

ART. II.—*Reconsideration of the Ambleside hoard and the burial at Butts Beck Quarry, Dalton-in-Furness.*
By CLARE FELL, F.S.A., and JOHN M. COLES, F.S.A.

Read at Carlisle, July 10th, 1964.

Two important Bronze Age finds from this district — the Ambleside hoard and the burial at Butts Beck Quarry, Dalton-in-Furness — are well worth reconsideration in the light of modern knowledge. I am indebted to Dr John Coles for undertaking their description, the documentation being my contribution to this paper.

PART I: *The Ambleside hoard — documentation.*

By CLARE FELL, F.S.A.

THE publication of a bronze rapier from Salta Moss, near Maryport,¹ made it desirable to reconsider the interesting hoard of bronze implements found at Ambleside in the summer of 1741, the present whereabouts of which is unknown. The first account of it was published in *Archaeologia* in 1779,² and it is also mentioned by Evans³ and included in W. G. Collingwood's *Inventory*.⁴ A fuller description was given by Miss M. C. Fair,⁵ who had access to the Minute Book of the Spalding Gentlemen's Society, to whom the original description, including a drawing, had been written by the Hon. Peregrine Bertie. Miss Fair's account is inaccurate and wrongly claims that the hoard itself had been exhibited to that Society.

In 1963 I asked that Society for permission to publish a photostat of the drawing in the Minute Book. Their Council did far better and most generously provided a photostat of the whole of the original letter, with permission to publish it in our *Transactions*. The letter,

addressed to Maurice Johnson, the antiquary, has not previously been published, but has been referred to by Johnson in a letter to Roger Gale, 28 December 1741, published by the Surtees Society.⁶ In this letter it was stated that Mr Bertie had an estate in Westmorland, which explains how he came to acquire the hoard. The existence of the hoard was also known to Dr William Stukeley who made a note of it in his diary, 23 September 1747.⁷

It has proved difficult to identify Peregrine Bertie, for there was more than one man of these names living in the 18th century. Maurice Johnson is our only authority for the prefix "Honourable" attached to Bertie's name. The only person entitled at this date to be so styled was the fifth son of the first Earl of Abingdon. (I am greatly indebted to the Earl of Lindsey and Abingdon and the College of Arms in establishing this fact.) The letter, however, is addressed from Layton, the home of a Peregrine Bertie, who had no courtesy title. His pedigree is given in *Lincolnshire Pedigrees* i 129, from which it appears that he was the son of Peregrine Bertie of Long Sutton, Lincs., born in London about 1689, and educated at Charterhouse and Christ's College, Cambridge.

He was at Cambridge from 1704 until 1706, and was admitted at the Middle Temple in 1705-6. He appears to have inherited property at Low Layton, Essex. He died 9 December 1743. Unfortunately, search for a will in P.C.C., at Chelmsford, in the Commissary Court of London, and in London Consistory Court, has proved of no avail.

I am grateful to Mr F. C. Stevenson, A.L.A., the Borough Librarian at Leyton, E.10, for telling me that Peregrine Bertie was rated as owner of land at Leyton from 1717; also to C. Roy Hudleston for his researches.

The letter, which is published below in full, is a wonderfully accurate description, even giving a scale-

drawing, reproduced as Fig. 1, and gives an insight into antiquarian thought of the early 18th century. The overwriting at the head of page one is by Maurice Johnson and gives his opinion that the weapons were British and not Roman as M^r Bertie supposed. The composite letter "thorn" is here transcribed as TH and th instead of the less accurate Y or y. I have omitted one or two words I have been unable to read, but have retained all abbreviations.

S.G.S. No. 51.

Ms from the Hon^{ble} Peregrine Bartie Esqr SGS abt *Brass Swords & other Arms dug up at Ambleside, with VI Drawings of them by that of the Celt . . . seem to me to be British.*

Layton, 17 Decr: 1741—

Dear Sir,

My Brother tells me, He mentiond to you, The antiquitys my son has Pickd up at Ambleside, Tht you have Some of the Same Sort in Your Collection, but Doubts he gave you an Imperfect Description of 'em. As I Don't know when you may see the originals, He Tells me it will be very acceptable if I send you the best Copy I can. As you are so much a Conoisseeur in these matters, I hope you Will Favour me with Yr opinion of 'em, & If you Please, The Sentiments of yr Worthy Society at Spalding of wch you have Done me the Honour to Conte me a Member.

