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Author(s): H. S. Cowper

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But his son held his peace. And she lived and grew up there, and in due time married and had one child—a girl, and the villagers called her Si-Babi.*

This is the legend of the "Babi" tuam—an old one and true.

M. W. H. BEECH.

Egypt: Archæology.

Cowper.

On a Series of Small Worked Flints from Hilwan, Egypt. By **5**

H. S. Cowper, F.S.A.

These notes relate to a series of 204 small worked flints which I collected in

February last, on the sandy plain just west of the modern town of Hilwan in Lower Egypt.

The discovery at Hilwan of flints of the type now exhibited is not new; but though I was aware that implements had occurred in this vicinity, I was at the time unacquainted with any particulars, and the finding of a prolific site was quite accidental on my part, and it was only after returning to England that I was able to see any literature on the subject.

The two papers of Mr. A. J. Jukes Browne, published thirty-three years ago,* contain practically the same material slightly differently arranged. The description he gives of the physical geography and geological conditions of the Hilwan plateau is very clear, and it is unnecessary for me to describe these again. Thirty-three years, however, have seen great changes in Egypt, including the development of Hilwan

FIG. I.

* As we might say, "Miss Piggie."

† *On the Flint Implements found at Helwan, near Cairo.* By A. J. Jukes Browne, Esq., B.A., F.G.S. Communicated by Professor Hughes. (Pub. Cambridge Antiquarian Soc. (Nov. 12th, 1877). IV, 85.) *On Some Flint Implements from Egypt*, by same author (Dec. 11th, 1877). (*Journ. Anthr. Inst.*, VII, 396-412.)

itself into a town of some size. Moreover, our knowledge of the Stone Age in Egypt has much increased; indeed, so little was then known, that any notes on stone implements from Egypt attracted a good deal of attention, and this makes it more singular that (as far as I know) no further account of the Hilwan flints has appeared in English.

The sites that I examined were three in number, but the distance separating them was so small, and the types found so uniform, that there can be no doubt that they belong to the same period and race. The house which I rented was on the extreme edge of the town and at the north-west corner of it, and from here my first site (Site I) was about one-third of a mile distant in a direction south of west, and near a sandy hummock. The second (Site II) was about 200 yards from my house in a direction south-west by south and near a larger rounded sandhill; and this site, I believe, corresponds with Mr. Jukes Browne's Site III. My third site (Site III) was only about 200 yards east of Site I, but at a higher level.

The features of these sites are, that an overwhelming majority of the little instruments found are of one type, and as nearly as possible all these are complete, and that the type itself is one of which the use has never been determined.

These instruments may be described as pointed flakes; and it may be said that out of the 204 worked flints which I collected, there are not more than about a dozen which could be classed as of another type. The following is a summary:—

(A) *Right-handed Points*.—These are formed by carefully trimming off one side of a straight flake, until it is brought by a fairly even curve down to the straight untrimmed edge. Right-handed points are such as have the sharp point to the observer's right, when looked at on the ridged side of the flake.

[7]

FIG. II.

(B) *Left-handed Points*.—Exactly the reverse of the above, the point being to the left when observed in same manner.

(C) *Right-handed Shouldered Points*.—These only differ from Class (A), in that there is a shoulder, or hump, on the chipped edge, instead of its being formed with an even curve.

(D) *Left-handed Shouldered Points*.—Exactly the reverse of Class (C). In all these classes one end is always unpointed.

(E) *Crescent-shaped Flints*.—In these the work is very similar, but the flaking is brought down in an even curve at both ends, until it meets the sharp, straight edge, resulting thus in a narrow crescent with two sharp points.

Beside these I found one finely worked leaf-shaped arrowhead on Site III; three bigger worked flints on Site I, and of these two are of a more or less unpointed knife-like type (*see* Nos. 69 and 70), while the other distinctly belongs to Group A, but is of exceptional size (*see* No. 71).

The proportions in which these types occur are as follows :—

			Class A.	B.	C.	D.	E.
Site I	-	-	- 19	21	11	13	7
Site II	-	-	- 19	31	6	11	2
Site III	-	-	- 11	12	9	4	—
			49	64	26	28	9

or, in all—

Right-handed points, Classes A and C	-	-	-	-	75
Left-handed points, Classes B and D	-	-	-	-	92
Crescent-shape, Class E	-	-	-	-	9
					176

To which add—

Leaf-shaped arrowhead, Site III	-	-	-	-	1
Broken specimens which, with the exception of two or three, all seem to have been Class A, B, C, or D	-	-	-	-	25
Two bigger worked flakes	-	-	-	-	2
					204

Of course, on all three sites flakes and splinters were numerous, and these I did not collect. But nothing else which could be called a scraper, arrowhead, or knife, complete or broken, was found by myself, or my wife, or my little boy, in any of our searches. The fact is clear, therefore, that at these sites, about 190 out of 204 implements belong to the same type, and another nine to a type so like, that it is probable that they served some similar purpose.

