On Some Crania of the Round Barrows of a Section of the Yorkshire Wolds

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is one of considerable difficulty, and the data from which we have to decide is very scanty. These tribes differ a good deal from one another in their language, characteristics, and habits, but not in their outward appearance or mode of living. The tribes have been frequently compared with one another, and are found to differ in language, in tattooing their faces, in the manner of building their huts, and in the animals which they consider unclean; but little can be inferred from these differences. Still, such things may sometimes help in an inquiry. In dealing with the subject, I would suggest that fac-similes of the tumehni, or rock-writing, be collected and compared with similar writing to be found in other parts of America, especially in the valley of the Mississippi. Though there is at present considerable doubt as to the origin of these writings, a comprehensive investigation of these things might throw some light on the subject. Such an inquiry would require special ability and culture, but tracings of these remains might be collected by people who could not investigate them, and in this way much time and labour would be spared.

These writings appear to be spread over a very large territory, and some curious facts are mentioned concerning them. The Rev. W. H. Brett, in his "Indian Tribes," states that they must extend over a long period of time. As some of them are very far up the rocks, the beds of the rivers must have become much deeper since they were executed, and therefore they must be of considerable antiquity. In one of them, however, he saw something like a Spanish galleon, and the people beside it expressing their joy at its arrival. He therefore thinks that it must have been executed after the arrival of the Spaniards.

Whatever may have been the origin of these writings, if they mean anything they resemble the writings of Mexico and North America more than the remains of Peru. Indeed, the Quippus, or cord-writing of Peru, was something very different.

In bringing this question before your Association, my main object is to call the attention of persons interested in such matters to the subject.

A discussion on the above papers then ensued, in which the PRESIDENT and others took part.

The following paper was taken as read:—

On some CRANIA of the ROUND BARROWS of a SECTION of the YORKSHIRE WOLDS. By J. R. MORTIMER, Esq.

IN this paper I beg to give some particulars of the finding of two extreme forms of skulls in round barrows, situated on a section of the Yorkshire Wolds, reaching from near Driffield on

the east to Aldro' on the west, and embracing an area of about 80 square miles, the barrows in which are not yet all examined, although they have been under examination for the last ten years. This section takes in a little of the low land, and includes the most elevated portion of the chalk wolds, where, at Wharram-Percy, Aldro', and Garrowby-hill top, it rises to an altitude of 700 to 820 feet above the sea. Here, as in the south and other parts of England, the long barrows are sparingly associated with the round barrows. Only one long barrow now exists, to my knowledge, in this section. It is similar to the few long barrows which are found in other parts of Yorkshire, and the unchambered long barrows in the south of England. Its length is about twice its breadth, with the long axis running east and west. Along each side of the whole length of this tumulus was a filled-in trench of considerable dimensions, which, as in all other true long barrows, does not pass round the ends. After a very careful opening, this mound yielded no interment; but in three places there was a crushed urn of a peculiar type, which might have accompanied interments that had finally disappeared.

The round barrows of *this* area are of two varieties; the one having been encircled, or nearly encircled, with a ditch and bank passing round its circumference, but which, in most cases, is now obliterated, whilst the other has no such enclosure.

I do not intend to enter into the relative age of the two ancient forms of sepulchres—the long barrows and the round barrows—my chief object being to give, as far as I am at present able, an account of the finding of a few of the crania of the men who contemporaneously occupied and possessed this portion of the Yorkshire Wolds during a long period in prehistoric times, and leave you to form conclusions of your own.

I take my examples from tumuli reaching from east to west of this section, and commence with two occupying the low land in Garton-Slack. The first tumulus is about one mile east of Craike Hill, and two and a half miles west from Driffield. It covered two oval graves in the centre. The fragmentary cranium (No. 1) found in this tumulus is dolichocephalic, and has a cephalic index of .72; it belonged to a much flexed interment resting on the floor of the grave marked "A" on the plan, on its back, with head to the south. A food vase accompanied it, and round its head were several minute flakes of dark flint. Over its feet, at about half the depth of the grave, was a small heap of burnt human bones. A femur measured $19\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and is of great substance. The second skull is very different in form, and has a cephalic index of .85, is therefore strongly brachycephalic. The interment to which this cranium belonged occupied the bottom of the grave, "B," lying on its

right side, with the head to the west, both hands under the chin, and the knees pulled up. The two femora measured 17 inches each, and are of rather slender make. A crushed food vase lay near its head. Just above this interment lay the flexed remains of a child about three years old, and upon its feet was a heap of broken human bones.

