WILEY

11. Notes on Some Native Objects from Northern Nigeria.

Author(s): E. F. Martin

Source: *Man*, Vol. 4 (1904), pp. 19-20

Published by: Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2840862>

Accessed: 20-06-2016 02:58 UTC

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8 feet thick, but nearly all the worked flints occurred within 2 feet of the bottom. The most noticeable thing about these is the small amount of labour their makers expended on them. A very few blows seem to have been sufficient to bring the flints to the required shape, and of secondary chipping there is often little or none. The average size is small, although a few large and massive specimens have been found. Many are pointed with unwrought butts, some have a straight axe-like cutting edge, and shoe-shaped forms are not uncommon. There is no prevailing type, and yet it is not difficult to identify implements from this pit. Probably 500 or 600 have been obtained in all, besides flakes and wasters.

While there is considerable difference in the types of the implements from the various localities in the districts, there is little evidence to show whether there was any progress or otherwise in their manufacture during the period in which their makers lived here. Those from Caversham, which are the highest, and presumably the earliest, have more and finer chipping on them than those from Furze Platt 40 feet lower down, but it should be remembered that palæolithic man made his implements for use and not for the cabinet of the modern collector, and he may have considered it a sign of progress to be able to attain his desired end quickly by a few well-directed strokes rather than by laborious secondary chipping.

As to the way in which the implements came into their present position in the gravel, Caversham and Furze Platt, where so many flakes are found, may well have been working sites on the banks of the river, where suitable flints were easily obtainable; while such a place as Grovelands, with its abundant mammalian remains, was a spot where large beasts were killed or drowned and their carcases cut up for food. In any case it appears that palæolithic implements occur together in groups in the older gravels much in the same manner as neolithic implements do in the later ones at the present level of the river.

LLEWELLYN TREACHER.

Nigeria.

Martin.

Notes on some Native Objects from Northern Nigeria. *Being* 11
Extracts from a Letter from E. F. Martin, Local Correspondent of the Anthropo-
logical Institute.

I am taking up the train of my previous letter to you in which I described some of the objects I had already secured (*cf.* MAN, 1903. 87).

I was delighted a few days ago to get hold of a welcome addition in the form of a bell used among many of the pagan tribes in these territories when on the war-path, or when intending to pounce down on some caravan which happens to be passing through their country. This bell is of peculiar shape, and is sounded by beating it with a detached piece of wood or iron. The accompanying sketch (Fig. *a*) is a rough drawing of the bell. It is not circular, but rather oval-shaped, as can be seen by the section (Fig. *b*). This instrument is found on the south bank of the Benué, as well as in the large stretch of country between the Niger and that river, right up to the Hausa states.

A dagger I have lately secured is a very good type of Muntshi metal work. The handle is a loop of iron which slips over the hand and serves as an aid to the fingers when pulling the string of the bow

when the arrow is fixed. The blade is shaped like a spear-head. When worn, the blade is at the back of the hand. A ridge runs down the centre of the blade from the handle to the point. The loop handle is decorated in rope and herring-bone patterns. The weapon is about eight inches long, the blade alone being about four and a half inches long and one and a half to two inches wide.

Another Muntshi article I have secured is a string of beads made from the scales of a fish, and worn by women around the waist over the hips. The beads are flat discs, one inch in diameter, and often circular; they appear to be greatly sought after by the women.

A species of battle-axe used by the pagans hereabouts gives a good idea of their style of work. The axe-head is long and narrow. The handle is of hard wood, the hole in which the metal blade is fixed being generally, if not always, burnt through. The length of the blade is about fourteen inches, and the handle eighteen inches. The usual primitive rectilinear forms of decoration are found, as a rule, on the blade.

The Muntshis make their own cloth; a coarse cloth, certainly, but well woven and strong. To the eye, a piece of this cloth, such as I bought the other day, looks like bagging, but is very soft. I am collecting various specimens. As a general rule they do not trouble to dye their cloth. The women wear a strip about the waist; the men very often wear no clothing at all.

The Muntshi arrow poison is very virulent, causing deadly pain and cramps, and death from tetanus, generally, within half an hour. The arrow heads are long, pointed and barbed, and are fixed on to the shafts by a tang run up into the reed, which is then securely bound round. The whole head is then dipped into the poison, which is allowed to dry.

The arrow head is perhaps two inches long. The whole arrow about three feet. The bow is made of a piece of hard, pliable wood, and is about four feet from tip to tip. The string is made of hide. The bow is without decoration.

I am unable at present to let you have a photograph of the Muntshi type. The country is hostile and quite inaccessible from here by an officer in my position. Still, I hope to secure some photos of this interesting and warlike people some day, if not in person, at any rate, through some of my friends.

An ivory Muntshi wristlet (Fig. c) is also among my specimens. This ornament is not completely round, but open to allow passage to the wrist at one side. On the back can be noticed a projection.

I have never yet seen a bracelet in this country made to open and shut on a hinge, they are all on the principle of this primitive Muntshi ornament—even the best Mahomedan work that I have met not excepted. E. F. MARTIN.

England: Archæology.

Clinch.

Coldrum, Kent, and its relation to Stonehenge. By George Clinch, **12**
F.G.S.

The district which lies immediately to the north-west of Maidstone is remarkable for its interesting series of prehistoric megalithic remains, none of which have yet received from archæologists the attention they deserve. The best known of these monuments is Kits Coty House, a cromlech which stands out boldly on the south-western slope of North Downs, near Blue Bell Hill, Aylesford. The capstone, which is *in situ*, is supported by three nearly upright stones arranged in plan like the letter H. As this structure is divested of its earthen mound it is easy to see that the large stones of which it is composed are masses of Sarsen stone in their natural forms, and entirely free from artificial shaping.

Lower down the hill is a fallen cromlech, originally of more elaborate, complicated, and ambitious character. These remains are locally known as "the countless stones."