

XI.—NOTES

1. *A Bronze Age Urn from West Hartlepool*

During excavations for laying electric cables at the junction of Newlands Avenue and Park Road, West Hartlepool (O.S. 497322) on 18th December 1964 the workmen struck an inverted Bronze Age vessel. It was one or two inches below the kerbstone in a thick layer of yellow sand. It is reported to have contained a small quantity of grey clay. The base was knocked off and the pot broken, but the sherds were collected by Messrs. J. and M. Birks and were eventually reconstructed at Sunderland Museum.

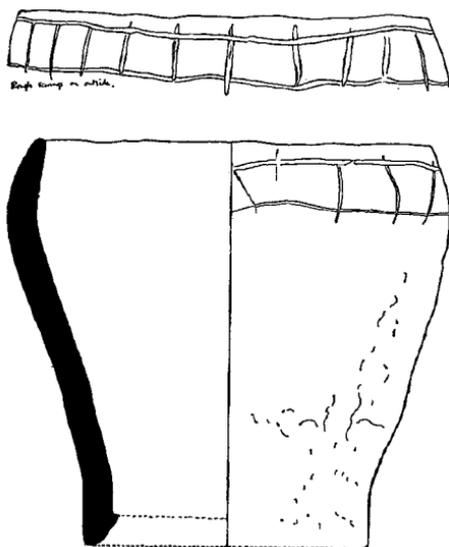


FIG. 1. BRONZE AGE URN (4)

The pot is approximately $8\frac{1}{4}$ " high and has a maximum diameter of $8\frac{1}{4}$ ". The sides curve inwards slightly towards the rim and the base. Below the rim are two roughly parallel lines apparently made with a twig and scored across at various angles. The fabric is approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick, coarse and full of large grits, and built up by hand. It has been poorly fired, and when it was first dug up was very fragile. The outside is buff and shows oxidization. The inside is blackish and sooty. It seems possible that the vessel was placed mouth down over a cremation.

Typologically the urn appears to be related to the biconical urns of southern Britain. They belong to the Second Phase of the Wessex Culture, c. 1500-1400 B.C. An unpublished urn from a round barrow at Stainsby, Lincolnshire,¹ resembles the Hartlepool urn in general size, shape and decoration, though its ornament is more neatly executed. The Stainsby urn contained a four-ray star and a globular faience bead which suggest a Wessex II date. Another urn even closer in appearance to the Hartlepool example was recovered with others from a cairn in Ardeer, Stevenston, Ayrshire.² Within one of these urns were found a star-shaped and two segmented faience beads. Nearer the Hartlepool area two similar urns, now lost, were recovered from a barrow at Low Greenshield Crag, Birtley, Northumberland.³ So far the Hartlepool urn is the only one of the biconical urn series to be found in County Durham. It is now in the Gray Art Gallery and Museum, West Hartlepool.

Some interesting information about the manufacture of the pot was obtained by the examination of several of the coarse grits which were incorporated in its fabric. X-ray diffraction by I.C.I. revealed a type of hard, shiny, black rock which had a spinel phase, and a very different soft, red grit containing quartz and clays. Subsequently the grits were examined by Dr. G. A. L. Johnson of the Department

¹ Information from Mr. G. V. Taylor.

² *PSAS*, 1905-6, Vol. IV, 4th Series, p. 391.

³ *AA*, Vol. XII, 1887, pp. 243-247.



Fig. 1. Bronze Age urn from West Hartlepool

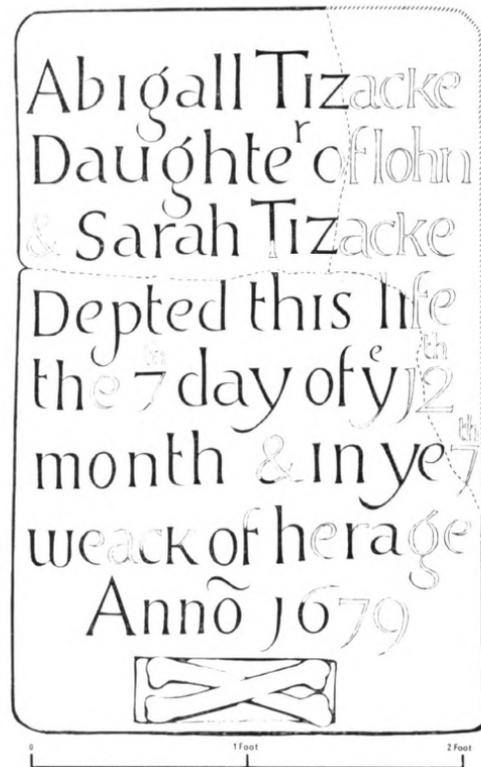


Fig. 2. Inscription on grave-cover of Abigail Tyzack

of Geology at Durham University. Three distinct kinds of rock were recorded:

(1) one fragment was composed of quartz dolerite of the type found in the Whin Sill which outcrops in the Pennines and Northumberland from Middleton-in-Teesdale to Holy Island. Fragments of the Whin Sill rock are common in the glacial boulder clay of eastern County Durham.