Going westward to within a mile of Wetwang we come to another tumulus. The skull (No. 1) from this barrow has a cephalic index of .72. This interment lay on the floor of an elliptical grave, partly on its left side, with the head to the south-east and legs much doubled up. It was accompanied by a badly formed flint knife lying on the lumbar vertebræ, and a very fine drinking cup, of large size, stood close to its right shoulder. Its femur is 19 inches in length.

"C. 63." No. 1.

Skull No. 2 has a cephalic index of .94; consequently is brachycephalous to an extreme degree. It is from the same mound, and occupied the floor of the southern half of a quadrangular grave, contiguous to the northern side, from whence the long skull was taken. Except that it lay on its chest, it was in the same posture as the No. 1; the femur measured $17\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and is of great substance. Close to the knees was a drinking cup, accompanied by three large flakes of black flint, a beautiful polished flint axe, and a bone pin $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches long; also a flint knife was stuck point downwards, just about the right side of the pelvis, as if it had been worn in a garment passing round the loins.

On the floor of the northern side of this grave lay the greatly decayed remains of a small person, most likely a female. Its attitude differed from that of the two previous ones by being on

its right side, and having its head to the west. This body was also accompanied with worked flints, and a drinking cup lay close to the back portion of its greatly-decayed skull. Above this duplex interment, and mixed with the material filling the grave, were many broken human bones, belonging to several individuals, and having other appearances indicative of cruel rites. These interments occupied the centre of the mound, and were undoubtedly contemporaneous. Passing from these ancient dwellers in the valley to those on the hills, we find an equally great dissimilarity in their cranial forms. The skull marked T 98, G B, belonged to a primary interment beneath a tumulus on the "Wayrham Farm," about one mile west of "Pluckham." It has a cephalic index of .71. This interment lay on the bottom of an oval grave, on its right side, in the usual crouched position. In front of its chest stood a food vase, close to which was the

"C. 63." No. 2.

root end of a large antler of the red deer. A femur measures 18 inches, and is of great strength. Further interments, both by inhumation and cremation, and several urns were found in other parts of this barrow.

Another skull (No. 2, T 100) was obtained from a barrow situated about two miles S.W. of the last. It was procured from an interment lying with its head to the N.E. on the bottom of a large grave, and at full length, a position occupied by less than one per cent. of British burials. It has a cephalic index of .90, and the femur measured 19 inches. In the same grave a doubled-up interment lay above it, the cranium of which, as far as could *then* be made out from its crushed state, was of the long type. The two next examples are also from one tumulus, No. 104, standing close to the York Road side, on the very summit of

Garrowby Hill. The fine-featured cranium (No. 1) belonged to a skeleton which was lying about 16 inches down in the centre of a large grave, with its head to the south, and knees pulled up. It has a cephalic index of .75. The femur is 18 inches long. Near the head lay a flint-flake knife. No. 2 was 23 inches vertically beneath No. 1, and in the same posture. Its breadth index is .83. A femur measures 16 inches, and is of great substance. Close behind the head stood a food vase, and near the two bodies were a few animal and many dismembered and fractured human bones; whilst fully 2 feet below them, and on the floor of the grave, stood two beautiful earthen vessels, with what seemed to be some ribs of a cow lying near them. These urns and fractured bones indicate food deposited with the dead.

Passing, on the ridge of the wolds, five miles in a northern direction, we reach Aldro'—a place of great importance in British times—a locality thickly studded with tumuli, occupying the most prominent points and commanding extensive views stretching away right and left into the Vales of York and Pickering, and far in front to the more distant Moorland Hills. The tumulus from which the very extraordinary specimen (No. 3) was taken stands on the very summit of the north-western escarpment of the chalk wolds, half-a-mile north-east of Aldro' House, and is one of the most interesting mounds explored by us. It is to be regretted that half of this remarkable cranium has gone to decay, but fortunately enough remains to show the shape and that it possessed a very exceptionally low and contracted frontal region. Its small size, the low receding forehead, and the very prominent superciliary ridges are unequalled by any British skull known to the writer, and the cubic area of its brain cavity must have been relatively very small. Its cephalic index would be about .70. The body to which this skull belonged lay 2 feet down in the centre of a vast grave, crumpled up, with the head to the west. The root-end of the antler of a stag and a few other bones lay near its head. This grave was funnel-shaped, 15 feet in diameter at the top and 14 feet deep. It contained two food vases and the remains of no less than fifteen individuals of all ages. My tenth and last example is from a portion of a barrow standing on the brink of Birdsall Brow, about one and a-half mile to the north-east of the one last mentioned, the other portion having been carried away by a landslip at some remote period. Fortunately the central grave remained, and the body lay undisturbed, with its knees pulled up towards the chin and head to W.S.W. This very fine skull has a cephalic index of .79. Close to this body lay a smaller one, minus legs and pelvis, and with the skull cleft.