These Arms were found all together in a kind of Bundle, two feet Deep in a Peat Moss. I had 'em of the Person who took 'em out of the Ground. They were then so sharp as to Cut their fingers, But since, They have Tried the Metal of 'em so often on Every Oak Gable in the Parish, That They have a Little Notchd & Blunted 'em. The Metal is a kind of Brass, but Its weight & toughness Inclines me to Think there is a great Mixture of Copper. The Romans had Fabricatures of arms near their Great Stations, & this being near Keswick, where are the Richest Copper Mines in the Island 'tis Probable They made a great use of That metal. They are all Cast, & have some marks of the Mould.

To Describe The Particulars (No. 1) Is a Cuttinge & Pushing Sword, the Handle & Blade seem to be of one Piece. It weighs above Two Pound.

A Scale

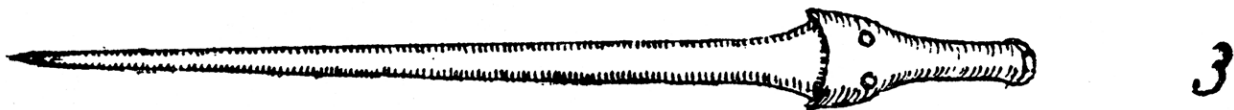
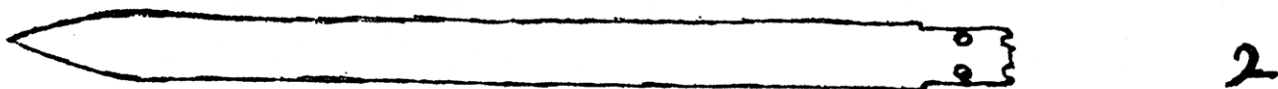
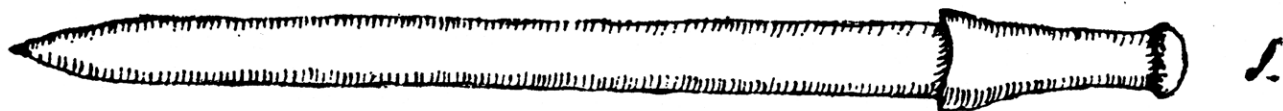
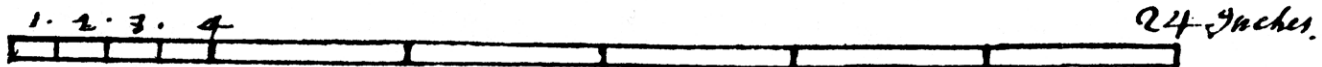


FIG. 1.—Photostat of drawing of the Ambleside hoard, contained in the Hon. Peregrine Bertie's letter to Maurice Johnson 17 December 1741.

(No. 2) Has the same Blade, But had a Distinct handle Probably of wood, fastend by 4 Rivets, Two of wch Remain & are Loose, The other Two wth the Handle Broke off. This Handle might have a Guard to it, & some Part of the Brass is broke off with it.

(Page 2) No. 3 Is chiefly a Pushing sword the Blade much narrower but as it Rises and Thickens in the Middle, Its edges were very sharp, It wou'd Cut effectually; The Handle too seems of a piece but the Two knobs, may have been Rivets to fasten the joining.

(No. 4) Is the Head — Either of a spear or some missive weapon, at the End, There is Still a Piece of the Wood, wch appears to be broke off & not Decayd by Time, because a Piece of the Brass is Broke off wth It. The Wood Did not exceed in Thickness 3 qrs of an Inch, wch being too Weak & Slender for a Spear, Do you Think, It might not be, One of those Pila, or Missive Weapons, wch were Designed to Break as soon as They Struck the Object, to leave the Head fixd & the Handle Depending.

(No. 5) Is a Strong Round Piece of Brass, lessening to a Blunt Point, & wth Two holes for fastenings to some Piece of Wood. Tis Plainly the Bottom with wch some other Instrument was Shod; But whether it is the Bottom of (No. 4) wth So Slender a Shaft as It is Capable of, or of the Standard wch might be made Lighter than a Weapon & to be Fixd before the Ranks, You will be Pleas'd to Judge.

