

## XI.—MUSEUM NOTES, 1964<sup>1</sup>

*W. Bulmer, D. J. Smith, R. A. S. Cowper and W. Dodds*

The reception accorded to the revival of Museum Notes in last year's volume<sup>2</sup> was sufficiently encouraging to warrant their repetition, as, it is hoped, an annual feature of *Archæologia Aeliana*. There is no lack of material or of potential contributors for the foreseeable future. Contributors to the present notes are Mr. William Bulmer (who retired last year after a quarter of a century as a curator), Mr. R. A. S. Cowper (who became a curator last year), Mr. W. Dodds (Assistant in the Dept. of Archaeology of the University of Durham), and myself.

In view of the length of the list of accessions to the Keep and Black Gate Museums since 1956 the publication of accessions to the Museum of Antiquities of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne and our Society has been held over and will be resumed in the Notes for 1965.

D.J.S.

### 1. ACCESSIONS TO THE KEEP AND BLACK GATE MUSEUMS, 1956-1963

As Dr. D. J. Smith wrote in his Museum Notes last year no record has been published of the Accessions to the Society's collection of antiquities since the termination of *Proceedings* in 1956. The following is a full list of post-Conquest accessions from that time up to December 1963.

<sup>1</sup> Prepared for the press by Dr. D. J. Smith.

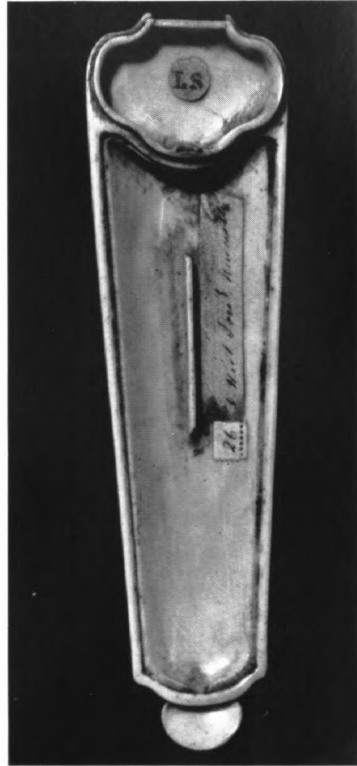
<sup>2</sup> *A.A.*, XLI (1963), 219 ff.

- 1957.2.A Half-Armour. Given by Mr. Wawn.  
 1957.2.B Bourgenet. Given by Mr. Wawn.  
 1957.2.C Gauntlet. Given by Mr. Wawn.  
 1957.2.D Rapier with Shell-guard. Given by Mr. Wawn.  
 1958.11 A lead fire insurance plaque. "Sun". 754669.  
 Given by Mr. Kennett.  
 1958.12 A lead fire insurance plaque. Newcastle 6231.  
 Given by T. Hoults.  
 1958.13 Seal of Richard Barnes, Bishop of Durham 1577-  
 1587. Given by Dr. C. H. Hunter Blair.  
 1959.1 Victorian bag purse, steel bands. Given by  
 Mrs. G. E. Bulmer.  
 1959.2 Turnip Watch, Silver case. Given by Mrs. G. E.  
 Bulmer.  
 1959.3 Papier maché snuff box, silver inlay. Given by  
 Mrs. G. E. Bulmer.  
 1959.4 Papier maché snuff box, silver inlay. Given by  
 Mrs. G. E. Bulmer.  
 1959.5 Boxwood pin cushion with screw. Given by  
 Mrs. G. E. Bulmer.  
 1959.6 Mosaic Ornament child's game. Given by Mrs.  
 G. E. Bulmer.  
 1959.7 Card of Admission, High Level Bridge,  
 27.9.1848. Given by G. W. Temperley.  
 1959.8 Snuff box, black. Early 19th cent. Given by  
 Mrs. G. E. Bulmer.  
 1959.9 Card case, tartan, mid 19th cent. Given by  
 Mrs. G. E. Bulmer.  
 1959.12 Officer's Plume and case, Newcastle Volunteer  
 Artillery, 1860. Given by Mrs. G. E. Bulmer.  
 1960.1 Tipstaff's Staff—Crown—III—G.R. Given by  
 W. Bulmer.  
 1960.2 Coloured aquatint of T. M. Richardson's "New-  
 castle from the South Shore". Given by Mrs.  
 M. Newell, M.B.E.  
 1960.8 Carved wooden statue of Billy Purvis, 6" high  
 Given by Mrs. G. E. Bulmer.