These little instruments vary in length from little over $\frac{5}{8}$ ths of an inch to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. No. 71, being $1\frac{7}{8}$ inches, is exceptional both in length and thickness. The crescents are between $\frac{7}{8}$ and $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

In Mr. Jukes Browne's paper in the *Journal* of the Anthropological Institute, a very impartial discussion is devoted to these remarkable flints and to their probable use, and the problem is considered whether the blunted side of the flake was produced intentionally by chipping, or simply by wear; and also, whether the sharp untrimmed edge, or the worked edge, was the "business" edge? In other words, whether the instruments were scrapers or knives? And the conclusions he reached were, that the "general form points rather to the use of the cutting edge than that of the trimmed "or blunted back." He was, in fact, in favour of their being pointed knives.

Being practically ignorant of all theories, when I was in Egypt, and away from

all literature, I was compelled to examine my flints from an unbiassed standpoint. The opinion that I then formed, however, I have seen no reason yet to change; and that is, that these instruments are neither knives nor scrapers, but points, or, to speak more accurately, barbs, since the characteristic feature of the type is that the point is never in line with the axis of the flake, but to one side, so that properly mounted they would form barbs or hooks.

Although I have ventured to divide them into two classes, one with an even curve, and the other with a shoulder or hump, I do not think that this points to any different use, since it may be only a degree of finish, the less careful fabricator omitting to take off the last flake or two. Of the crescent form I shall have a word or two more to say; but, looking at the others with their sharp incurved points and their blunted butts, it seems to me that they must have been made for one of two purposes: either they were for arming the edge of serrated weapons, such as were used by the Kingsmill Islanders, and set with sharks' teeth, or they were simply the barbs of fishing spears or harpoons, or mounted separately were fish hooks themselves. The very position of the sites, only a short walk from the Nile, favours the supposition, and I trust that someone will collect and compare the various discoveries of flints of this character, and see if many or most are

found in the area of important lakes or rivers which, like the Nile, teem with fish.

Of the two suggestions, the one, that they were set along the edge of a serrated weapon seems to me the less likely, because the shark's tooth thus used is sharp on both edges as well as acutely pointed, whereas in these flint points there is practically no attempt to bring the convex-chipped side to an edge at all.

There are, indeed, only one or two examples in my series (*see* Nos. 3, 23) where the chipping is done from both faces; and there can be little doubt that this

FIG. III.

chipping was done entirely with the object of producing a curved side, so as to get a point on one side, which then became practically a barb.

The little crescents are perhaps a distinct type, and their comparative rarity suggests some rather different use. A noticeable point is that four out of the eight crescents that I found are trimmed from both faces to the convex side of the instrument (Nos. 64, 65, 66, 67). The points of these crescents are in most cases extremely sharp, and it seems possible that they were mounted as arrow tips, in such a manner that one point was the arrow point, while the other projected slightly laterally and formed a barb. Nine specimens are, however, insufficient to theorise about.

The fish-hook theory seems to have been suggested before. Mr. W. L. Abbot, in his account of small flints from Hastings and Sevenoaks,* is inclined to regard the small crescents he found as fish-hooks or gorges, and he suggests that they were mounted directly on a line, which was tied round the centre, and kept in place by the characteristic hump on the convex back of the crescent. In the Hilwan crescents, however (at any rate those I have found), the hump is not characteristic.

Without going into the question of pigmy flints generally, it may be said that there is a considerable family likeness between Mr. Carlyle's flints from the Vindhya Hills, and from other parts of Central India, and also Mr. R. A. Gatty's Scunthorpe pigmies, and those from Hilwan; but there is a much greater variety of shapes in both these series; and in the Indian series, at any rate, a greater proportion pointed at both ends. I have not seen Mr. Carlyle's paper, published at Calcutta, but the districts in Central India in which these little instruments occur, appear to be in the vicinity of rivers and fisheries.

