

XII.—MUSEUM NOTES, 1968¹

H. Russell Robinson, John Tait and D. J. Smith

1. AN IRON AGE SWORD BLADE. Fig. 1.

At the end of May last year an iron sword blade, formerly believed to have been medieval, was transferred from the Keep Museum to the Museum of Antiquities.² Its medieval origin had already been questioned on one occasion when it was suggested that the blade might have come from a Roman cavalry *spatha*. Surviving *spathae*, like those found at Newstead,³ have strong Roman characteristics and to all intents and purposes are in every detail like long *gladii*.

Owing to the depth of the corrosion it is impossible to obtain the original cross-section of the blade, which is now a flattened irregular ellipse (Fig. 1, 1). There do not however appear to have been grooves and a rather rounded point is suggested. But one detail of the blade is quite positive and this is the curved line of the tang running onto the shoulders of the blade. The curved shoulders are characteristic of Iron Age swords found all over Europe and first-century specimens such as this can be distinguished from the Roman sword which has squared shoulders and an angular point. The Iron Age sword was a cutting weapon whilst the Roman arms were primarily designed for thrusting.

Many bronze hilt-mounts from British swords have been

¹ Prepared for the press by Dr. D. J. Smith. The contributions of Mr. H. Russell Robinson and Mr. John Tait are gratefully acknowledged.

² Accession no. 1967.10.A. There is no record of accession in the Society's Donations Book and the provenance is, regrettably, unknown.

³ J. Curle, *A Roman Frontier Post and its People* (1911), Pl. XXXIV.

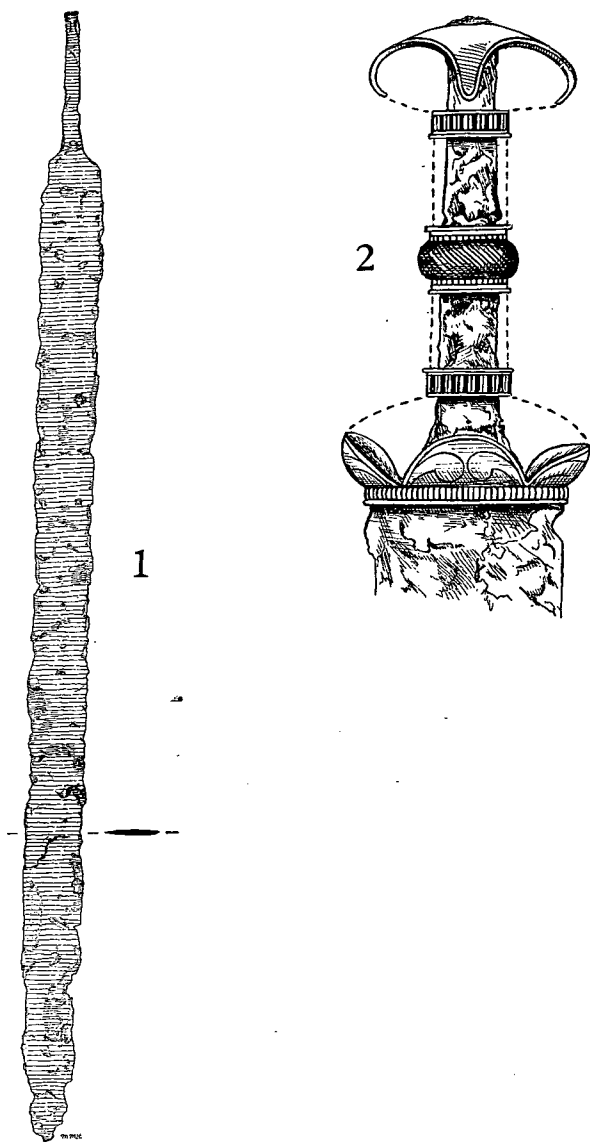


FIG. 1. 1. AN IRON AGE SWORD BLADE ($\frac{1}{6}$).
DRAWN BY MARY M. HURRELL.
2. HILT (RESTORED) OF AN IRON AGE SWORD FROM HOD HILL, DORSET ($\frac{1}{2}$).
DRAWN BY H. RUSSELL ROBINSON. SEE NOTE 1

found and amongst the more complete examples are those from Newstead and Hod Hill,⁴ the latter shown in Fig. 1, 2, with the outline of the wooden portions suggested. As with the Roman sword, Celtic weapons had hilts largely consisting of bone or wood.

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2. NEOLITHIC POTTERY FROM NORTHUMBERLAND. Figs. 2, 3.

The Museum of Antiquities of the University and the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne contains a large amount of prehistoric pottery, mainly of the Bronze Age. It was during a study of this material by the present writer that fragments of two vessels of the Neolithic period were recognized, viz. a sherd from Heatherwick, near Elsdon, and several joining fragments from Kyleo Crag. These, together with another fragment from Old Town Farm in Allendale then in the possession of Mr. J. P. Gillam, were sent to Professor Stuart Piggott at Edinburgh who duly confirmed their late Neolithic origins. Unfortunately the records in each case are such as to throw little new light on our knowledge of the Neolithic period in Northumberland, but the sherds are nonetheless welcome additions to the few known specimens of Neolithic pottery from the area.

