

### XIII.—MUSEUM NOTES, 1965<sup>1</sup>

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Owing to lack of space it has not been possible in this volume to resume the summary publication of accessions to the Museum of Antiquities of the University and the Society. Accessions registered under 1956 to 1959 inclusive, 1963 and 1964<sup>2</sup> will be listed in future Notes. [Editor.]

*Corrigenda.* Attention is drawn to the printer's errors in the Notes for 1964,<sup>3</sup> viz.:—

p. 287, para. numbered 2, second line, for *PSAN3 B* read *PSAN3 V*.

p. 289, Fig. 2, invert and transpose drawings A and B and, in the caption, for H. M. Hurrell read M. M. Hurrell.

D.J.S.

#### 1.—TWO BEAKERS FROM SCREMERSTON, NORTHUMBERLAND. FIG. 1, A.

In the Museum of Antiquities of the University and our Society are two unpublished beakers which were found in the spring of 1948 during the cultivation of a field on Borewell Farm, Scremerston (Accn. nos. 1948.7-8). The following information concerning them comes from two letters in the possession of the Society, dated 11th May 1948 and 13th Oct. 1948, from Mr. J. E. Carr of Springhill, Berwick-upon-Tweed.

The findspot lies 160 yards north of the entrance to

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

<sup>2</sup> For 1960 to 1962 inclusive see *A.A.*<sup>4</sup>, XLI (1963), 219ff.

<sup>3</sup> *A.A.*<sup>4</sup>, XLII (1964), 279ff.

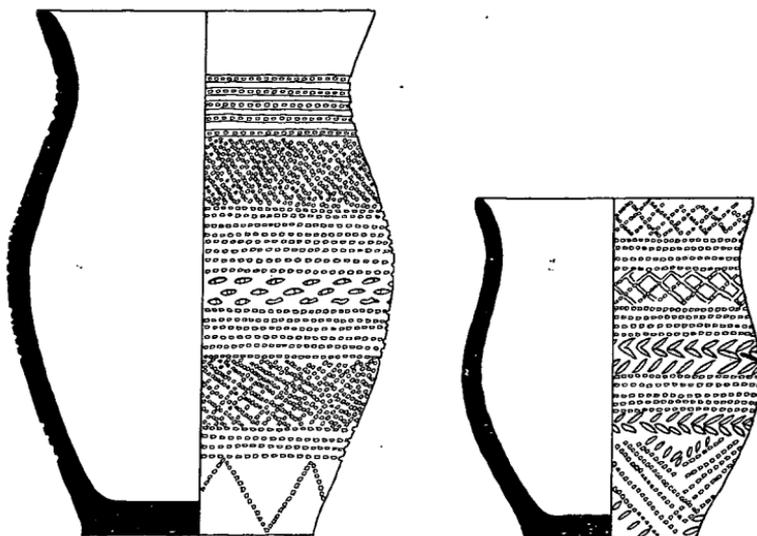


FIG. 1A. BEAKERS FROM BOREWELL FARM, SCREMERSTON, 1948 (1:3).  
SEE NOTE 1.

Borewell Farm and 15 yards east of the hedge bordering the public road (N.G.R. NU/104496). Here a large flat stone measuring about 4' 6" square and 2" thick was dislodged by the cultivator revealing a cist of flat stones placed on edge with a bottom stone similar in size to the capstone, but about 3" thick. The cist contained a quantity of sandy soil which was carefully examined. No trace of any bone could be seen but the two beakers, one in either corner to the west side of the cist, were found standing upright. After the removal of the vessels the capstone was replaced and recovered.

The finding of two or even three beakers in a cist is a not uncommon occurrence. The Borewell example is the fifth known from Northumberland. Three more examples are known from the bordering counties of Westmorland and Berwickshire and several more from North-East Scotland.

The taller of the two beakers, in a reddish brown fabric with black core, is 8" in height and 5" in diameter at the

mouth. The topmost inch of the neck is plain, but except for this the vessel has been decorated all over by means of a short-toothed comb or notched wheel. The decoration has two zones of cross-hatching between groups of horizontal lines, with a central zone of three rows of short oval-shaped stabs made by the same instrument. The five rows of horizontal lines on the neck have been impressed deeply into the moist clay. The lowest zone of decoration consists of hanging triangles, a motif common on beakers from the Andernach and Urmitz area of the Rhineland.