- 1960.9 Partly fused stoneware bottles, relic of Great Fire, 1854, Newcastle. Given by W. Bulmer.
- 1960.10 Collection of mid 19th cent. cards, Christmas, Birthday and Valentine. Given by Mrs. G. E. Bulmer.
- 1960.11 Constable's baton, Crown VR.No.6. Purchased.
- 1960.12 Pair candle snuffers—steel. Anon. donor.
- 1960.13 Knitting sheath, 1733. Given by A. Howard Hall.
- 1960.14 Wooden clothes peg with spring. Given by A. Howard Hall.
- 1960.15 Brass sovereign/ $\frac{1}{2}$ -sovereign scales. Given by A. Howard Hall.
- 1960.16 Woven grass cigar case, mid 19th cent. Given by Mrs. G. E. Bulmer.
- 1960.17 Wood block, T. Bewick, showing entrance to old Guildhall. Given by Miss Bell.
- 1960.18 Wood block, T. Bewick, angler, stream with bridge. Given by Miss Bell.
- 1960.19 Series of engravings of English Worthies of 17th cent. Given by Miss Bell.
- 1961.1 Spirit level found in City Walls between Heber and Morden Towers, 1936. Given by Mr. J. T. Alnwick.
- 1961.2 Water Colour by T. M. Richardson, "Newgate", Newcastle, 1823. Given by Mrs. D. Howard.
- 1961.3 Framed Map of Newcastle, 1838. On loan from Museum of Science and Engineering, Newcastle.
- 1962.1 Three quill pens, early or mid 19th cent. Given by W. Bulmer.
- 1962.2 Swordstick, mid 19th cent. Given by the Misses Everest.
- 1962.3 Paper-covered wooden snuff box, mid 19th cent. Given by Mrs. G. McCulloch.
- 1962.4 Openwork ivory fan, early 19th cent. Given by Mrs. G. McCulloch.

- 1962.5 Bamboo and silk fan, mid or late 19th cent. Given by Mrs. G. McCulloch.
- 1962.6 Plain ivory fan, early 19th cent. Given by Mrs. G. McCulloch.
- 1962.7 Lady's white satin bag, 1800. Given by the Misses Everest.
- 1962.8 Lady's silk knitted mittens, 1800. Given by the Misses Everest.
- 1963.1 Bead-covered purse, 1850. Given by Mrs. G. McCulloch.
- 1963.2 Steel-rimmed spectacles, 1800. Given by Mrs. G. McCulloch.
- 1963.3 Silver-rimmed spectacles, telescopic earpieces, 1840. Given by Mrs. G. McCulloch.
- 1963.4 Two bracelets of human hair, 1850. Given by Mrs. G. McCulloch.
- 1963.5 Iron mounted wooden shovel, mid 19th cent. Given by R. Caygill.
- 1963.6 Glass fly trap, 19th cent. Given by Mrs. E. Scott.
- 1963.7 Season ticket, Newcastle Exhibition, 1887. Given by G. W. Temperley.
- 1963.8 Glass torpedo mineral water bottle, 1860. Given by A. R. Robson.
- 1963.9 Armchair pin cushion. Given by Mrs. G. E. Bulmer.
- 1963.10 Glass round-ended bottle, 1840. Given by Dr. Graham per A. R. Robson.
- 1963.11 Brass cigarette rolling machine, 1890. Given by Miss J. Snowdon.
- 1963.12 Photograph of Tyne Wherry under sail, 1923. Given by C. R. Denton.
- 1963.13 Medieval bronze cauldron, early 13th cent. On loan from Mrs. H. Scott.
- 1963.14 Water Colour, Holy Jesus Hospital, 1835, by W. Y. Dewar. Given by W. Bulmer.