The fragment from Heatherwick (Mus. accn. no. 1927.132) was given by Mr. W. Percy Hedley and described in the Society's *Proceedings* as a fragment of a cinerary urn.⁵ Later, in the *Northumberland County History*, this description was amended and the sherd designated as a fragment of a Food Vessel, type unknown.⁶ This sherd (Fig. 2, 1) represents the neck and part of the body of a vessel approximately 9 inches in diameter in a brown fabric with black

⁴ *Ibid.*, 186, Fig. 19; J. W. Brailsford, *Hod Hill I* (1962), 1, Fig. 1, Pl. II. A.

⁵ *P.S.A.N.*⁴ III (1929), 74.

⁶ *N.C.H.* XV (1940), 50, no. 12.

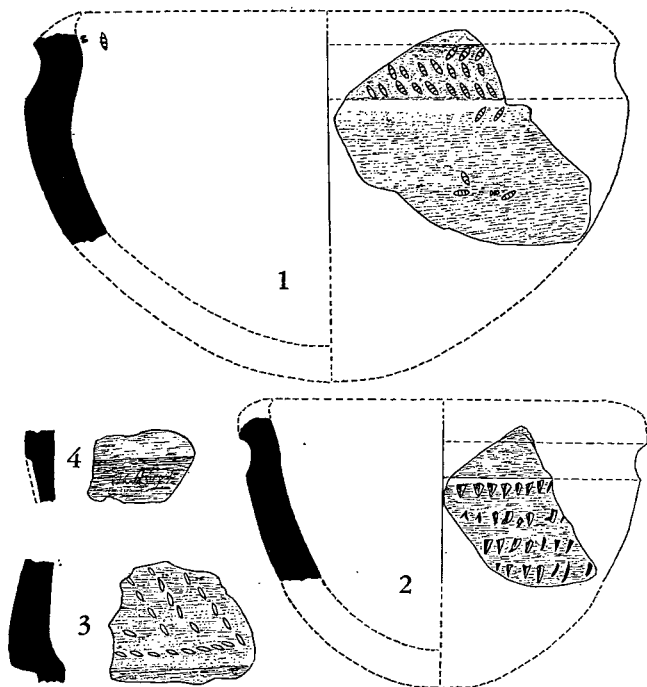


FIG. 2. NEOLITHIC POTTERY FROM NORTHUMBERLAND (3)
DRAWN BY JOHN TAIT. SEE NOTE 2

core and containing large angular grits. The body is rough and pitted and has faint traces of maggot-style decoration on the outside and also on the inside of the neck.

Under the heading of "Additions to Museum" in our *Proceedings* is the record of a gift of four Neolithic polished axes, fragments of two Bronze Age urns and five whetstones from the vicinity of Kyloe Crag, presented by Captain C. D. Leyland, Haggerston Castle.⁷ One of the axes is marked "Kyloe Crag 1901" and it is likely that this collection of objects was formed over a period of years and possibly derived from quarrying operations on Kyloe Crag. One fragment of pottery (Mus. accn. no. 1929.30), in brown fabric with black core and blackened on the inside, is part of a Bronze Age cinerary urn with an overhanging rim (Fig. 2, 3). The other fragments, which join, are from a large round-bottomed cylindrical vessel in a reddish brown fabric with red core containing fairly large angular grits (Mus. accn. no. 1929.29). The decoration, which covers the top three inches of the pot and the top and inside of the rim, is executed by finger-nail impressions. The rest of the vessel is plain (Fig. 3). Close parallels for the form of the rim can be cited in late Neolithic vessels from Normanby Park in Lincolnshire⁸ and Luce Bay, Wigtonshire.⁹

The Kyloe Hills have in the past produced other finds of prehistoric material, notably a Food Vessel and jet necklace,¹⁰ a Neolithic polished stone axe given to the Museum in 1964, two urns of Food Vessel type¹¹ and two vessels of cinerary urn type found above the quarries at West Kyloe about 1910 and recorded in a footnote.¹² It is possible that the latter could be the same vessels which were eventually presented to our museum.

The third fragment of Neolithic pottery (Fig. 2, 2) comes

⁷ *P.S.A.N.*⁴ IV (1931), 70, 141.

⁸ *P.P.S.* 23 (1957), 45, Fig. 3, no. 6.

⁹ *P.S.A.S.* XCVII (1963-64), 69, Fig. 5, no. 123.

¹⁰ *A.A.*⁴ V (1928), 26.

¹¹ *H.B.N.C.* XXV (1923-25), 368.

