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102. Report on the Exploration of the Palaeolithic Cave-Dwelling Known as La Cotte, St. Brelade, Jersey

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custom in Africa. In the Reading Museum there is exhibited the *calvarium* of a Basuto skull, "used by the Zulus as a dipping vessel or basin."

It seems certain that the Sinhalese *udakiya* and the Tibetan skull-drum belong to one and the same category, and that the former is a derivative of the latter.

The employment of the skull of a holy man or of an enemy as a drinking or dipping vessel belongs to another category, and there may be other examples of it with which I am not at present acquainted.

ARTHUR WILLEY.

Jersey : Archæology.

Nicolle : Sinel.

Report on the Exploration of the Palæolithic Cave-Dwelling known as La Cotte, St. Brelade, Jersey. By E. T. Nicolle and J. Sinel. **102**

The cave known as La Cotte is situated in a cliff near Le Ousiné, which is the name given to the eastern horn of St. Brelade's Bay.

At this part of the island the cliffs, which are of coarse-grained syenitic granite, rise vertically to about 200 feet above mean tide level, and the shore, at the base of the cliffs, consists of large, more or less rounded, boulders, which have from time to time fallen from the cliffs as the waves have sapped their base.

In one part of these cliffs there is a little ravine or gorge, about 40 feet in width, which penetrates inland about 150 feet, the side walls of which are vertical.

This ravine was evidently formed in past geological times by the sea removing a dike of granite of looser texture than the surrounding rock, and in it the lines of cleavage were horizontal. The cave itself was formed by the same agency at a period when the land stood at a lower level than it does at present, very probably at the period when the 70 foot raised beach, traceable on various parts of the coast, was deposited. It is in one of the vertical walls of this ravine, near its inner extension, that the cave is situated.

The opening of the cave is in the form of a rough and irregular arch, 25 feet in height and about 20 feet in width, and its floor is some 60 feet above mean tide level.

There is evidence that the ravine was, in recent times, completely filled by rubble drift, consisting of clay and boulders washed by floods from land which must have existed at a level higher than that of the now existing table-land. The cave itself was filled to some extent by the lateral spread of this rubble drift of clay and boulders as it was washed down, and to a certain extent by blocks fallen from the roof.

In more recent times the sea has re excavated the ravine, leaving a portion of the rubble drift in the form of a steeply sloping talus at its inner end. The removal of this drift, though leaving the cave filled up, revealed the outline of its opening, and laid bare a small portion of its floor.

The first indication we have that the cave had once been a dwelling dates from 1881, when Mr. S. Dancaister and the late Mr. T. Saunders, whilst geologising on that part of the coast, found a flint implement at the foot of the talus, and, tracing its source, came upon a slightly exposed section of the cave floor. There they found flint chippings, and one or two bones, apparently of a large bird, but the importance of the discovery did not occur to them. So the matter rested until about 1894, when Mr. R. Colson and Dr. Chappuis excavated a portion of the exposed floor section, and found a considerable number of flint implements and bone breccia, of which the floor is largely composed. This bone breccia was later found to contain one tooth, and one metatarsal of horse. All these "finds" are in the museum of the Société Jersiaise.

Subsequent to this date various examinations of the floor section by the gentlemen just mentioned, by Captain Rybot, and one or two others, resulted in the discovery of further implements and innumerable flint chippings, most, if not all, of which are in the Society's museum.

In September 1905 the Society decided to explore the cave more systematically, and Dr. Chappuis, the secretary (Mr. Nicolle), and Mr. Colson commenced work in that part of the exposed floor already mentioned. More flint implements were discovered, but at the commencement of October the work had to be abandoned owing to the rainy season and to the fact that the explorers were excavating under dangerous conditions. It then became clear that a considerable portion of the talus had to be removed before the work could proceed.

Thus matters remained until July of the present year (1910), when the Society resolved, with the permission of the proprietor, Mr. G. F. B. De Gruchy, Seigneur of Noirmont, to make another attempt, and Mr. Harris, the Society's contractor, put experienced quarrymen on the work, a work not only difficult by reason of the position of the cave, but, owing to the loose and toppling condition of the whole of the surrounding cliff, fraught with considerable danger.

Excavation was commenced on August 1st, and after a little over three weeks' work, sufficient of the rubble had been removed to reveal the form of the interior and to lay bare a portion of the floor about 11 feet square on the left of the entrance. The signatories to this report and Mr. P. N. Richardson were in frequent attendance while the work progressed.

The dimensions of the cave, as revealed at this stage, are as follows:—The entrance, as already stated, is 25 feet in height and about 20 feet in width. Just within the entrance the roof slopes upwards into a rough dome 30 to 32 feet from the floor. How far the cave enters the rock cannot as yet be ascertained, but judging from the slope of the roof downwards towards the back, this is probably some 40 to 50 feet; the portion of roof already cleared measuring about 35 feet in that direction.

