

NOTES.

1.—A POLISHED STONE AXE FROM HAYDON BRIDGE, NORTHUMBERLAND.

The polished stone axe head illustrated in fig. 1 was found in 1956 by Mr. John Gibson and has been presented to the Society. As a student at Shaftoe Trust Farm School he was inspecting a crop of young germinating corn when he recognized the axe lying among a collection of surface stones.

The field in which it was found lies half a mile to the west of Haydon Bridge, between the farmhouse (formerly a pele) at West Rattenraw to the north, and the main Newcastle-Carlisle road to the south, where there is a dry river terrace about twenty feet above the present river level (O.S. 6" sheet XC S.E.: 2 15' 55" W, 54 58' 18" N). Although two visits have been made to the site subsequently, no further finds have been made.

A microscopic examination, carried out by the Geological Survey, showed that the axe was very similar to specimens of Borrowdale tuff from the Pike of Stickle, Westmorland (Group VI, Great Langdale).¹ The products of this factory are very widespread in secondary neolithic contexts, with an emphasis on coastal and riverine diffusion.² Reports on microscopic examinations of the remainder of the axes in the Society's collection are not yet available, but macroscopic examination shows that at least three from Northumberland are probably of the same rock, i.e. Shaw Farm, Bellingham (1865:2), Kyloe (1929:18), West Woodburn (1948:10).³ It

¹ See *Trans. C. & W.A. & A. Soc.* (n.s.) L, 1ff.

² *Proc. Prehistoric Soc.* (1951) XVII, 115. Piggott, *Neolithic Cultures*, 293.

³ Information from Mr. W. Bulmer, curator.

is perhaps appropriate that the first to be reported on should come from the Tyne-Solway Gap.

Although the axe has been broken, the thinning towards the butt end is characteristic of Group VI axes; on the other hand, the sides are fairly sharp and the slight squaring, typical of the group as a whole, is absent.

GEORGE JOBEY.

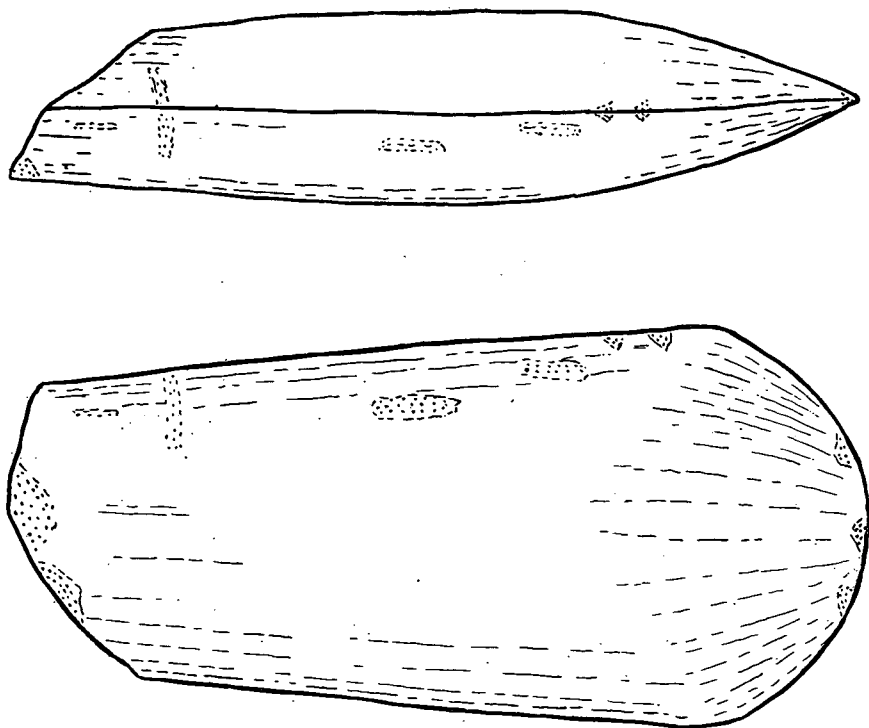


FIG. 1.

2.—USE OF CRANE IN DISTILLATION.