¹² *Ibid.*

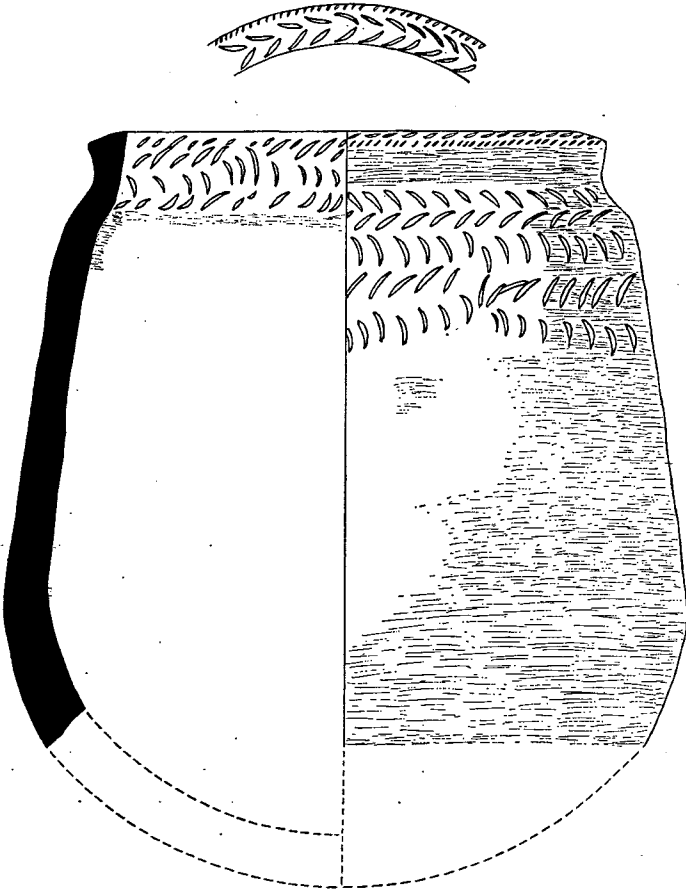


FIG. 3. NEOLITHIC POT FROM KYLOE CRAGS, NORTHUMBERLAND (3).
DRAWN BY JOHN TAIT. SEE NOTE 2

from the vicinity of Old Town Farm on the River Allen (Mus. accn. no. 1956.325.A). This piece was given by the farmer to Mr. J. P. Gillam when he visited the farm during the erection of a pole on a supposed Roman site of which no evidence was found. The sherd shows the neck and part of the body of a round-bottomed late Neolithic bowl. The fabric is light brown with a dark brown core, hard and evenly fired, and contains a number of quartz grits in the material. The decoration consists of impressions of a cuneiform character, probably made by a piece of wood, which are deeper towards the top of the impression than at the bottom. The rim is missing but the fragment shows a shallow groove at the neck with the decoration extending downwards from the shoulder.

Although there is no sign of any prehistoric site in the vicinity, or any published evidence of such, it is likely that the sherd originated somewhere near the farm of Old Town. If so, it is an important addition to the list of prehistoric material from an area which is not particularly well represented on distribution maps.

With the recording of the foregoing it is opportune to review the total extent of Neolithic pottery finds from Northumberland, which have hitherto been rather meagre. In 1931 Professor Stuart Piggott published a small plain hemispherical bowl of form AC from the Greenwell collection in the British Museum which had been found under a projecting stone 300 yards from the camp at Old Bewick.¹³ Greenwell's barrow CLXXXVIII at Broomridge, Ford, produced what he described as hard domestic pottery which was later recognized and ascribed by Miss N. Newbigin to the Neolithic A or Windmill Hill class of pottery.¹⁴ Amongst the 200 sherds were rim forms of A, F, FJ and G, the latter predominating and showing that the group was not of the earliest period of the Windmill Hill culture.

A further possible sherd of plain Neolithic ware comes

¹³ *Arch. Jour.* LXXXVIII (1931), 143 and Fig. 7, no. 6.

¹⁴ *A.A.*⁴ XII (1935). 148.

from Harlow Hill.¹⁵ This fragment (Mus. accn. no. 1927.133) is illustrated in Fig. 2, 4. It is in a blackish brown burnished fabric containing quartz grit and is recorded as having been found in the camp at Harlow Hill.¹⁶ To postulate an occupation of the area on the strength of this sherd alone would be questionable, but it is interesting to note that there are references by MacLauchlan to the existence of a tumulus and camp on the hill, the discovery of bones and urns in the immediate vicinity and also a communal burial; to quote MacLauchlan as related by the farmer: "In removing an old ditch to throw one field into another he found the whole of the inside full of bones highly decayed; the barrow was about 6 feet high, 12 feet broad and 60 yards in length; its situation was about 200 yards north by east of the tumulus first mentioned."¹⁷ This burial need not, of course, have been prehistoric.

Published late Neolithic decorated wares from the area have so far been represented only by two fragmentary bowls known to have been found in the vicinity of Ford Castle and now in the British Museum. These were first noted by E. T. Leeds, who listed in the same paper two other vessels of similar character, one from Redscar Bridge, Ford, the other from Alnwick.¹⁸ To these can now be added fragments of a similar ware found in pits during the excavations by Dr. Brian Hope-Taylor on the site of "King Edwin's Palace" at Old Yeavinger.¹⁹ Other late Neolithic wares are represented by sherds of Rinyo-Clacton pottery, also from pits at Old Yeavinger.²⁰

With the exception of the Rinyo-Clacton sherds all the other late Neolithic decorated wares from Northumberland, including the three new vessels, can be broadly classed as Peterborough ware. This has been sub-divided into three

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ *P.S.A.N.*⁴ III (1929), 74.