A

B

An ivory snuff grater (See Note 1)

*Phot: University Library, Newcastle upon Tyne*

- 1963.15 Water colour, Cross House, Westgate Rd., W. Y. Dewar, 1835. Given by W. Bulmer.
- 1963.16 Scale model of Keep, 1" to 6', made by W. Bulmer. Given by W. Bulmer.
- 1963.17 Menu & Wine List, Lord Mayor's Banquet, Diamond Jubilee, 1897. Given by W. Bulmer.
- 1963.18 Pewter—"Nef"—German, 1764.. Given by W. Toshack.
- 1963.19 Masons' Marks on Warkworth Bridge. Given by A. R. Robson.
- 1963.20 Ivory Snuff Grater. See Note 1 below. Donor unknown.

*R. A. S. Cowper*

## 2. NOTES

### 1. *An Ivory Snuff Grater. Pl. XV*

The use of tobacco as snuff is probably as old as its use for smoking; it was at any rate noticed in Cuba as early as 1494 during Columbus' second voyage to the Americas. The habit, common in England during the seventeenth century, became almost universal among the male population of this country throughout the eighteenth century and even later. Towards, and after, the end of the nineteenth century, however, the convenience of the cigarette and the increasing tolerance of smoking in workshops, offices and public transport led to a rapid decline in its popularity and today it is virtually extinct.

Until the commercial manufacture of snuff commenced, about A.D. 1700, it was necessary for the user to possess a small grater or rasp to convert tobacco into snuff for his own use. Many of these were frankly utilitarian, but others were of box or pear wood, elaborately carved, while the ivory snuff graters of the early eighteenth century are justly considered works of art and as such have their place in our national art

collections such as the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Wallace Collection.

The method of using the grater can be followed on the photograph of the reverse side (Pl. XV, B). The grooves at the sides of the larger compartment secured the perforated iron grater (now missing, as in most surviving specimens) and the grated tobacco accumulated in the compartment; thence it was shaken through the small hole in the division between the compartments (which acted to some extent as a sieve) into the smaller compartment. From this it was extracted for use, after opening the now missing lid, either by thumb and forefinger or by a small spoon resembling a modern salt spoon. It will be appreciated that snuff produced by this method was coarse grain, the kind known in England as "rappee", a name derived from the French word *râpé*, meaning rasped or grated.

These ivory graters were mostly made in France, in the neighbourhood of Dieppe, but they were also made in Germany and perhaps in England. The general resemblance of our specimen to examples obviously of French manufacture such as, for example, that depicting Poseidon and Galatea in the Victoria and Albert Museum, leads one at first sight to conclude that ours is also of French origin, as indeed it may well be. But a more detailed examination discloses elements of caricature in the face and legs of the figure which, reinforced by the type of glass that he is holding and by the *farouche* mask below, suggest a German origin. There is no doubt, however, that the majority of the ivory graters are of French origin and that they all date from the first half of the eighteenth century.

This snuff grater has only recently been identified as such. How long it has remained unrecognized among our reserve museum material is unknown as no record of its donation to the Society has yet been found.<sup>3</sup> There is a paper label on its back inscribed "A Hist, solicitor"—the last word is

<sup>3</sup> It has now been registered in the Society's Donations Book under the number 1963.20.



doubtful—"Newcastle". No gentleman of this name was ever a member of our Society and a diligent inquiry, extending as far as Chancery Lane, has failed to find any solicitor of that name practising in our city.