What is (No. 6) is more Difficult to Determine. There is a Hollow Part to Receive a Moveable Handle, & a Hook to Hang at a Girdle, & a very strong & Sharp Edge, & Seems of a Finer & Heavier Metal.

Why should it not be a Chissel?

I Conceive, These Arms must be Roman, Amboglanna was a Great Roman Station, and that it is now calld Ambleside, Not only (Page 3) The similitude of names, The situation from whence Baxter^s derives It, near a Lake, a River & a Bogg; But the Roman Camp, The Inscriptions & Coins wch have been found there, & even these arms fully Prove. Few Roman Stations have so many Marks to Fix 'em. Most of the Swords, upon the Medals & Columns have Indeed guards to 'em, but a few may be found without, and tho the Learned Editor of Camden, Says the Romans had no Arms of Brass, I Presume that Point is Unquestionable.

The Roman Arms seem to be generally Straight & broad like These, & Those wch are Crooked of the Scythe or Sickle kind, I apprehend to be The Swords of the enemy; The Scythians & Nations Derivd from 'em, you know, were so calld for using Such Crooked Weapons. But now I am got among the Scythians I am too far out of my knowledge.

If They are Roman, Why may we not Reckon It, a Happy omen for Our Country, tht at a Time when all Europe is upon the Brink of a War, We who were the Last Nation in Europe They conquerd, (Intacti Britanni! Pestem in Britanos!) have found a set of arms tht were Handled by a People who were Invincible.

Accept yrself, & Present to yr good Family, all the best wishes of the Season, From, Dear Sir, Yr most sincere

Friend etc— P. Bertie—.

References.

- ¹ CW2 lxi 16-24.
- ² *Archaeologia* v (1779) 115.
- ³ Evans, *Ancient Bronze Implements*, 285 and 465.
- ⁴ CW2 xxvi 24.
- ⁵ CW2 xlv 36-38.
- ⁶ Publications of the Surtees Society, vol. 80 (for 1885), printed 1887, 236.
- ⁷ *Ibid.* 242, with reference to W. Stukeley's *Diaries*, vol. vi, 94.
- ⁸ William Baxter (1650-1723), author of *Glossarium Antiquitatum Britannicarum sive Syllabus Etymologicus Antiquitatum Veterie Britanniae atque Iberniae temporibus Romanorum* (1719). I am indebted to Professor E. B. Birley for this information.

PART II: *The Ambleside hoard in its Bronze Age context.* By JOHN M. COLES, F.S.A.

The Ambleside hoard contains a variety of metal objects that in themselves point to the developed nature of Bronze Age metal-working in the centuries around 1000 B.C. Each of the types represented here can be independently dated to this time, but equally as important is the overall character of this hoard. Both of these aspects are discussed here.

The spearhead with basal-loops (Fig. 1, 4) is a form last studied in detail by E. Evans, who showed that a majority come from Southern Britain, although Ireland, too, is well represented.¹ In general, associations for the

type suggest the later Middle Bronze Age, at, for example, Taunton, Somerset, and Stibbard, Norfolk, and in the north at Glentool, Kirkcudbrightshire,² although it is claimed that the type was being exported to the Continent as early as the 14th or 13th century B.C.³ The Ambleside spearhead belongs to a specific sub-group of basal-looped spearheads, marked by the continuation of the loops as ribs along the blade and by the angularity of the blade base. The association here points to the final Middle Bronze Age, but this form continued in use, if not in production, into the Late Bronze Age, as shown by the Pyotdykes hoard⁴ and possibly by the perforations on a number of these spearheads, a provision for pins or rivets that is not believed to have become generally established in Britain until the Late Bronze Age. Basal-looped spearheads of this type are generally of a greater length than other types, and a number carry decoration around their sockets. The Ambleside spearhead seems to have lines of dots running along the socket sides, of a style occasionally seen on spearheads of this type,⁵ and on earlier Bronze Age forms.⁶

The conical ferrule (Fig. 1, 5) is unlike the tubular or only slightly tapered ferrules of the Late Bronze Age, but resembles one in the Ffynhonnau, Brecon, hoard, as well as certain Irish and Continental forms.⁷ The Ffynhonnau associations include the blade of a probable Lisburn-type rapier,⁸ a curved single-edged knife of Continental form, belonging probably to the 11th century B.C. (Hallstatt A2), as well as two palstaves which are of exactly the same type as that in the Ambleside hoard.⁹ A third hoard may also be brought into consideration here. This is the group from the Isle of Axholme, Lincs., now lost, although illustrations of the bronzes are available.¹⁰ The hoard contains two basal-looped spearheads, two Lisburn rapiers and a palstave matched at Ffynhonnau and Ambleside. The three hoards seem to be closely linked by type composition, and hence may be

considered as broadly contemporary, with a suggested date in the 11th or possibly 10th century B.C.