¹⁷ H. MacLauchlan, *Memoir written during a Survey of the Roman Wall* (1858), 19.

¹⁸ *Ants. Jour.* VII (1927), 457.

¹⁹ Unpublished. Information from Dr. Brian Hope-Taylor.

²⁰ S. Piggott (ed.), *The Prehistoric Peoples of Scotland* (1962), 36.

varieties, known as Ebbsfleet, Mortlake and Fengate, on the basis of varying diagnostics of form and decoration, the stylistic changes representing a typological development. The new vessels have most in common with the Mortlake style, though perhaps with the addition of northern characteristics.

JOHN TAIT

3. TWO UNPUBLISHED RAKES OF DEERHORN. Fig. 4.

In 1949 Mr. T. W. Bagshawe, F.S.A., published an illustrated note on one-piece, two-pronged hoes or rakes, formed from parts of antlers of red deer.²¹ The note was prompted by the recognition of a specimen from Egginton (Beds.) and his description of this is followed by an account of four others from Bartlow (Cambs.), Hadstock (Essex), Harston (Cambs.) and a locality unknown. All are now in the Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. That from Egginton²² is intact and is a V-shaped implement. Two tines $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. long serve as the prongs and mid-way between these and the end of the object a hole about an inch square has been pierced for insertion of a haft. There are marks caused by a metal cutting instrument on the larger tine and the "coronet" or "burr" has been cut off. Both tines have been worn smooth with use.

The other four²³ are dissimilar from the Egginton specimen in having been cut from a different part of the antler; but otherwise, except for that from Bartlow which has a circular instead of a square haft-hole, all have the same essential characteristics and clearly served the same purpose. Three show signs of having been cut or worked by metal tools and in two instances the haft-holes are worn in a manner suggesting that the hafts were secured by wedges.

²¹ *Ants. Jour.* XXIX (1949), 86-7, Pl. XI.

²² *Ibid.*, Pl. XI, b (5).

²³ *Ibid.*, Pl. XI, a (1-4).

Mr. Bagshawe adduced reasons for regarding these implements as Romano-British, and Mr. R. B. K. Stevenson,²⁴ following up his note, drew attention to another two specimens from Wroxeter²⁵ and Newstead²⁶ which confirm this dating. That from Newstead was found in Pit XCVIII "and so belongs to the middle or second half of the second century. It consists of the burr of an antler with the beam sawn off and the brow and bez tines intact." As in the specimen from Bartlow the haft-hole is circular, 1in. in diameter, "and has its inner edges polished by wear. The overall length of the rake is 11in. The tines curve strongly towards the end and at the tips are much polished to 2 and 3in. respectively on the convex curve and to under an inch on the concave. This suggests that they were drawn along the ground rather than through it in the manner of a hoe".

To these examples can be added two more, both from Roman sites and both hitherto unpublished. One is from Wallsend (Fig. 4, 2).²⁷ Unfortunately half of it is missing and the end of the surviving tine has been broken off, but part of a rectangular haft-hole is preserved and the size and form of the original object can easily be visualized. Again there are indications that it has been fashioned with a metal tool. Its overall length when intact was much greater than that of any of the other rakes mentioned in this note, considerably exceeding even that of the specimen from Newstead.

The second rake here published for the first time is from South Shields (Fig. 4, 1).²⁸ This is complete and, save for the natural results of use, undamaged. It consists of the burr of the antler with the brow and bez tines, about 4½in. (11.5cm.) and 4in. (10cm.) long respectively, and is U-shaped. The longer tine has been worked with a chisel or other strong, sharp tool. A rectangular haft-hole about 1¼in. (3cm.) × ⅝in.

²⁴ *Ibid.* XXX (1950), 195.

²⁵ *Wroxeter* II (1914), 20, Pl. IX. 2.

²⁶ *P.S.A.S.* XLVII (1913), 394, Fig. 7, no. 2, 395; *J.R.S.* III (1913), 102, Fig. 10, no. 4.

²⁷ Here reproduced with acknowledgments to Wallsend Borough Council.

²⁸ Accn. no. 1956.128.5.A.