Whoever Mr. Hist was, assuming him to be the donor, the Society may be grateful to him for one of the very few exhibits in our collections whose artistic merit equals or even exceeds its local or historic interest.

*W. Bulmer*

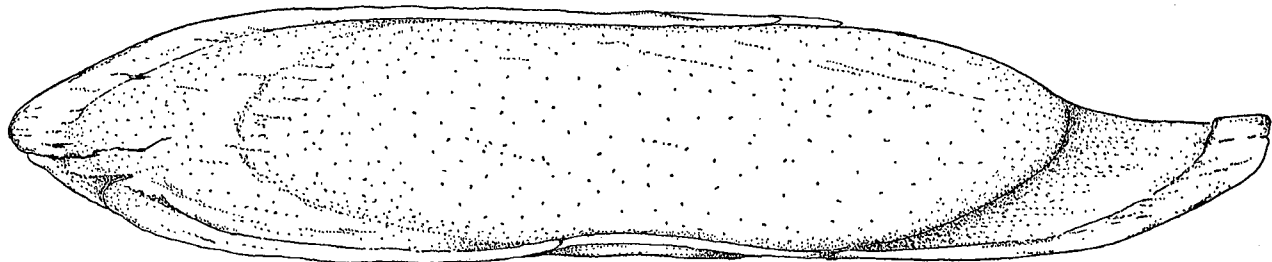
## 2. *The Ryton dug-out canoe. Fig. 1*

A surprising number of dug-out craft have been salvaged over the years from rivers in North-East England, but only three, one each from the Tyne, Wear and Tees, have been preserved. The canoe which is the subject of this note was found in the Tyne during river clearance at Clara Vale near Ryton in October 1926, lying on a stabilized gravel stratum under 16 ft. of layered alluvial clay. Later, lying on the same stratum, was found a nine-spoked wheel complete with iron tyre, its type and craftsmanship indicative of a date in the pre-Roman Iron Age. The canoe and a fragment of the tyre were presented to the Natural History Society of Northumberland and Durham and are now on indefinite loan to the Museum of Antiquities of our Society and the University of Newcastle upon Tyne (Accn. nos. 1958.54.8.H and 1958.54.10.H respectively).<sup>4</sup>

The Ryton dug-out is more sophisticated than either of the other two which survive, having a definite pointed bow and squared stern—one of Fox's Group V<sup>5</sup>, with a northern

<sup>4</sup> The site of the discovery of the canoe was identified as nearly as possible in 1959 by Mr. E. C. Waight of the A.O. Division, Ordnance Survey. In a letter to the Keeper and Secretary of the Museum, dated 12th December, 1959, he reported as follows: "I took the particulars of the siting from the background of a photograph which you have in your museum. The south bank has in recent years been rebuilt and I would judge that the original find spot now falls within the river. However, after getting all the landmarks in their relevant positions, I estimate that the find occurred in the vicinity of NGR NZ13886548 on O.S. 6" DURHAM I S.E. Mr. T. Collins of 11, Tyne View, Claravale, remembers the discovery and confirmed this approximate siting on my field sheet."

<sup>5</sup> *Ants. Jour.* VI (1926), 121 ff.



0 1 2 ft.

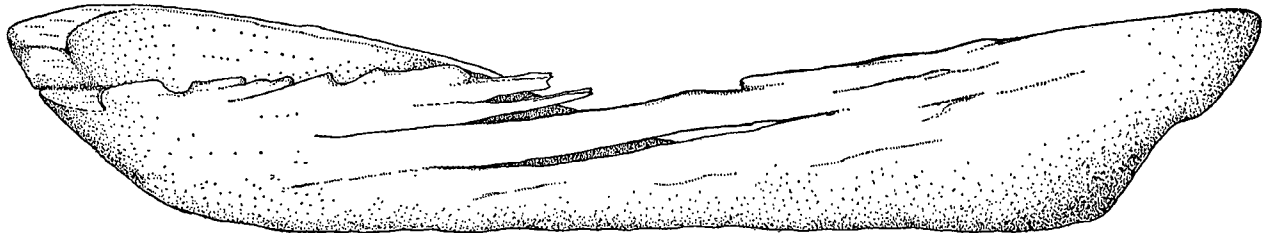


FIG. 1. DUG-OUT BOAT FROM CLARA VALE, RYTON; SEE NOTE 2.  
Drawn by W. Dodds.