The conditions under which the Hilwan flints are found are accurately described by Mr. Jukes Browne as "an ancient surface compacted by the deposition of salts," from which surface sand is periodically cleared by the wind. It is very probable that these cleared spaces change, so that the exact areas examined in 1877 may now lie under a foot or two of sand, while the cleared places that I examined may have been only recently exposed. It is, therefore, possible that there is quite a large area covered with these little implements, but that only small portions are exposed at a time. It seems rather unlikely that the small areas which I examined could have been long exposed, since a search of an hour generally resulted in about twenty-five or thirty instruments, very few of which were broken, and after heavy showers the number visibly increased.

Concerning the antiquity of these flints probably the less said the better at present. A great deal more information about the distribution and types should be available before the theory of "particular race" making pigmy flints can be accepted. The only thing that is fairly certain is that they are not palæolithic, but whether they belong to a Stone Age at all, or to dynastic times, is an open question. There is a character about them which is quite different from the well-marked series of neolithic arrowheads, knives, saws, and celts which have been found in the desert of Lower Egypt in such large numbers in recent years.

It is true that an arrowhead occurred among the points on Site III, and there is, I think, no reason to doubt that it was the work of the people who made the "barbs," but the very delicacy and smallness of it differentiate it from the neolithic arrowheads above mentioned.

Looking at the number of spalls and flakes of flint about these sites I think we must conclude that we have on the Hilwan plateau the manufactory of these little barbs. But it is very curious that so few broken ones occur. Are we to conclude from this that the makers were sufficiently skilled to trim their flakes into barbs without

* *Notes on Some Specialised and Diminutive Forms of Flint Implements from Hastings Kitchen Midden and Sevenoaks.* By W. J. Lewis Abbot, F.G.S. (*Journ. Anthr. Inst.*, XXV., 141-143).

many breakages ? It is a little difficult to suggest any other explanation. Of course, if the presence of the barbs only marks the site of a village, of which the inhabitants used them, one would not expect numerous broken points ; but, as I have said, the number of spalls points to the site of a manufactory. H. S. COWPER.

KEY TO ILLUSTRATIONS.

FIG. I.	FIG. II.	FIG. III.
Nos. 1-12, Site I.	Nos. 30-35, Site I.	Nos. 60-63, Site I.
„ 13-15, „ II.	„ 36-38, „ II.	„ 64-66, „ I.
„ 16-21, „ I.	„ 39-44, „ III.	„ 67, „ II.
„ 22-26, „ II.	„ 45-47, „ I.	„ 68, „ III.
„ 27-29, „ III.	„ 48-56, „ II.	„ 69-71, „ I.
	„ 57-59, „ III.	

REVIEW.

Sociology.

Frazer.

Totemism and Exogamy: A Treatise on certain Early Forms of Superstition and Society. By J. G. Frazer, D.C.L., LL.D., Litt.D., F.B.A. 4 vols. **6**
London : Macmillan & Co., Ltd., 1910. Price 50s. net.

More than forty years have elapsed since the late J. F. McLennan, who was the first to investigate systematically both totemism and exogamy, made public the first-fruits of his research. He died while engaged in preparing a more extended exposition, and for years even the materials he had collected were withheld from the world. In the meantime the late Professor Robertson Smith saw the importance of the study of totemism in its relations to religion, and endeavoured to apply it to the explanation of problems in the Semitic area. At his instance his friend, Professor Frazer, took up the enquiry ; and the famous article on totemism in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, reprinted with a large addition in 1887, became the text-book from which anthropological students worked. But the years since then have been years of unexampled activity in anthropological enquiry. Researches in the field on a wider scale and in a more severely scientific spirit, and critical discussions at home, have destroyed some of our first illusions ; but they have added enormously to our positive knowledge of the range of totemism over the surface of the earth, and of its content as a social and religious system. Its study could not be disentangled from that of exogamy, which was believed to be an integral part of the system ; and the investigations into both have gone hand in hand. At length Professor Frazer has turned from other and equally engrossing enquiries to his first love, and in these volumes, which almost attain the proportions of a German *Handbuch*, has aimed at giving a full account of all that is known about both totemism and exogamy, accompanied and synthesized by discussion of their origin and object.

He has, indeed, left little unrecorded of what is definitely known ; and he has wisely wasted no room in discussing what are conjectured to be remains of totemism in the higher civilisations. These may safely be left for future consideration. It is a great pity, however (as doubtless he himself recognises), that the original plan of republishing his earlier work and subsequent essays on the subject, merely with notes and corrections, was not relinquished in time to be dropped altogether in favour of the ethnographical survey which occupies the bulk of the book. Their retention has served no useful purpose except that of bringing into relief the changes in the author's views, his open-mindedness and candour, and the magnitude of the distance that separates the scientific knowledge and speculations of 1887 from those of 1910.