(2) black glassy fragments which appeared to be furnace slag.

(3) fragments of dull red baked clay that may represent fragments of the potter's clay which were not wholly broken up; or they may be grog, that is fired pot sherds broken up and added to the clay to open it.

Dr. Johnson suggests that the slag could be from primitive iron smelting. At present there seems no reason to suppose that the pot is not Bronze Age, so perhaps the presence of iron is accidental. The examination shows that it seems possible that slag, igneous rock and perhaps some grog were used to temper the clay and make it more stable.

Thanks for their help are due to Dr. I. H. Longworth, M.A., Mr. J. Tait, Dr. G. A. L. Johnson and the Staff at I.C.I. and Sunderland Museum.

A. Woodhead

2. A Sword found at Hart, Co. Durham

Some time ago in draining a pond at Hart a sword was found, and has been brought to my notice by Canon Eastman, Vicar of Hart.

The sword measures 3 ft. 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ ins. in overall length (by little over 1 inch wide) and has a double-edged blade of flattened diamond shape section without any decoration, trade mark or makers stamp, and with the extreme point of the blade missing. As a blade type it falls somewhere between a sword rapier and a broad sword, its section giving it a bias in the former direction. The hilt is of plain steel

without any decoration and consists of counter-curved quillons with flattened lobeate ends with pipped terminations springing from a figure of eight guard, from the left side of which a knuckle bow or hand guard rises tapering to the pommel with a slight angular ornamental spreading one third of the way up. From the right side a thumb loop rises from the outer edge of the guard to a height of about one inch and turns into and is connected with the centre of the guard. The inner edge of the left side of the guard has a groove running completely around the inner edge that may originally have held a guard plate, now missing; this view is strengthened by the presence of two square pop holes on the inner side of the guard that may have been to spread the metal to hold such a plate in place. The pommel is of a flattened pear shape (Oakshotts Type V.2) with a baluster shaped head nut. The grip is surprisingly short— $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches—so much so that with a normal grip the heel of the hand is forced halfway up the pommel, thus making it an impossible sword to fence with and so necessitating a cut and thrust technique in use.

Pear-shaped pommels of flattened form do not appear before the mid-fifteenth century and it is not till the sixteenth century that they become at all popular.

Counter-curved quillons, although being recorded as early as circa 1430 are circular, square or hexagonal in section and it is not until the seventeenth century that they become flattened in section and then it is usually in association with sword rapiers. By this time however, the rest of the foreguard had developed in complexity, with finger rings, thumb rings and knuckle bow or hand-guard in the same plane as the quillons. Finger rings and thumb rings, though quite well known in England, were never as popular as on the Continent. The hand-guard did not move around the hilt a full 45 degrees till late in the seventeenth or early in the eighteenth century when it became the prototype hilt to the basket-hilted broadsword of Highland regiments.

The present specimen preserves together the pommel

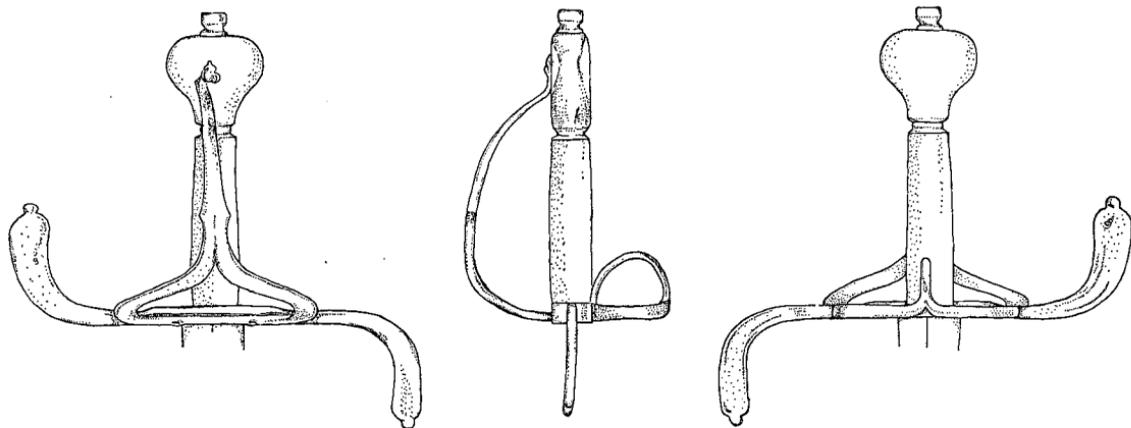


FIG. 2. HILT OF SWORD FOUND AT HART, CO. DURHAM ($\frac{1}{2}$)