distribution, and a development of the Derwenthaugh type. It is a monoxylon—a single baulk of timber without any holes for the attachment of outriggers or upper works. The timber is oak—as is that of the others—from a trunk with a definite twist grain. The bow is bluntly pointed and shows no keel, rising in a smooth regular curve from the flattened base. The stern curves to a squared end, though without any sharp angles. Below, it falls to the base at an angle of about 45 degrees with a slight step half way. Both interior and exterior are well finished, showing no tool marks. It is 9 ft. 2 in. long, 1 ft. 10 in. wide and was originally of 1 ft. 6 in. draught with sides 1 inch thick. Both interior ends are sloped similarly and there are no side or base ribs left on the interior structure. As a parallel, the example from Thornaby,<sup>6</sup> now in the Dorman Museum, Middlesbrough, is nearest, though it does not show the squared stern.

Such craft are generally recovered during dredging or river clearance operations which preclude dating by any criteria other than those of form and technique. In the present instance, however, these criteria are supported by the fortunate discovery and record of what may reasonably be regarded as associated evidence of Iron Age date.

The following is a list of dug-out canoes known to have been found in the rivers Tyne, Wear and Tees:

1. The Tyne, Scotswood, 18th March, 1881, *PSAN2 I* (1883) 40. (When this was in the last stages of disintegration, samples were submitted to a dendro-chronologist who returned the surprising date of  $\pm$  B.C. 5!!)
2. The Tyne, Derwenthaugh, 17th July, 1912; 14 ft. long, 3 ft. wide. *PSAN3 B* (1912), 219.
3. The Tyne, Clara Vale, October 1926. 9 ft. 2 in. long, 1 ft. 6 in. wide. *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* XV (1949), 191.
4. The Wear, South Hylton, 1888. Found with human remains. Mentioned on O.S. Map only.

<sup>6</sup> *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* XIII (1947), 114 ff.

5. The Wear, Brixons, Hylton, c. 1835; 11 ft. long, 2 ft. wide, also with human bones. *Sunderland Public Libraries Circular* 45, Vol. IV, 1910, p. 364.
6. The Tees, near Baydales, pre-1852; 22 ft. long, 18-20 in. wide. *Proc. Arch. Inst.* 1858, 45.
7. The Tees, opposite Thornaby High Wood; 12 ft. long. Now in the Dorman Museum, Middlesbrough. *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* XIII (1947), 114 ff.

W. Dodds

### 3. *Two unrecorded Roman spurs. Fig. 2, A, B*

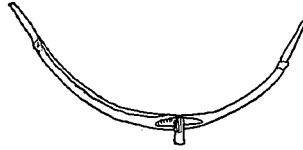
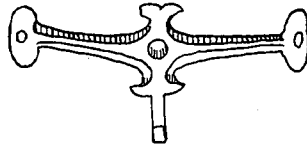
A few years ago the Curator of the Salisbury, Blackmore and South Wiltshire Museum published a valuable study of Roman spurs,<sup>7</sup> with lists of examples known to him in Britain and on the Continent. On checking his list of British examples it was discovered that two unpublished bronze or brass spurs in the Society's collection had escaped him and it therefore seems worth while to put them on record. Neither appears to have been entered in the Society's Donations Book<sup>8</sup> but according to the label which accompanied them when they were exhibited in the Black Gate they are both from South Shields. If this is correct, the total number of spurs known from South Shields is now three.<sup>9</sup> Their resemblance to two from Corbridge<sup>10</sup> is such as to be at first sight confusing. On closer scrutiny, however, it is seen that one (Fig. 2, A) is slightly better preserved than the Corbridge example: the prick and rivets have been broken off but it is otherwise almost intact and in notably good condition. The other (Fig. 2, B), in contrast, is not at all as well preserved as its counterpart at Corbridge: one arm lacks its flat terminal expansion and that of the other has evidently been filed down in order to make a small

<sup>7</sup> H. de S. Shortt, A provincial Roman spur from Longstock, Hants., and other spurs from Roman Britain, *Ants. Jour.* XXXIX (1959), 61 ff.

