

fishermen have been found living in dwellings of long-house form, using the lower end for the storage of garden implements and fishing tackle, and insisting, in reply to enquiry, that animals were never kept there. Yet in every such instance, known long-houses survive only a few kilometres away. An example near Ploërmel in N. Morbihan further illustrates this problem of interpretation where evidence of function is unclear. A terrace of recently examined buildings contains a single-story house with hay-loft above, nearly symmetrical and with two *chambres* on either side of a central doorway, each provided with hearth and chimney. That one of these *chambres* was in use as a byre might at first sight be thought to represent a change of occupancy from human beings to animals. Enquiry ascertained, however, that the lower end had always been a byre and that when the house was built in the late 19th century, a hearth had been inserted as a provision in case at some later stage the occupant wished to eject the livestock and use it as an additional *chambre* for his family!

The long-house is quite simply a rectangular or sub-rectangular aisleless dwelling in which man and beast are housed at opposite ends, under one roof, with entry by a common lateral door.<sup>48</sup> The problem of terminology may be resolved by confining the use of 'long-house' to buildings where both form and function are proven, and by using the term 'long-house form' for those structures in which the use of the lower end is either unclear or is demonstrably for farm purposes other than the housing of animals. Care has been taken in arriving at the above definition to avoid specifying the number of rooms in the domestic end of the building, as these are an unreliable guide, confuse the issue, and may even lead to the byre or lower end being referred to as the 'third room'. In most Breton examples, the long-house is of two cells only, *chambre* and byre, whereas in many English and Welsh examples the domestic accommodation comprises an extra room at the upper end, possibly a more advanced type. Likewise the 'pure' long-house has been defined with only one doorway. A long-house built with, or altered so as to provide, separate entry to both dwelling and byre, but retaining internal communication may then be regarded as the first derivative of the 'pure' long-house. When internal communication is finally discarded the second derivative has been reached. Both the 'pure' long-house and the two derivatives will have sub-classes according to the number and disposition of additional rooms, the position of the hearth and whether the cross-passage is present with a pair of opposing doors, or in embryo form with only one door.

Further work needs to be done on the European mainland as well as in the British Isles before a full classification of the long-house and its derivatives can be established.

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#### THE DUNDEE CONFERENCE, 1973

The 16th Annual Conference of the Society was held at Dundee from 31 March–3 April 1973. The theme of the Conference was 'The Picts'. The Conference opened with a lecture by Dr. I. Henderson entitled 'Pictish sculpture at Meigle'. This was followed by a reception given by the University of Dundee. On the following day Mr. Alan Small and Mr. Barry Cottam lectured on 'Settlement patterns of early Pictland', Mr. R. B. K. Stevenson on 'The metalwork of early Pictland', Professor T. J. Brown on 'Pictish art and Northumbrian manuscripts', Mrs. C. Curle on 'The moulds from Birsay', Mr. J. Graham-Campbell on 'Ninth-century penannular brooches of Scotland and Ireland', and Mrs. A. Ritchie on 'The Pictish site at Buckquoy'. After dinner there was a reception by the Burgh of Dundee Museum. On 1 April the Society visited St. Vigeans, Meigle, Aberlemno, Brechin, Caterthun and Restenneth, and on 2 April Leuchars, St. Andrews, Abernethy and St. Meddoes. The Society must record its gratitude to Mr. Alan Small who acted as local secretary to the Conference.

D. M. WILSON

<sup>48</sup> *Op. cit.* in note 45, 18.