The palstave (Fig. 1, 6) belongs to a type that occasionally occurs in North England, as well as in Scotland. The straight sides of the blade, and the only slightly convex cutting-edge are characteristic of a form of palstave known from South Britain as the "transitional type", and dated to the final Middle Bronze Age by associations at Grunty Fen and elsewhere.¹¹ The late establishment of true Late Bronze Age metal-working traditions in the North,¹² as in parts of Wales,¹³ probably means that such palstaves continued in use well into the first millenium B.C. as has been demonstrated for other Middle Bronze Age forms.¹⁴

The rapier (Fig. 1, 2) at first glance seems to show some affinities with the Ballintober-type of sword, first classified by Hodges,¹⁵ and dated by Smith to the final phase of the Middle Bronze Age, on the basis of an association with a "transitional palstave" at Southchurch, Essex.¹⁶ Hodges considers the Ballintober sword to represent the local British-Irish version of a hybrid rapier-sword, basically a rapier-like hilt with Continental-inspired leaf-shaped blade. Trump, however, considers the form to have been a French production adopted in the Thames and then in Ireland.¹⁷ The typical Ballintober sword has a leaf-shaped blade and a rectangular tang, lacking pommel and side flanges. The Ambleside rapier, however, has a straight-sided blade although otherwise, in the square setting of the four rivet-holes, it is clearly related to the Ballintober type. The blade is very broad, like that of one of the metal-hilted rapiers, and is generally much heavier than normal rapier blades. There is no shoulder, unlike the true Ballintober swords, but in general this example might be considered as a local version of the general hybrid rapier-sword class.¹⁸

There is, however, one other possibility, that the Ambleside rapier represents an imported piece from

coastal France. A number of comparable examples of straight-bladed rather broad rapiers, with no shoulders and with four square-set rivets, are known from early Late Bronze Age contexts at, for example, Penavern en Rosnoën and Penhoat en Coray.¹⁹ These seem to provide the best analogues for the Ambleside rapier, and Briard considers these to belong to his "Bronze Final I"; this phase seems generally to be the equivalent of a final Middle Bronze Age in Britain.

The two *metal-hilted weapons* (Fig. 1, 1 and 3) are of great interest because they provide very close analogues to the recently-published Salta Moss and Cumberland rapiers.²⁰ The Salta Moss rapier has a straight blade, and a bronze hilt with slightly concave base, two false rivets, and knobbed oval pommel, in all these respects almost exactly duplicating the features of one of the Ambleside weapons, and only differing from the other in the matter of false rivets. The Cumberland rapier, too, was of identical form as far as can now be established. Minor differences between these four weapons lie in the provision of a collar midway along the grip of the Salta Moss rapier, not seen on the Ambleside examples, and the extreme narrowing of the blade of one of the latter. This could have been caused by regrinding. A certain amount of variation in the shoulders of the cast hilts exist, with the Salta Moss shoulders hardly extending out past the blade-base, unlike the others. Nevertheless, the similarities between the four weapons are overwhelming, and certainly suggests the existence of a small local industry in Cumbria, because there are no known examples from the rest of the British Isles. It has already been pointed out that the closest comparable object from Britain comes from the Blackrock, Sussex, hoard, in a cast hollow hilt for a dirk blade, with concave hilt-base and two rivets. This find belongs, by association, to the late Middle Bronze Age.²¹ Certain Continental dirks, or daggers, have also been considered as contributing to the form.²²

It is suggested that the type of metal-hilted rapier represented by all these finds in Cumbria should be called the Salta Moss type, after the initial publication of the find, and to avoid confusion with the other Ambleside rapier, had this associated find been used as the type-name.

