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October 1926—July 1927
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES.

1. *Stone Age*. Two interesting and beautifully preserved stone implements have been presented lately to the Museum. The first (Fig. 1, A) is a brownish-grey patinated, polished celt of late Neolithic type found in 1915 in a field 300 yards north-west of Caxton Gibbet Inn, and given to the Museum by the finder, Mrs Cooper of Elsworth. The second (B) is a lightly patinated arrow-head with a good tang, but trifling wings, found at Great Shelford and presented to the Museum by the Curator.

It is more than rare to find Neolithic tools upon the high plateau country around Caxton Gibbet, as at the time it was covered by dense virgin forest. However the specimen belongs to a latish type, and by the end of Neolithic times the warm dry "Sub-Boreal" climate of the Bronze Age was already commencing and thinning the forests, which only flourish under warm damp conditions. Great Shelford is also an unusual area for finding arrow-heads, and indeed the Museum possesses no other stone tools from the district. But though far away from the sandy uplands beloved by Neolithic and early Metal Age man, it lies in the Cam valley and was, therefore, never so inaccessible as Caxton Gibbet during the times of the great forest extensions. M. C. B.

2. *Beaker Period*. The objects shown in Plate I all come from the same site, a sand-pit in Springhead Lane, Ely. Sand
has been dug there for over fifty years and human bones have from time to time been noticed on the site. In 1914 the fragmentary beaker (Plate I, Fig. A) was turned up by workmen, in the presence of Mr F. Harlock; the sherds were associated with human bones carefully deposited in a pit or hole covered with a large stone. Later in 1914 workmen again turned up human bones and with them the stone axe-hammer and the spindle-shaped bone object (Plate I, Figs. B, C and D) which were found, according to the men's account, near the head—probably on the chest—of a skeleton lying at a depth of three or four feet on the gravel. The second beaker (Plate I, Fig. E) was found, also associated with a skeleton, in 1926; it was much broken and the sherds passed into many different hands, but through the energy of Mr J. P. Smith most of them were afterwards recovered and the beaker restored as shown in the figure.

The first beaker is of debased type, with very crude scratched ornament, and somewhat resembles a beaker from March in the Museum which is considered by Dr Fox to be of late date, belonging to the extreme end of the Transition Period. The second beaker (Plate I, Fig. E; height 7·8 in.) is of better workmanship and has a certain resemblance in paste and ornament to the beaker from Snailwell in the Museum, although the latter is in every way a finer specimen. The stone axe-hammer is of a type which continued in use throughout the Beaker Period and in the Bronze Age; this specimen is considered by Mr Reginald Smith to be of about the same date as the beakers.

The workmen who found the beaker and other objects in 1914 reported that they had at different times turned up at least eleven human lower jaw bones, in addition to the skeletons mentioned above; so that we evidently have here the remains of a fairly extensive cemetery of the earliest metal period.

The beaker, axe-hammer and bone object were presented to the Museum of Archaeology and of Ethnology by Mr Harlock, to whom the Museum is much indebted for his careful record of the finds as well as for these gifts; the other beaker was purchased with part of the C.A.S. grant.

M. O'r.
Plate I. Beakers etc. from Ely
3. *Bronze Age*. A leaf-shaped bronze sword (Fig. 2) comes from Southery, Norfolk. It was found in Sedge Fen, "6 feet below the surface of the moor," in 1852. It is a very well preserved specimen, only slightly patinated and showing over the greater part of its surface the natural colour of the bronze. It should probably be dated early in the Late Bronze Age. Mr Arthur Hall, of Barkway, in whose possession it has been for many years, has kindly presented it to the Museum of Archaeology and of Ethnology.


While Mr Cecil Burgess was ploughing in the above field in the summer of 1926 the plough came in contact with the
top of a large amphora (or wine-jar). Mr Burgess explored the ground and removed from a circular pit in the chalk, 4 ft. in diameter, the objects shown in Plate II together with fragments of burnt and unburnt bones.