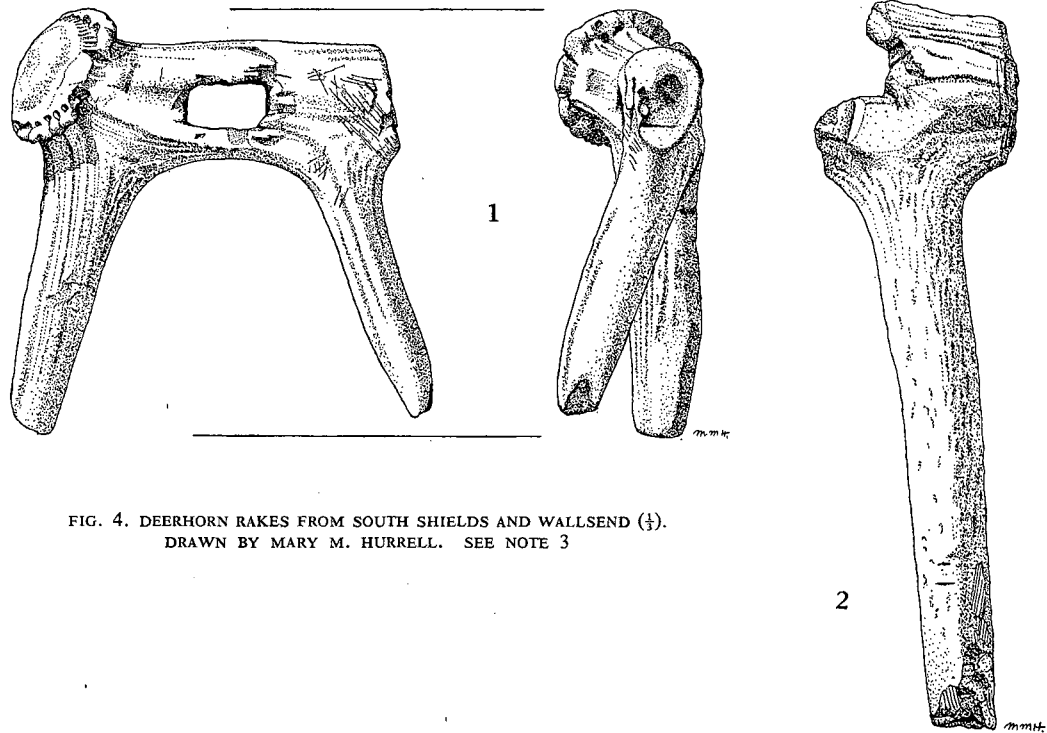


FIG. 4. DEERHORN RAKES FROM SOUTH SHIELDS AND WALLSEND ($\frac{1}{3}$).
DRAWN BY MARY M. HURRELL. SEE NOTE 3

(1.60cm) has been cut through the beam centrally between the tines and the beam has been sawn off just above the bez tine. Both tines are worn smooth and have lost their tips.

In addition to the rake a number of picks and other objects of deerhorn were discovered during the excavations at Newstead.²⁹ Curle, commenting on the antiquity and usual associations of the deerhorn pick, raised the question whether such an artefact could conceivably be regarded as a tool of the Roman army, which was accustomed to the provision of every kind of iron implement that might be needed³⁰ and in fact had excellent rakes of wood with iron prongs.³¹ He noted that the deerhorn pick does not appear to be a common find on Roman military sites in Britain, or to have been recorded on any of those in Germany reported upon by the Limeskommission, though some of these had yielded small objects made from antlers. On the other hand, he observed that picks and other artefacts of deerhorn are a familiar feature of native sites of the Roman period, and concluded that their discovery on a military site must be taken to imply the presence of a native element.

D. J. SMITH

4. THE ARCHER'S TOMBSTONE FROM HOUSESTEADS. Fig. 5; Pl. XVI

One of the oldest discoveries from Housesteads is the stone carved in the form of an arcuate *aedicula* in which stands, in high relief, the figure of an archer.³² Though

²⁹ Curle, *op. cit.*, 314, Pls. LXXXIII, LXXXIV.

³⁰ *P.S.A.S.* XLVII (1913), 395-6; *J.R.S.* III (1913), 99-100, 103-4. Cf. *Arch. LXII* (1910), 101ff.

³¹ Curle, *op. cit.*, 283, Pl. LXI, no. 7; L. Jacobi, *Das Römerkastell Saalburg* (1897), 443-4, Fig. 69, no. 1, Pl. LXXX, no. 2.

³² It is just possibly identifiable as one of the stones partly visible above a ridge of ground (Chapel Hill ?) in the sketch of Housesteads from the south that Stukeley made in 1725 and which was engraved for his *Iter Boreale* (*Itin. Curios.*, 1776), Pl. LXXVI; reprod., but reduced in size, in E. Birley, *Research on Hadrian's Wall* (1961), Pl. IX. Other early records are Horsley, *Brit. Rom.* (1732), Northumberland Fig. XLVI, and Hodgson, *Hist. of Northd.*, part 2, vol. III (1840), 194. The stone is registered in the Society's

uninscribed there is no doubt that it was (or formed part of) a funerary monument.

As a piece of sculpture the stone has not attracted much attention.³³ Admittedly it is hardly an *objet d'art*; yet despite its dark patina and very weathered condition the piece has features which entitle it to more consideration than it has hitherto received. In fact, close scrutiny enables it to be described in some detail. The block from which it has been carved is 62cm. (24½in.) wide, 115cm. (45in.) high and 29cm. (11½in.) thick. The back of the *aedicula* is concave and plain, except at the head which is in the form of an inverted, conventionalized scallop-shell; i.e. the fluting converges towards the highest point at the front of the arch. Here the thickness of the stone between the arch and the flat top is only 3cm. (1¼in.); but the top may well have been surmounted, as in more completely preserved tombstones of similar type, by a separately carved block with symbolic funerary figures or other appropriate ornament.³⁴ Certainly there must have been a separately carved base bearing the deceased's epitaph.³⁵ The back and sides of the stone have been dressed square and smooth.