All lines of evidence seem to point towards a date in the later Middle Bronze Age for the Ambleside hoard, a date probably in the 11th, or possibly the 10th, century B.C. The hoard, along with the Salta Moss and Cumberland rapiers, probably shows the existence of a local industry in the area, and indirectly suggests that Cumbria too must have participated in the final *floruit* of the Middle Bronze Age, a time when the well-developed local British-Irish bronze industries were absorbing new elements and ideas from northern and coastal Europe.

The Ambleside hoard is important not only because of its unusual variety of objects, but also by its unique composition as a group. This group, one spearhead and ferrule, one palstave, three rapiers, is possibly to be classified as a "personal hoard", buried or deposited by an individual for some unknown reason. In view of the restricted nature of the distribution of the Salta Moss-type rapiers, Cumberland and Westmorland, it might, however, be equally as possible that what we have here in the Ambleside hoard are the remains of a "merchant's hoard", containing his own personal equipment, spear and rapier, and part of his stock-in-trade, the two Salta Moss-type rapiers. Could he have already managed to dispose of two examples of this type before he finally was obliged, for one reason or another, to bury or hide his own equipment and his remaining stock, never to return and recover?

References.

- 1 *Archaeologia* lxxxiii (1933) 192.
- 2 *Inv. Arch.* GB 43; GB 50; J. M. Coles, "Scottish Late Bronze Age metal-work", *PSAScot.* xciii (1959-60) 113.
- 3 J. J. Butler, "A Bronze Age concentration at Bargerosterveld", *Paleohistoria* viii (1960) 119;
M. A. Smith, "Some Somerset hoards and their place in the Bronze Age of Southern Britain", *PPS* xxv (1959) 178.
- 4 J. M. Coles and H. Coutts, "A Late Bronze Age find from Pyotdykes, Angus, Scotland", *PPS* xxx (1964) 186.
- 5 New Downie, Angus, *NMAScot.* DG 61.
- 6 Dean Water, Angus, *NMAScot.* DG 23.
- 7 J. Raftery, *Prehistoric Ireland* (1951) fig. 171; *Archaeologia* lxi (1909) pl. lxxx, 75;
E. Sprockhoff, *Jungbronzezeitliche Hortfunde Norddeutschlands, Periode IV.* Katalog Röm-Germ. Zent. (1937) 25.
- 8 B. Trump, "The origin and development of British Middle Bronze Age rapiers", *PPS* xxviii (1962) 91.
- 9 Ffynhonnau: H. N. Savory, "The Late Bronze Age in Wales", *Arch. Camb.* cviii (1958) fig. 3.
- 10 Bank's Drawings, Lincoln Public Library, vol. 1, p. 345.
- 11 Smith (1959) fig. 7, 2-3; C. B. Burgess, "The Bronze Age in Radnorshire: a Re-appraisal", *Radnor. Soc. Trans.*, xxxii (1962) fig. 5, a;
Scotland: Sorbie, Wigtown and Aikbrae, Peebles, *NMAScot.* DC 61 and DC 2.
- 12 Coles (1959-60).
- 13 Burgess (1962) 20.
- 14 Coles and Coutts (1964).
- 15 *Ulster J. Arch.* xix (1956) 37.
- 16 Smith (1959) 184.
- 17 Trump (1962) 93.
- 18 A comparable example comes from London: *Archaeologia* lxxxiii (1932) pl. xxxviii, 15.
- 19 J. Briard, "Le dépôt de Penavern en Rosnoën", *Travaux du Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Generale et de Préhistoire de la Faculté des Sciences de Rennes* (1958) pl. vii, 21;
J. Briard, "La cachette d'épées de Penhoat en Coray, Finistère", *Travaux du Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Préhistorique de Rennes* (1961) pl. i, 1.
- 20 J. M. Coles, "The Salta Moss rapier", *CW2* lxi (1961) 16.
- 21 *Inv. Arch.* GB 47.
- 22 Coles (1961) 19.

PART III: *Butts Beck burial, Dalton-in-Furness — documentation.* By CLARE FELL, F.S.A.