form, the hand-guard at right-angles, the quillons, the thumb loop, as predating the thumb ring—such a mixture of early and late features as to be extremely rare. Its general simple form, however, does imply north-west Europe, and an almost identical weapon is shown on a portrait of Niels Cristenson in the Aalborg Museum, Denmark, that can by the style of dress be dated to the mid-seventeenth century. Swords being the portable artefacts they are, can so easily be transported out of their original context, that it is by no means remarkable that quite exotic examples can turn up in the most unusual places. Hartlepool, only one or two miles from Hart, has been a port with Baltic and Scandinavian connections for a sufficiently long while for a transfer of this nature to be almost commonplace.

W. Dodds

3. *A Quaker Grave-Cover*

The inscribed stone grave-cover of Abigail Tyzack,⁴ which for about a century has lain beside the carriage-drive in Armstrong Park, Newcastle, was in 1964, with the consent, readily given, of the Corporation Parks Committee, removed and is now at the Friends Meeting House, 78 Jesmond Road, Newcastle upon Tyne.

That the Armstrong Park was not the original location of the grave-cover is sufficiently shown by reference to Brand who wrote: *I found the following inscription on a stone in a garden belonging to Captain Lampton, near the middle glass-houses.* A version of the inscription follows. Boyle, and later Steel, locate the grave-cover as lying *by the side of the carriage drive in the Armstrong Park.* Its removal from the Middle Glasshouses must have occurred therefore between 1789 and 1890.

⁴ J. Brand: *History of Newcastle* Vol. I, London 1789, p. 340. J. R. Boyle: *Vestiges of Old Newcastle and Gateshead*, Newcastle 1890, pp. 38, 144, 148/9. Bourne: *The History of Newcastle upon Tyne*, Newcastle 1736, p. 155. J. W. Steel: *The Society of Friends in Newcastle*, London 1899, pp. 9, 10, 18 and 19.

The grave-cover measures $26\frac{1}{2} \times 40 \times 4\frac{3}{8}$ inches and consists of sandstone. It has been broken twice and a portion is missing. It must have been complete when Boyle and probably when Steel wrote. Neither states there was any part missing nor even that it was broken. More significantly Boyle describes it as *an almost illegible memorial stone* but he proceeds to give a more accurate version of the inscription than did Brand, showing that he did not copy Brand and suggesting that it was more legible and complete then than now. The inscription now is much affected by wear and weather.

Quaker grave-stones are comparatively rare as Friends disapproved of the element of ostentation in funerary monuments and almost wholly eschewed them. The inscription is executed with the greatest simplicity: the crossed bones being surely attributable to the un-prompted conventionality of the mason.⁵

The Tyzacks, like the Henzells and Tytories, were Protestant refugees from Lorraine who settled on Tyneside and there established the glass industry. In the 17th century a number of Tyzacks and Tytories joined the Society of Friends. John Tyzack and Sarah Langford are recorded as being married on 6 June 1674 in the Gateshead Meeting of Friends. Both are described as of the Glasshouses, near Newcastle. Four children are recorded by Newcastle Friends as having been born to them: Elizabeth, 19 June 1675; Samuell, 20 July 1677; Abigail, 21 October 1679; and Nathan, 4 November 1680. John and Sarah left Newcastle with their family in 1684 and settled in London. The other children appear to have survived at least till 1684 as of their number only Abigail has her burial recorded in the Gateshead register.

Of the other two deaths recorded in the register for that year, those of Susanna Carneath and of Benjamin Tytory, it

⁵ The transcription reproduced on plate XVIII, 2 was drawn by Mr. Edmund Swift. I am indebted to Mr. L. C. Evetts for his comments on the style of lettering.

is noted in the register that each is buried in his or her father's garden. Two years later Benjamin's sister Sarah was buried in the Friends burial ground, then in Gateshead, but other subsequent burials of children in gardens are recorded. While there is no note that Abigail was so buried it seems probable that she was and that her grave-cover was still in its original position when seen by Brand about a century later. For the rest, *Oblivion blindly scattereth her poppy*, and no record is known of how the stone came to lie beneath a horse chestnut tree in Armstrong Park, Newcastle.

J. Philipson