<sup>8</sup> They have been registered in the Museum of Antiquities of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne and the Society under accession number 1956.128.63.A.

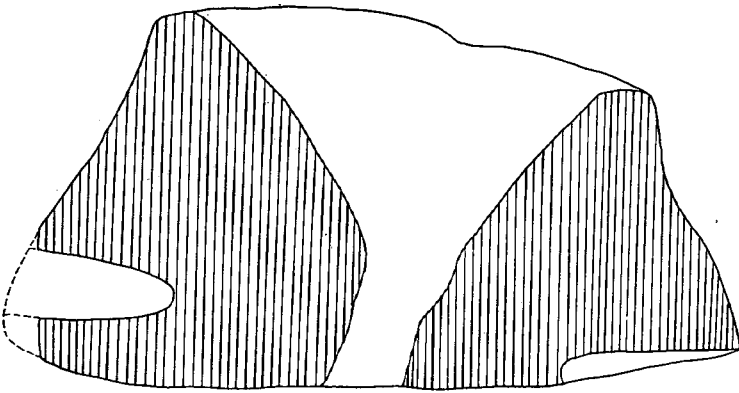
<sup>9</sup> Shortt, *loc. cit.*, 68, 71, no. 21, Fig. 2.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, 68, 70, nos. 7, 8, Fig. 3.



A

B



C

FIG. 2. A, B: ROMAN SPURS FROM SOUTH SHIELDS (1:2); SEE NOTE 3.  
C: QUERNSTONE FROM NAFFERTON (1:3); SEE NOTE 4.  
Drawn by Miss H. M. Hurrell.

chopping or cutting edge. They may be briefly described, after the manner of the study cited above, as follows:

- A. 3rd or 4th cent. A.D. Bronze or brass rivet-spur with plain hook; prick and rivets missing, otherwise in good condition. Cf. Shortt, *loc. cit.*, 70, no. 7, Fig. 3, no. 7.
- B. 3rd or 4th cent. A.D. Bronze or brass rivet-spur with plain hook; prick and rivets missing, one arm broken, other arm filed down. Cf. Shortt, *loc. cit.*, 70, no. 8, Fig. 3, no. 8.

*D. J. Smith*

4. *A quernstone from Nafferton, Northumberland. Fig. 2, C*

In September 1963 two members of the staff of the Clerk of Works of the University of Newcastle brought in to the Museum of Antiquities the upper stone of a rotary quern (Accn. no. 1963.11) which they had unearthed while putting in a drain at Nafferton, on the University's farm  $4\frac{1}{4}$  miles east of Corbridge. The discovery was made close to the cottages (N.G.R. NZ 056655) beside the site of the farmhouse which was demolished in the nineteenth century and replaced by the present farmhouse about half a mile to the north east at New Nafferton. The stone has had a maximum diameter of about 12 ins., but has been much worn down and chipped: in fact, it has been used until the original handle-hole had to be replaced by a new one on the opposite side and higher up. In profile, the stone may be compared with one of almost exactly the same size from Huckhoe,<sup>11</sup> and may similarly be assigned to at least the first or second century A.D. It has no trace of external radial grooving or other embellishment.

*D. J. Smith*

<sup>11</sup> G. Jobey, *Excavations at the native settlement at Huckhoe, Northumberland, A.A.*, XXXVII (1959), 270, Fig. 1, no. 2.

