

Derbyshire Caves, 1936.

Fourteenth Interim Report of Committee appointed by the British Association to co-operate with a Committee of the Royal Anthropological Institute in the exploration of Caves in the Derbyshire District (Mr. M. C. BURKITT, Chairman; Dr. R. V. FAVELL, Secretary; Mr. A. LESLIE ARMSTRONG, Prof. H. J. FLEURE, F.R.S., Miss D. A. E. GARROD, Dr. J. WILFRID JACKSON, Prof. L. S. PALMER, Mr. H. J. E. PEAKE).

Creswell Crags.—Mr. Leslie Armstrong, F.S.A., reports as follows:

'Pin Hole Cave.—When my last report was presented a section of the lower deposits of the cave left undisturbed in the 1873 excavations was in course of examination. This was situated between the entrance door and the point 23 ft. distant at which my excavations commenced in 1924, and of this length 13 ft. had been dealt with. This work has been continued and the whole remaining portion of the deposit systematically examined, thereby finally completing the excavation of this cave from the entrance door to the position beyond the main chamber, where the Committee decided work should cease and the type section of the whole series of the deposits be preserved in situ.

'As stated in the 1935 report, the Mousterian (1) and (2) occupation levels were found to be intact and undisturbed by the earlier excavations. Between 10 ft. and 13 ft. indications were observed of the Mousterian (3) level also, slightly disturbed superficially at first but diminishing in degree; from 13 ft. to 23 ft. it proved to be entirely

undisturbed and was covered to an average depth of 12 ins. by a remnant of the upper cave earth. Traces of occupation by man and animals became more abundant as the excavation advanced and included a small hearth in the Mousterian (2) level, with remains of charcoal and wood ash and remnants of split animal bones around it, some of which show traces of burning. A quartzite implement, a stone pounder and split quartzite pebbles were found on the same horizon. The Mousterian (1) level yielded the largest flint flake found in the cave during the whole course of the excavations. Judged by type and technique this artifact might be classified as Clactonian. It exhibits the characteristic oblique striking platform and pronounced bulb of the Clacton culture and bears evidence of use, but, in view of the fact that only one small flake at all comparable has been found previously, it probably represents a chance product of the normal Mousterian industry of the Pin Hole, or an importation.

'The remnant of upper cave earth overlying the Mousterian (3) level and of Upper Aurignacian Age, yielded several artifacts of flint, including a typical angle burin and a long blade. No additions were made to the fauna already recorded. The work was completed on June 6 last, thus bringing the excavations which have been proceeding systematically and regularly in this cave since September, 1924, to a final conclusion.

'I am gratified to be able to report that the Pin Hole Cave and Mother Grundy's Parlour have now been scheduled by H.M. Office of Works as Ancient Monuments, in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee, supported by the Council of the Association at the Norwich Meeting: also that the Keeper of the Department of British and Medieval Antiquities at the British Museum, has offered to provide facilities during the coming autumn for a special exhibition at the Museum of the whole of the objects discovered during the course of these excavations.

' Boat House Cave.—Work is now in progress here and the material over-lying the relic bed is in course of removal. This averages 6 ft. in thickness, two-thirds of which is stiff red clay, introduced as puddling when the embankment of the adjoining lake was formed and which occupies the whole of the front and extends to the rear of the visible portion of the cave. At the time of writing, the position of the relic bed has been defined over a small area, but no attempt will be made to excavate this until the whole of the "dead" covering has been removed over a large portion of the cave floor.

' A grant of £25 is earnestly requested for the continuation of this new work.'

LETTER FROM DERBYSHIRE CONCERNING
LEAD-MINING, 1649.

Before the days of regular newspapers, news of a kind was circulated by means of 'newsletters,' often issued weekly, and usually having a political bias. The letter reprinted here appeared in a Commonwealth newsletter and filled the greater part of one number, so that the actual 'news' was of small amount. The titles of these letters were frequently as long as their contents were scanty. The particular one from which this Derbyshire letter was taken was entitled:—'A Modest Narrative of Intelligence: fitted for the Republique of England & Ireland. Aug. 25 to Sep. 1, 1649. Number 22.'

It appears from the opening sentence that this letter is an answer to one printed shortly before, of which, unfortunately, we have not got a copy. The charge here made against the miners is that of supporting the king as against Parliament and army, and there is a suggestion that miners were coming into Derbyshire from other parts of the country to search for ore, and becoming chargeable on the poor rate.

Sir,

I have seen a printed letter dated from Derby, Aug. 25, concerning the Myners in Derbyshire; certainly the same hand penned that, and that they call their serious representation: They are so like, its pity they should be parted so full of menaces and saucy language against the Parliament, Committee, Judges and Nation, as I must confess I never observed greater insolence: The suffering of this may prove of sad consequence, and let in all discontented persons, and those of desperate fortunes, to do the like on all occasions, as formerly we have seen in these times

in several places, though to their own ruin in the conclusion: But that which aggravates the offence is, That a conjunction of a few factious, Malignant, and Levelling persons, seven or eight at the most, should dare, in the name of a number of people most of which know not anything about it (nor will, I am confident, justifie their actions), thus violently prosecute the business, whenas, its well known, their design is merely their own private benefit (as will hereafter be made appear). But why do they still fall upon that person of honor the Earl of Rutland, who hath been ever so noble a neighbour, and reliever of the poorest of these Myners, their wives and children, and hath permitted them to get Lead Oar in all his lands in Derbyshire, excepting in his Demeasnes neer his house, which if digged up, would make it uninhabitable, utterly destroy the soil, and prove dangerous by reason of the pits? Neither is his Lordship onely concerned; For I dare affirm it, before whomsoever, that we, the Freeholders and Owners, are far more in number, than the Myners, who have ever appeared faithfully for the Parliament of England, and will, by God's blessing, with life and fortune, assist them in defence of the Laws, Liberties and Properties of every free-born subject, against whomsoever: If the Myners have a Right, let it be tryed in any court of Law: If there be any other way to take away our Right and Inheritance, and give it to strangers, then to what end served the Law? And give me leave to tell you, we cannot be terrified with their number, suppose they were 12,000 men, women and children (which under favour is a great abatement from 40,000 as in their last printed paper) as indeed they are not 4,000. Yet it is well known, when they were at the highest, and most enraged against the Parliament, and for the King, the Commander in chief of that county could at any time with 150 Horse, dissipate them and send them to their Groves. We are peaceable men, and by God's blessing,

and by the care and industry of the Parliament and Army, hope to enjoy our rightful Inheritance, which we are resolved to maintain; and not hereafter to suffer Myners to resort from all parts of England to this corner of our county, and there to plant themselves and Families, and growing numerous and poor, then expect relief out of our estates, and by force take away our children's bread. This at the sense and resolution of all the Freeholders and Owners of this county, that are concerned, I am bold to acquaint you with, and rather because you are our country man, and not a little interested herein. Take leave, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
T.C.