The second beaker is of a similar fabric. It is  $5\frac{1}{8}$ " in height and  $4\frac{1}{8}$ " in diameter at the mouth. This vessel has been decorated all over in a combination of notched-wheel horizontal lines separating narrow bands of cross-hatching and a chevron pattern of finger-nail impressions. The lowest zone of decoration is a multiple-filled triangle with a border of finger-nail impressions.

Mr. Carr refers to the discovery nearby, twenty years earlier, of a cist containing the skeleton of a female, and there is, in fact, a published report of the finding of a cist here in 1922.<sup>4</sup> The location is given as 120 yards N.W. of the steading of Borewell near Scremerston, and 40 yards east of the public road. This description puts the position within fifty feet of the discovery in 1948 and is probably that of the find referred to by Mr. Carr. The cist contained the skeleton of a female about thirty years of age, a beaker in fragments and two flints.

I am indebted to Miss M. M. Hurrell for the drawings of the two beakers.

*John Tait*

<sup>4</sup> *History of the Berwickshire Naturalists Club*, XXIV (1919-22), 384.

2.—A STONE BATTLE-AXE FROM THE HEXHAM DISTRICT. FIG. 1, B.

Through the good offices of our member Mr. W. S. Tate, Col. John Turnbull, T.D., D.L., of Chester-le-Street, has kindly given to the Museum the shaft-hole stone battle-axe here illustrated. Assignable to the Early Bronze Age, it is a welcome addition to the prehistoric collection. Mr. Tate informs me that the weapon had been in Col. Turnbull's family since the 1870's, when the Colonel's father found it amongst the scrap of a farm sale in the Hexham/Corbridge area. Unfortunately, precise details of its provenance seem no longer recoverable.

*D. J. Smith*

3.—THEFTS FROM THE MUSEUM. PL. XVI

One of the objects stolen from the Museum in 1964 and returned anonymously on 7th October in the same year was a Roman finger-ring, with a stone said to be a carnelian, from South Shields. The ring had always been taken to be of bronze and was illustrated and so described as recently as 1961.<sup>5</sup> Thanks, however, to the thief's attempt to remove identifying letters and figures painted on it in white ink it is now evident that what appeared to be bronze was actually deeply tarnished silver. The ring has thus acquired new interest—as well as additional value!

Not returned was the barbed and tanged flint arrowhead, 2" in length, from Lanchester Common (Accn. no. 1815.3). As a well preserved, good specimen of the so-called Breton type, and the only example of this type in the Museum, its loss is a matter for considerable regret. It is here illustrated in the hope that it may yet be identified and recovered.

*D. J. Smith*

<sup>5</sup> *A.A.*, XXXIX (1961), 31, no. 93, Pl. IV, no. 11.



Flint arrowhead from Lanchester Common,  
Co. Durham (1:1). See Note 3

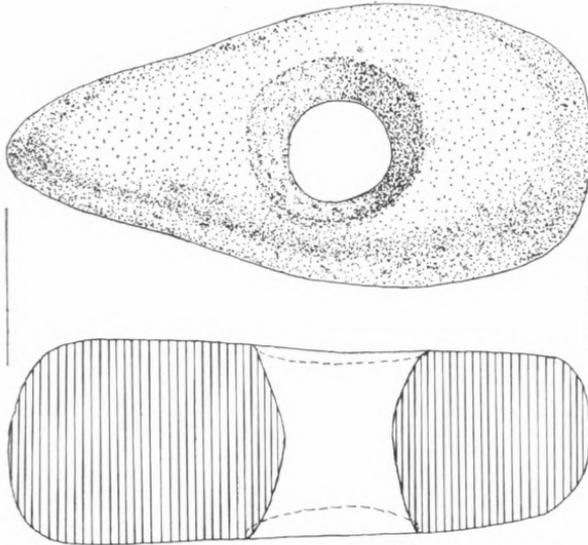


Fig. 1b. Stone battle-axe from the Hexham/Corbridge  
Area. Length  $8\frac{1}{4}$  ins. See Note 2

*Drawn by Miss M. M. Hurrell*