The *aedicula* is flanked by two slender engaged columns with perceptible entasis. Although now hardly apparent at

Donations Book as item 6 in the Gibson Coll., received in 1822. It is no. 240, with fig., in Bruce's *Lap. Sept.* (1875), and no. 286 in Collingwood's *Cat. of the Rom. Inscriptions and Sculptures belonging to the Soc. of Ants. of Newcastle upon Tyne* (1926). I am indebted to Mr. G. Finch of the Library Photographic Section, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, for the trouble that he took over the photograph reproduced as Pl. I, and to Miss Mary M. Hurrell for her careful drawing, Fig. 5; the subject is far from easy.

³³ It is noticed, but without comment, by Professor J. M. C. Toynbee, *Art in Britain under the Romans* (1964), 189.

³⁴ Cf. R. Weynand, Form und Dekoration der röm. Grabsteine der Rheinlande im 1. Jahrh., *Jahrb. des Vereins für Alterthumsfr. im Rheinl.* (= *Bonner Jahrb.*, hereafter cited as *BJ*) 108/9 (1902), 220; for two views of a particularly good example see *Germania Romana-ein Bilder-Atlas* (2nd edn., 1926; hereafter *GR*) III, pl. XIII, nos. 1 and 3. In German examples, but not in the stone from Housesteads, the crowning block was held in place by dowels.

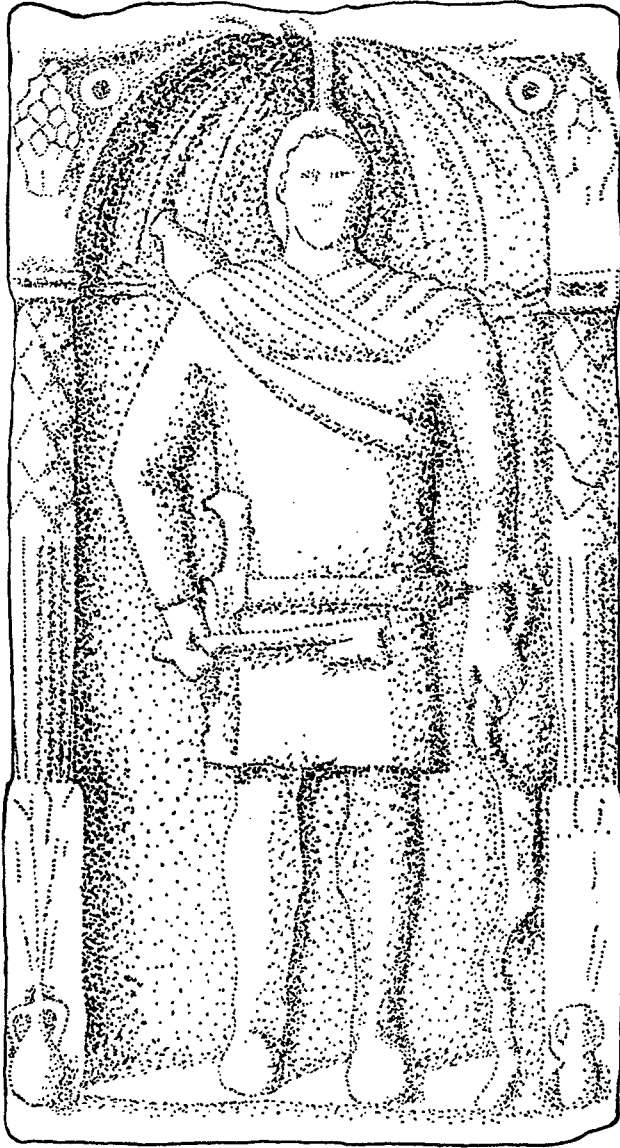
³⁵ Cf. Collingwood, *loc. cit.* and, for an actual instance of a funerary monument with separately carved epitaph, E. Espérandieu, *Recueil des Bas-reliefs . . . de la Gaule romaine VIII*, 6259=GR III, Pl. II, no. 3=(for the best illustn.) H. Schoppa, *Die Kunst der Römerzeit in Gallien, Germanien u. Britannien* (n.d.), Pl. 50. The feature appears to be rare.

first sight the lower half of each column still preserves evidence of original fluting and the upper half of overlapping-scale pattern.³⁶ Each column stands on a high and narrow plinth, on the front of which is represented a spray of leaves in an "amphora", and each has what appears to have been some form of capital supporting a pine-cone. Above the pine-cones, running across the width of the stone over the arch of the *aedicula*, is a slight projection 3cm. (1¼in.) high, while between this and the pine-cones the spandrels contain small circular bosses with drilled centres—doubtless floral motifs in the last stage of degeneration. Once observed, the degree of detail is as surprising as it is interesting.