By preparing a tabular analysis of this small series of skulls from our circular tumuli, and comparing it with Dr. Thurnam's "Analysis of Skulls," obtained from the barrows of the south of England, we observe marked points of difference.

The ten skulls on my table are from seven circular tumuli, and are divided into two very opposite types. Five are brachycephalic to a great degree, having a mean cephalic index as high as .86; whilst the other half are dolichocephalic, with a mean index as low as .72. In the south of England Dr. Thurnam finds the round-barrow skulls to range from .74 to .89, and to afford a mean cephalic index of .81; and from the same neighbourhood he finds the unchambered long-barrow skulls to range from .63 to .75, and to give a mean index of .69. He also finds the crania from the chambered long barrows to range from .67 to .77, and to have a mean cephalic index of .71; and he adds that at the present day there is no people in Europe with skulls so long and so narrow. It is worthy of remark that Dr. Thurnam finds, in the main, his long barrows to contain long skulls, and his round barrows to contain round skulls; whilst in Yorkshire we find the circular tumuli to produce promiscuously these two extreme forms of crania; and though the long barrow in our section produced no human remains, the few explored long barrows of the adjoining neighbourhood have yielded, like the circular tumuli, both forms of crania, with many traces of burning and numerous semi-calcined human bones. Moreover, Dr. Thurnam gives the mean stature, derived from fifty-two measurements, as 5 feet 6 inches for the men with long skulls—or from the long barrows—and 5 feet 9 inches for those with round skulls, or from the round barrows.

My computation of the stature of these two types of men—the brachycephalic and the dolichocephalic—is the very reverse of his. My analysis shows the mean stature of the five examples possessing long skulls to be as much as 5 feet 9½ inches, and the average stature of those five having round skulls to be 5 feet 5 inches only. The examples I have produced are believed to be, with probably one exception, males. The female element might have produced different results, and has been intentionally avoided.

From the knowledge obtained in procuring this interesting decade of skulls we have no proof of a period of high mental culture, but much evidence of *gross superstition and savagery*. Yet from the table of measurements it is obvious that our remote ancestors of this neighbourhood reached high on the standard of physical growth, and that the cubic areas of their cranial cavities, with one exception, show them to occupy a

high position in the scale of cerebral development. And, lastly, we here find no evidence of a period when men possessing either form of cranium were the sole denizens of the small area embraced by this paper, but that men then lived together amicably, possessing skulls varying in type as much as do the heads of the men of the same area now differ in form, we have ample proof.

MEASUREMENTS OF ANCIENT BRITISH SKULLS FROM BARROWS IN THE E. R. OF YORKSHIRE.

TEN SKULLS BELIEVED TO BE OF MEN. Derivation of Skulls.	Burial.	Grave.	Relics.	LONG SKULLS.			ROUND SKULLS.		
				C Index.	Lngh. of Femur	Calc. Stature	C Index.	Lngh. of Femur	Calc. Stature
					Inchs.	Ins.		Ins.	Ins.
Garton Slack "C. 40."	1	A	Flint Flakes	·72	19·5	72·3			
Garton Slack "C. 40."	2	B	Food Vase				·85	17	63
Garton Slack "C. 63."	1	B	Flint Knife	·72	19	70·3			
Garton Slack "C. 63."	2	C	Drinking Cup				·94	17·5	64·7
			Flints						
			Drinking Cup						
Wayrham "98."		B	Bone Pin						
			Stag's Antler	·71	18	66·5			
			Vase						
Calais Wold "100."	2		Bone Tool				·90	19	70·3
Garrowby Street "104"	1	A	Flint Knife	·75	18	66·6			
Garrowby Street "104."	2	A	Vase				·80	16	59·3
Aldro'.	3		Antler and	·70	19·2	71·3			
			Bones						
Birdsall Brow "65."	1	A	Flint				·79	18·2	67·7
				·72	18·7	69·5	·85	17·6	65