickening of the body rather than by a definite ridge. The flanges are continued below as a semi-elliptical ornament, there is no loop.

The cutting edge is sharp, curved, and well splayed out. The green patina is rather patchy.

The axe was found by Mr. J. Robins in Great Raveley Fen due west of Upwood, on the east side of Raveley Drain (Ref. O.S. 6" Sheet XIV NW, opposite L of RAVELEY DRAIN), he was digging out a "bog oak" and it was found at a depth of three feet six to four feet "among the roots." I am much indebted to our member the Rev. E. F. Hemming for the information and the axe.

The date of this axe, judging by the prolongation of the flanges, the small stop ridge and the curved edge, would be about the beginning of the middle Bronze Period, say 1400 B.C., it is later than the flanged axes but earlier than Palstaves proper.

The fourth is a tanged and barbed Arrowhead (not illustrated), it is two inches long and 1.25 inches wide, the barbs are rather square and it is typical of the Bronze age.

It was found at Castle Hills, Wood Walton, in "the field beyond the yard," and presented to Huntingdon Museum by Mr. C. Hill.

These objects all come from a fen area about 5 miles across, it is broken up by gravel and clay islands and promontories.

The Bronze Axe came from the peat and was associated with "bog oak." A socketed Adze from Castle Hills was lying on a bog oak (Antiq. Journ., July, 1929). It seems therefore that the fens were submerged and the trees fell early in or before the Bronze Period, thus supporting the view that this happened towards the close of the Neolithic Period. The other implements come from "skirty" land which just rises out of the fen, and which is used for habitation to-day as in the past.

The richness of the fens in prehistoric remains compares with the poverty of the uplands, just as to-day the fen farm is better than the highland one; in prehistoric times, however, game and waterways were probably the important factors.