As so often in Roman provincial sculpture, though less so here than in many other instances, the carver's ability was unequal to his commitment. The figure of the deceased is somewhat stiff and not well proportioned. Weathering has robbed it of the details of the features. The straps of the boots or sandals have likewise disappeared, but it seems safe to say that the legs were not sheathed in breeches or otherwise protected, while the costume and accoutrements can be described with reasonable confidence. It has been generally agreed that the headgear is a crested helmet, though it might be thought that a helmet would hardly leave uncovered so large an expanse of forehead. The body is clad in a tunic with close-fitting, three-quarter sleeves;³⁷ it reaches almost to the knees and reveals so little of the underlying form of its wearer as to suggest a garment not of cloth but of leather. A cloak is gathered about the upper part of the body and thrown back over both shoulders to leave the arms free for action. It would have been prevented from slipping on to the right arm by the strap which crosses the chest and, passing under the left arm and over the right shoulder, supports a quiver. The latter is just visible above the right shoulder.

³⁶ The figure in Bruce, *op. cit.*, suggests that these and other details were much clearer a hundred years ago.

³⁷ So it seems to me. Bruce and Collingwood apparently did not observe the cuffs of the sleeves on both wrists but only that on the left wrist which they took to be a bracer, the archer's protection against his bow-string.



M.M.H.

FIG. 5. THE ARCHER'S TOMBSTONE FROM HOUSESTEADS.
DRAWN BY MARY M. HURRELL. SEE NOTE 4

It has a conical cap or lid³⁸ terminating in a flattened knob. On the same side, suspended from a broad belt which is somehow secured at or just above the hips, is a short sword. The stout hilt of this weapon has not a conventional pommel but is turned back where the pommel would normally be as though it might have been carved in the form of a swan's neck and head.³⁹ The right arm is slightly crooked and the hand clasps the butt-end of a short, hafted implement, holding it horizontally in front of the abdomen. This object has been drawn and described as an axe,⁴⁰ but its head is not the unmistakable head of the Roman axe⁴¹ and it seems more probably to be some unrecognised accessory peculiar to the archer's equipment. The left arm hangs down with the hand firmly grasping a powerful bow, of the type known as composite, which stands on one tip between the figure and the side of the *aedicula*. If the size of the bow is proportionate to the height of the figure its length, unbraced (i.e. unstrung, as it appears), would have been about a metre.

The tombstone with full-length portrait of the deceased in an *aedicula* is, of course, one of the most common types of early imperial funerary monument and was particularly well suited to the portrayal of a soldier in his parade uniform. In Britain the earliest and best example of the type is the well known Claudian tombstone of Favonius Facilis at Colchester.⁴² Later British examples tend, however, to be very much inferior, both in design and execution, and it is impossible to find amongst these one which closely matches both the standard of carving and the ornamental details of the tombstone from Housesteads. It is, in fact, only to a fragmentary civilian tombstone of notable quality at Lin-

³⁸ As has the quiver of an archer in a Greek vase-painting reprod. in Daremberg-Saglio, *Dictionnaire* etc., s.v. *Sagittarii*, Fig. 6034.

³⁹ As, in fact, Horsley shows it. One is reminded of the hilts of the swords of the Tetrarchs in the famous sculptural group built into the S.W. angle of St. Mark's, Venice.

⁴⁰ By Horsley, Bruce, Collingwood and Toynbee; Professor Toynbee calls it a hatchet, which is virtually the same thing.

⁴¹ Cf. Jacobi, *op. cit.*, Pl. XXXIII, nos. 11-14, Pl. XXXVI, nos. 4, 5; Curle, *op. cit.*, Pl. LXI, nos. 1, 4; Schoppa, *op. cit.*, Pl. 96.

⁴² Often illustrated; cf. Toynbee, *op. cit.*, Pl. XLVI, a.



The archer's tombstone from Housesteads. See Note 4

coln⁴³ that one can confidently turn for comparison of a detail. This, an example of the arcuate-*aedicula* type but without the scallop-shell ornament, preserves part of a flanking engaged column (or pilaster) decorated with the overlapping-scale pattern. Commenting on this stone Professor Toynbee has observed that the carving "is strongly reminiscent of some of the best tomb reliefs of central and northern Gaul;"⁴⁴ and it is undoubtedly also on the Continent that the closest parallels for the tombstone from Housesteads are to be found. There, and particularly in the Rhineland, the tombstone with arcuate *aedicula* became a firmly established type in the first century of the Empire, the head of the *aedicula* being rendered as often as not in the form of an inverted scallop-shell. Especially comparable with the tombstone from Housesteads are those of C. Serus at Wiesbaden (early 1st cent.)⁴⁵ and of Annaius at Kreuznach (mid-1st cent.).⁴⁶ Still closer in one detail is the well known monument of C. Albinus Asper and his wife, from Neumagen (now at Trier);⁴⁷ in this, full-length relief portraits of the deceased couple occupy two alcoves in a double-*aedicula*, the head of each alcove being in the form of an inverted scallop-shell, while the pilasters on either side of the monument bear representations of *canthari* in which stand sprays of leaves. Numerous similar monuments of the first century in the Rhineland offer parallels in general style or in one detail or another for the archer's tombstone from Housesteads.

In assigning a date to this tombstone, however, account must be taken of what is known of the history of the site where it was found. There is so far no evidence of Roman military activity at Housesteads before the construction of Hadrian's Wall, which was initiated at the earliest in 122, while the establishment of the fort for a permanent garrison

⁴³ Toynbee, *op. cit.*, Pl. XLVIII, b.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, 201.