The beaker of greyish-buff ware is of a type not uncommon in our area, which is generally ascribed to the very earliest period of the Roman occupation, and is considered by some authorities to be even earlier. Notable examples come from Foxton (figured by Dr Cyril Fox, *C.A.S. Proc. Vol. xxv*, p. 40) and from Clapham, Beds (figured by Dr J. R. Garrood, *Proceedings of the Cambs. and Hunts. Arch. Soc. Vol. iv*, part 7, Fig. 1). The two platters are copies of early Terra Sigillata forms, and their paste is similar to that of the beaker; the little bowl, also of similar paste, is of late La Tène form. The jug of pure white ware is possibly not so early and is typical of many found on Romano-British 1st-century sites (cf. O. Curle, *Newstead*, Fig. 33, no. 6). Together with these vessels was a small bronze brooch and a bronze stud about \( \frac{1}{2} \) in. in diam. in the form of a lion mask; this stud is similar to studs from Welwyn, Herts, and from Girton, Cambs., in the Cambridge Museum, and to others from Radnage, Bucks (figured in the *Antiquaries Journal, Vol. iii*, p. 335).

The field, which is the site of the villa excavated by Neville, has been partially explored since this cremation burial was discovered, but with no further result.

Mr Burgess has very kindly presented the group to the Museum of Archaeology and of Ethnology. T. C. L.

The very remarkable pot (Plate III, A) was ploughed up at Hockwold, Norfolk. It is ill-made, and very irregular, of coarse hard gritty paste approaching that of mediaeval wares. In spite of this, however, there can be little doubt that it belongs to the Romano-British period; and since the cordon round the neck, characteristic of the early Roman period, has almost disappeared, it may be of late I or of II-century date. The pot was purchased for the Museum of Archaeology and of Ethnology by the Curator. T. C. L.
The small pot (Plate III, B) was found by workmen making the foundations of a new house in the cattle-market, Cherry Hinton, in the summer of 1926. It is 4\(\frac{1}{2}\) in. high, of fine buff ware with a sandy surface, and its sharply curved outline and carinated shoulder suggest that it was made in imitation of a metal vessel. A pot closely similar to it, from Litlington, is in the Museum, and two carinated vases evidently of the same type, but larger, are in the collection from Great Chesterford. The type probably belongs to the 1st century A.D. This pot was presented to the Museum of Archaeology and of Ethnology by the late Professor Sir William Ridgeway.

M. O'R.

From Bottisham Lode comes a disc brooch ornamented in early Jellinge style and undoubtedly of Viking manufacture (Fig. 3). This is especially noteworthy on account of the scarcity of Viking objects in East Anglia generally. Dr Arne of Stockholm kindly sent a photograph of a bronze brooch very similar to this specimen in size, ornament and technique which was found in a grave at Björgö and which he dates about 960 A.D. This date is probably on the late side. There

Fig. 3. Scale: nat. size.
is little doubt that our brooch is of Scandinavian workmanship. The brooch was purchased with part of the C.A.S. grant.

T. C. L.

5. Late Anglo-Saxon Period. The large scramasax shown in Fig. 4, A (length 27½ in.), was dredged from the River Cam at Dimmock's Cote, near Upware. From this site have also come spear-heads, clinch-nails, etc., resembling Viking types.

The "cutlass" in question is very similar in size and shape to that famous weapon inlaid with the Runic alphabet which was dredged from the Thames (Brit. Mus. Anglo-Saxon Guide, Fig. 117). Mr Reginald Smith dates the latter weapon about 800 A.D.—an opinion which is borne out by the
similarity of some of its ornament to certain patterns on the Oseberg ship. Another sword of this type is figured by Baldwin Brown, *The Arts in Early England*, Vol. iii, Pl. XXVIII, no. 20.

The spearhead shown in Fig. 4, B (length 13½ in.), was dredged from the same part of the River Cam as the scramasax. It is of Viking type, though not necessarily of Scandinavian manufacture, and is probably of about the same date as the scramasax. Both specimens were purchased for the Museum of Archaeology and of Ethnology with part of the C.A.S. grant.

T. C. L.

6. Mediaeval. Two fine mediaeval swords dredged from the Cam near Stretham (Fig. 4, C) and Ely (Fig. 4, D) respectively are probably of 13th-century date. They are possibly connected with the disturbances of that period which culminated in the capture of the Isle of Ely by Edward I from the rebel barons (1268). A sword with a similar hilt to that of D is figured by Larkin, *Arms and Armour*, Vol. i, Fig. 103, where the figure is taken from an illuminated MS. of early 13th-century date. The Stretham sword was purchased for the Museum of Archaeology and of Ethnology with part of the C.A.S. grant, the Ely sword was presented by the Curator.

T. C. L.
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