In *Archæologia Aeliana* Fourth Series XXXVI on page 53 reference is made to the use of a pewter *crane* in the conduct of a distillery. Of the use of the word in this sense of



Detail from a VINTAGE SCENE IN ITALY.
c. 1650 by Hendrik van Balen the younger.

By courtesy of the Trustees of the Bowes Museum.

a siphon the *Oxford English Dictionary* cites uses ranging from 1634 to 1846. In the Bowes Museum is a painting by Hendrik van Balen the younger of a vintage scene in Italy (c. 1650). In the foreground of the scene is a youth using as a siphon precisely such an implement as Smith describes. The implement illustrated in use by van Balen corresponds closely to the "crane" shown hanging on the wall in Smith's engraved plate (A.A.4, XXXVI, plate II). I am indebted to our member Mr. Thomas Wake, F.S.A., for the photograph of van Balen's painting here reproduced (plate LI).

JOHN PHILIPSON.

3.—EXCAVATIONS AT HIGH BRUNTON, 1957.

In October 1957 the site marked on the Ordnance Survey maps as a tumulus, a few hundred yards north of Hadrian's Wall at High Brunton, Northumberland (National Grid reference 927 698) was threatened by quarrying, and a rescue excavation was undertaken by the author, on behalf of the Ministry of Works.

Excavation revealed that the main circular mound, fifty-nine feet in diameter, was artificial. It had been built upon the natural limestone, which lies at about four feet below the turf in this area. Below the topsoil was a deep layer of gravel, limestone and whin boulders, thrown together without any discernible pattern or order; below this was a layer of river cobbles laid upon the natural limestone, and varying in thickness between ten and twenty-four inches. In the centre of the mound, in a circle approximately eight feet in diameter, the layer of cobbles and whin boulders was missing and the gravel and stone layer continued down to the natural limestone.

This circular mound lay at the north end of a larger and

lower mound one hundred and fourteen feet in length. In this the whin boulders were larger and more frequent, and proved a considerable obstacle to excavation. No artifacts of any kind were found in the course of the excavation.

In view of this, it is difficult to reach any conclusion about the origin or function of the mound. The first record of it appears on the first six-inch edition of the Ordnance Survey map, issued in 1862. There is no mention of the mound in any of the older antiquaries. It is unlikely that the mound is a tip from one of the quarries in the area, since it is symmetrical, and was placed directly upon the natural limestone. No more convincing explanation has been given as yet, and it must be confessed that the function of this artificial mound is completely unknown. It is however unlikely that it was a burial mound, since neither burial nor evidence for disturbance was found in the course of the excavation.

MICHAEL G. JARRETT.

4.—A MEDIEVAL COIN FROM HEDDON-ON-THE-WALL.

During the summer of 1958 Mr. and Mrs. Hewitson made the casual discovery of a silver long-cross penny near their home at Heddon-on-the-Wall. On examination it proved to be a coin of Edward I from the Durham mint. No episcopal symbol is given upon the coin, so that it must have been issued at a time when the Durham mint was temporarily under the control of the king's agent. The period is in fact 1305-1307, when Bishop Anthony Bek had been suspended. The coin is of group 108.

LEGEND. Obv.: + EDWARDR ANGL DNS HYB
Rev.: CIVI TAS DVR EME.

MICHAEL G. JARRETT.

5.—TWO ROMAN COINS FROM SUNDERLAND.

In recent years two Roman coins have been found in the Sunderland area; they have been passed to the writer by Mr. J. C. Bowen. Both were casual finds from different areas of the town. They were presumably dropped by travellers, though they may represent coins in use amongst the native population.

1. HADRIAN.

Denarius.	A.D. 118.	RIC 44 (c).
Obv.: [IMP CAES]AR TRAIAN HADRIANVS		Dated by Hadrian's
[AVG]. Laureate bust r.		second consulship.
Rev.: [P]M T[R] P COS II.		
<i>in exedra: PAX.</i>	Pax stdg. 1.,	
holding cornucopia and olive-branch.		

2. FAUSTINA II.

Sestertius.	After A.D. 175.	RIC 1702 (Marcus).
Obv.: DIVA FA[VS]TINA PIA.		
Bust draped r.		
Rev.: [C]O[N]SECRATIO S C.		
Faustina seated on peacock flying r.		