The bronze sword and spearhead (Fig. 2) found at this quarry in 1874 were first illustrated and described in 1897 in our *Transactions*¹ and later listed in W. G. Collingwood's *Inventory*,² in Miss M. C. Fair's interim review of bronze implements,³ and mentioned in a note on a bronze spearhead from Woundale Raise, Troutbeck.⁴ The circumstances of the find were not published until Harper Gaythorpe, F.S.A. (Scot.) printed his Inaugural Address

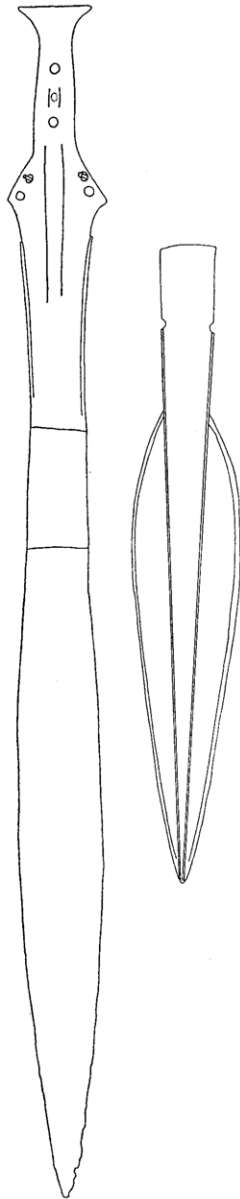


FIG. 2.—Sword and spearhead from Butts Beck Quarry, Dalton-in-Furness.
(Scale $\frac{1}{4}$)

of 26 October 1903 to the Barrow Naturalists' Field Club.⁵ Here he stated that a cist, 6 ft. long by 4 ft. deep by nearly 4 ft. wide, had been discovered in April 1874 by workmen removing the topsoil in preparation for quarrying limestone. A large quantity of bones, both human and animal, were found but not examined by "a competent antiquary", four teeth "resembling those of a horse" were recognized among bones taken home by one of the workmen. The sword lay at one end of the cist and the spearhead at the other. The sword was bent when found, broken in straightening and subsequently repaired. The work was superintended by a Mr Hanson.

Mr F. Barnes, F.S.A., Borough Librarian, Barrow-in-Furness, has made a search for the source of Mr Gaythorpe's description, but without avail.⁶ Likewise a search by Mr H. Slater among the records of the Boughton Estates Ltd., Tytup Hall, Dalton-in-Furness, in whose possession the weapons now are, has so far been unsuccessful. However, Mr Gaythorpe was a careful recorder of prehistoric finds in Furness and it is very unlikely he would have made such a detailed description of the find without ascertaining its truth. Although finds of stone and bronze implements, bones and pottery have been made from time to time in limestone crevices in Furness, the position of the spearhead and sword suggests that they did indeed accompany an inhumation burial.

References.

¹ CWI xv 164-166.

² CW2 xxvi 51.

³ CW2 xlv 35-36 and 175.

⁴ CW2 xlix 13.

⁵ BNFC (Old Series) xvii (printed 1909) 213.

⁶ Since this paper went to the printer, Mr Barnes has found a manuscript copy of the original press account among Mr Harper Gaythorpe's papers. The find was reported in the *Ulverston Mirror*, Saturday, 19 April 1873, page 5, and in the *Barrow Herald* of the same date. It is curious that all subsequent accounts give the year 1874 instead of the correct year, 1873.

PART IV: *The Butts Beck burial.*

By JOHN M. COLES, F.S.A.

The Butts Beck bronzes are of normal developed Late Bronze Age types, dating in general to a time from the mid 8th century B.C. down to an uncertain end in the closing centuries B.C., particularly in the northern part of the British Isles.

The sword is a rather fine example of the native British sword called the Ewart Park type,¹ while the spearhead is of the common leaf-bladed and perforated type, in this case with ribs that run down the sides of the socket from perforations to tip. Such ribs often occur on spearheads that are in general larger than the main range of Late Bronze Age forms.

The interest in the find is, of course, its association with a cist burial. Cowen, in his appraisal of some British Late Bronze Age swords, suggested that no swords had ever been found in a grave in Britain,² but the records of this find seem indisputable. While reports have been made from time to time of burials associated with swords, most of these are too imprecise and uncertain to be accepted. For example, the bronze sword, said to have been found with an inhumation, in a "Megalithic cist", under a mound at Kilmaclenine, Co. Cork,³ although interesting as an analogue to Butts Beck, is unfortunately unacceptable because of the uncertainty about the "sword". This, one suspects, could equally as well have been a dagger of the Early Bronze Age.