⁴⁵ *GR III*, Pl. IV, no. 3.

⁴⁶ F. W. Gerster, *Mittelrheinische Bildhauerwerkstätten im 1 Jahrh. nach Chr.* (1938), 83f.; Schoppa, *op. cit.*, Pl. 51.

⁴⁷ Espérandieu VI, 5150; *GR III*, Pl. XXXVII, no. 1.

did not take place until at least a year or two after construction had begun.⁴⁸ Despite its first-century affinities the archer's tombstone can hardly be dated, therefore, earlier than c. A.D. 125; and the later one might attempt to date it thereafter would be progressively more difficult—after the end of Wall Period IA (c. A.D. 140) almost if not entirely out of the question. In short, all the evidence points to a Hadrianic date.

There remains the question of the archer's regiment. Among the many different units recorded as having been stationed in Britain there is only one regiment of archers, the First Cohort of Hamians, originally raised at Hama in Syria. But there is nothing about the uniform of our archer that can be compared with the romantic national dress—conical helmet, and a short tunic with scalloped hem over a flowing robe—of the oriental archers portrayed on Trajan's Column.⁴⁹ On the other hand, while archers in more business-like uniforms depicted on the same column have also been described as orientals,⁵⁰ and although the majority of the units of archers in the Roman army were certainly recruited in the Near East, a number were raised elsewhere in the Empire⁵¹ and it is evident from tombstones that their uniforms were generally as conventional as those of most other auxiliary troops.⁵² The archer of the tombstone from Housesteads may have been, therefore, in a non-oriental

⁴⁸ Cf. Birley, *op. cit.*, 183-4.

⁴⁹ C. Cichorius, *Die Reliefs der Traiansäule* (1896-1900), Scene LXX. Cf. I. A. Richmond, Trajan's army on Trajan's Column, *Papers of the British School at Rome* XIII (1935), 16, Fig. 4; Daremberg-Saglio, Fig. 6036; A. Forestier, *The Roman Soldier* (1928), 106-7. It must be noted, however, that Cheesman, though admitting that some regular auxiliaries may have been allowed to retain features of their national costume, identified these figures as soldiers not of regular *cohortes sagittariorum* but of *numeri*; v. G. L. Cheesman, *The Auxilia of the Roman Imperial Army* (1914), 131.

⁵⁰ Richmond, *loc. cit.*

⁵¹ Cf. Pauly-Wissowa, *Realencyclopädie* etc., s.v. *Sagittarius*; Daremberg-Saglio, *loc. cit.*; Cheesman, *op. cit.*, 82-4 and Appendix II.

⁵² E.g. compare the first-century tombstone of a Cretan archer of *Coh. I Sagittariorum* with that of a Dalmatian spearman, both at Kreuznach; Espérandieu VIII, 6136 = GR III, Pl. IV, no. 1 and Schoppa, *op. cit.*, Pl. 51, respectively. The absence of a "sporrán" on the tombstone from Housesteads is noteworthy but inexplicable. Cf. Cheesman, *op. cit.*, 129-31.

regiment⁵³ hitherto unidentified in Britain; if so, it would be reasonable to conclude that this unit was the first garrison of the fort at Housesteads.⁵⁴ An important point in support of this conclusion is that that fort, so far as is known, was from the beginning planned to accommodate a milliary cohort, whereas the fort that the Hamians constructed for themselves at Carvoran at the end of Hadrian's reign⁵⁵ was for a unit of only quingenary strength.⁵⁶ Any suggestion that the Hamians may have garrisoned Housesteads before being posted to Carvoran is thus ruled out. Furthermore, since Carvoran was still (or again) their base twenty-five years later,⁵⁷ and quite possibly remained so until the end of the second century,⁵⁸ the body of any Hamian who died in the vicinity of that fort—and Housesteads is only eight miles distant—would surely have been taken back to Carvoran for burial there.

To sum up, on stylistic criteria and historical grounds the archer's tombstone from Housesteads can almost certainly be assigned to a date between c. 125 and c. 140, and in consequence, taking into account also the character of his uniform and the size of the fort, affords reason to think that the first garrison at Housesteads was an as yet unidentified but possibly non-oriental *cohors milliaria sagittariorum*.

D. J. SMITH

⁵³ His bow is not indicative one way or the other; the composite type was widely used by orientals and non-orientals alike.

⁵⁴ The second-century regiments at Housesteads are still unidentified; cf. Birley, *op. cit.*, 179. But it may be observed that the tactical considerations which induced the Roman military authorities to station archers at Carvoran would apply equally to Housesteads, where the Knag Burn corresponds to the Tipalt in relation to the adjacent fort; cf. J. Collingwood Bruce, *Handbook to the Roman Wall* (12th edn., by I. A. Richmond, 1966), 152.

⁵⁵ *RIB* 1778, A.D. 136-8; cf. *ibid.* 1820.

⁵⁶ As its dimensions show; see Birley, *op. cit.*, 194.

⁵⁷ *RIB* 1792, c. A.D. 163-6.

⁵⁸ The third-century garrison was the Second Cohort of Dalmatians; cf. Birley, *op. cit.*, 192.