MICHAEL G. JARRETT.

6.—A LEAD SEAL OF CARNABY.



A lead seal $1\frac{1}{8}$ " in diameter stamped with the armorials of Carnaby, was recently found in a garden at Fenham. It was exhibited to the Society at its August meeting and is here depicted slightly enlarged. Its date is difficult to fix, but it seems to be of the later sixteenth century and is of the type used in medieval times for affixing to a bale or package. The arms upon it are those of the widespread and influential

family of Carnaby who flourished at Halton and Aydon and other places in Northumberland from the later fourteenth to the end of the seventeenth century.

The armorials are blasoned—*argent two bars and in chief three roundels azure*. Crest on a wreath above a helmet—*A saracen's head sable wreathed argent and gules*. See pedigree in *Northumberland County History*, X, p. 408, where there is also a note upon the armorials of the family.

C. H. HUNTER BLAIR.

7.—TOWN MOOR MONEY.

Miss E. M. Halcrow's article on the records of the Shipwrights Company contains a reference to the distribution of Town Moor Money "being payments made to the freemen for cattle pastured on the Moor".¹ The author of this article was evidently not familiar with the expression "Town Moor Money", but the following note will, it is hoped, make the matter clear.

From time immemorial the resident freemen of Newcastle and resident widows of freemen have enjoyed grazing rights on the Town Moor.

In 1771 the then Corporation of Newcastle upon Tyne purported to enclose and let part of the Moor without the consent of the freemen, who vigorously objected and instituted legal proceedings.² As a result of these proceedings the Town Moor Act 1774 was passed to secure for ever the freemen's grazing rights;³ amongst other provisions this Act authorized the Corporation, on request of the freemen, to enclose up to 100 acres of the Moor and to let these enclosures on seven year leases for the purpose of improving

¹ *Arch. Ael.*, 4th series, XXXVI, p. 72.

² For reports of the trial see Richardson's *Table Book*, Vol. 2, p. 220, or Clark's *Newcastle Remembrancer*, p. 52.

³ Town Moor Act 1774 (14 Geo. III cap. cv.) Sec. 1.

the ground. The rents arising from these lettings were to be paid to the Chamber Clerk of Corporation, who was to hand them over to a person approved by the Stewards and Wardens of the Companies for distribution as to them should seem meet amongst the poor freemen and widows of freemen resident within the City, the administrative system being specified in detail.⁴ This system still continues in force and every half year the rents paid by the tenants of the enclosures, known as Intakes, are collected by the City Treasurer and remitted by him to the Treasurer of the Stewards, who decide the allocation of the money amongst the poor resident freemen and widows and comply with the statutory requirements. The rents thus distributed in charity are the "Town Moor Money" which has nothing to do with cattle pastured on the Moor.

For a very long period the rents remained comparatively small and it was the practice of the Stewards to divide them equally between the applicants. About 1939, however, the rents had increased quite substantially, and it was felt that a fairer method of distribution should be adopted, under which the most poverty stricken would receive rather more than those who were not quite so badly off. Mr. R. K. Dotchin, F.C.A., the Treasurer of the Freemen, devised a scheme to effect this, which was approved by the Stewards and brought into operation in 1941. In the light of experience an amended scheme based on principles similar to those upon which National Assistance is awarded, was approved by the Stewards (subject to their overriding discretion) and was put into operation in 1944. Subject to a few minor amendments which have been made since then, this method of distribution is still used.

During the past 30 years or so the number of applicants at each half-yearly distribution has varied between a maximum of 128 and a minimum of 58. Application is made by each individual through the Stewards of the Company through which he (or in the case of a widow the late husband)

⁴ *Ibid.*, Sec. 8.

claimed the freedom, all applications being carefully considered by the whole body of Stewards in order to make sure that the terms of the Act are properly observed.

The Act of 1774 was amended as to the terms of letting intakes by the Newcastle upon Tyne Improvement Act 1870⁵ but this did not affect the distribution of the rents.

R. F. WALKER.

⁵ 33 & 34 Vict. Cap. 120.