Any burials that can be dated with certainty to the Late Bronze Age are of great interest because of our lack of knowledge about this aspect of the period. The former assumption that cremations in cinerary urns continued into the Late Bronze Age, following their development in the Middle Bronze Age, is now suspect in England, and has been dismissed in Scotland,⁴ as there are no associations of certain Late Bronze Age objects with such burials. Although only a small proportion of such urned

cremations has grave goods of any sort, and we therefore cannot dogmatically state that *no* urned burials belong to the Late Bronze Age, nevertheless, any such still remain to be identified. In any case, however, one would expect cremation to be the normal rite of any Late Bronze Age burials, and not inhumation, because cremation was almost completely dominant in the Middle Bronze Age, inhumations being of extreme rarity.⁵ Butts Beck, then, represents not only one of the very few known Late Bronze Age burials, but also an unexpected rite. In this connection it might be appropriate to mention another find from North Britain. The Minute Book of the Society of Antiquaries of London⁶ records that a spearhead, 14 in. long, was found in the middle of a round barrow during clearances for the construction of Fort George, at Ardersier Point, Inverness-shire. Apparently "there was by it the remains of a human Skeleton". The normal explanation of this report would be that the spearhead was in reality a dagger, but the object in question was exhibited to the Society by a Dr Miller and illustrated in its report, and it is truly a leaf-bladed spearhead with lunate openings in the blade. This is the sole recorded example of such an association of barrow, inhumation and spearhead, and on the evidence seems at least a probability. Other examples from the north are not as well documented. Spearheads are reputed to have been found "in a grave" at Crieff, Perthshire,⁷ in a barrow at Huly Hill, Midlothian,⁸ and in a cairn at Woundale Raise, Troutbeck, Westmorland.⁹ The Crieff spearhead is extant, and is a true Late Bronze Age form, but the circumstances of association are too indefinite.

The inhumation burial at Butts Beck, and possibly that at Ardersier, may be explained either as an example of a certain group or stratum of population which maintained a tradition of inhumation with metal grave goods throughout the Middle and into the Late Bronze Age, a tradition founded in Beaker times and popular in the

full Early Bronze Age, or as the result of new impulses from abroad, reaching into Britain only in the early/middle first millenium B.C. Such impulses in this case would probably have emanated from a cultural grouping already participating in the use of iron, the Hallstatt Iron Age, wherein a strong inhuming element was present as a contrast to the preceding and in part contemporary and widespread Urnfield population. In Britain we have only one single known example of a Hallstatt grave, a 7th-century inhumation from Ebberston, Yorkshire, accompanied by a bronze Hallstatt sword and chape.¹⁰ There is no reason to separate Butts Beck and Ebberston by any appreciable chronological gap.

References.

- ¹ AA4 x (1933) 185.
- ² PPS xvii (1951) 195.
- ³ S. P. O'Riordáin, *Antiquities of the Irish Countryside* (1943) 37.
- ⁴ J. Barber, "The Middle Bronze Age cinerary urns of Scotland", *University of Edinburgh, Department of Archaeology, Tenth Annual Report (1957-58)* 3.
- ⁵ For the best-known inhumation burial of this period, see T. G. E. Powell, "The gold ornament from Mold, Flintshire, North Wales", PPS xix (1953) 16f. Another inhumation, in a chalk-cut grave, from Ramsgate Kent, dates to the late Middle Bronze Age by association with three bracelets, *Inv. Arch.* GB 48.
- ⁶ Vol. vi, p. 73, 24 January 1750.
- ⁷ PSAScot. xxii (1887-8) 338.
- ⁸ *Ibid.* x (1872-4) 151.
- ⁹ CW2 xlix (1949) 10-14.
- ¹⁰ E. Howarth, *Catalogue* (Sheffield Museum, 1899) 65; see now F. R. Hodson, "Cultural grouping within the British pre-Roman Iron Age", PPS xxx (1964) 99.

Acknowledgements.

My grateful thanks are given to the Spalding Gentlemen's Society for permission to publish the Hon. Peregrine Bertie's letter. Also to Mr H. Slater, on behalf of the Boughton Estates Ltd., for permission to draw and republish the Butts Beck weapons and for searching their records; and to Mr F. Barnes, F.S.A., for his unflinching helpfulness in hunting through records held at the Borough Library, Barrow-in-Furness.

C.I.F.