As soon as the portion of floor just mentioned had been reached, viz., on August 25th, the cave was visited by the following members of the society: Dr. P. Chappuis, Dr. A. Dunlop, Colonel R. G. Warton, and Mr. A. H. Barreau, as well as by Mr. Emile F. Guiton. Careful search and examination was then commenced, with the following results:—

The floor proper was not clearly marked, for layers of black soil, which proved to be a combination of ashes, carbonised wood, and clay, were mixed up with whitish masses of bone detritus and clay compacted into a breccia. Flint implements and chippings were interspersed plentifully throughout these deposits.

On the left of the entrance, and at a distance from it of about 8 feet, was a hearth containing a quantity—probably a quarter of a ton or so—of wood ashes and carbonised wood.

Close together, among the ashes of the hearth, were a few pebbles of granite and felsite bearing indication of having been heated. These were probably used for boiling water, by dropping them red-hot into gourds of water, a method of cookery among primitive races which has been suggested by archæologists owing to the discovery of pebbles under similar conditions in other caves.

Unfortunately the nature of the clay in this cave, as in the previously explored "Cotte à la Chevre" at St. Ouen, on the north coast of the island, is such that the preservation of bone in fair integrity is not possible, most of the clay of the island having strong decalcifying properties, whilst the water from the roof running down the talus has also contributed to render the conditions of the floor still more unfavourable. The presence of bone was manifest all through the layers constituting the floor, but only here and there could fragments retaining any form be obtained.

In one corner, however, at a slightly higher elevation than the hearth, there was found a mass of bone from which some determinable portions were obtained.

Teeth, on the other hand, were better preserved, although even some of these had fallen into a porridge-like state.

Whenever possible the portions of bone were lifted, together with a portion of the surrounding clay, and carefully packed in boxes with soft material. These were then transferred to an attendant carriage and taken to the museum, where they were infiltrated with gelatine and hardened.

In one part of the most coherent bone mass had been the right half of a human lower jaw, nine teeth being ranged side by side in original position, but unfortunately no trace of the once supporting bone was apparent.

The results were reported by us to the executive committee, and the bones, teeth, &c., were then taken to the British Museum by Mr. Percy Adrian Aubin for determination. Drs. Woodward and Andrews identified the specimens as follows :—

Teeth.—Part of left lower premolar of the woolly rhinoceros, *Rhinoceros tichorhinus*.

Last premolar and first molar of reindeer, *Rangifer tarandus* (a large species apparently as large as the caribou).

Upper cheek teeth of a small species of horse.

Parts of lower molars and upper cheek tooth of a large species of horse.

Lower teeth in portion of jaw of one of small bovidæ.

Left incisor of bos. Species (?)

Nine human teeth.

Bones and Horns.—Part of horn-core of one of small bovidæ.

Portion of antler of reindeer.

Bone (probably articulation of foreleg of a deer).

Pelvic bones (probably small bovid).

Portion of a bone not less than 6 inches in diameter and about 9 inches in length, which fell to pieces on removal from the clay (probably rhinoceros).

In addition to the above there were also found portions of large and small bones in too broken a condition to be identified. Among these is one, apparently portion of a human tibia.

Of flint instruments about one hundred have been obtained. They are, without exception, of the well-known tongue-shaped Mousterien type, the “*pointe à main*” of Mortillet.

After receiving the report from the British Museum authorities on the finds, the committee of the society decided to continue the work of exploration. The work was recommenced on September 19th. It was decided to proceed with the examination of the cave inwards, starting from the point where the teeth and bones had been discovered. In order to effect this a considerable quantity of rubble had to be cleared and many stones of large dimensions dislodged. In the course of these operations it was thought that the work was becoming dangerous. Mr. Charles Messervy, engineer, member of the committee, visited the cave, and, after a careful examination, advised that the work should be discontinued for the present. The work was consequently stopped on September 23rd.

It may be mentioned that this second disturbance of the rubble and stones has, by covering and filling up the floor, made an effective barrier against any interference with the cave until such time as the Society may see fit to again proceed with its examination.

The cave bears no evidence of other than one occupation, and is thus free from the confusion which results when implements and remains of the fauna of different periods occur together and become mixed by the work of burrowing animals, and by disturbance through the access of water during floods, as is often the case with cave dwellings in other districts.

The cave is thus clearly shown by its fauna and the uniform type of implement to be of the Mousterien period, and thus forms an interesting addition, not only to the archæology of Jersey, but to that of Europe at large.

ED. TOULMIN NICOLLE.
J. SINEL.

Polynesia.

Polynesian Forgeries. By W. O. Oldman.

Having read the valuable articles by Mr. J. Edge-Partington in MAN

Oldman.

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(31, 1910), on Maori forgeries, I venture to think the following may be a welcome addition to same.

I have lately had offered to me several splendidly made copies of Maori flutes, the workmanship on which was so excellent that it would deceive anyone familiar with old Maori work; the wood, method of manufacture (rending of wood), carving, bindings, &c., were all quite correct, even to a deposit of dust inside; however, all were wanting in one small detail, which was overlooked by the maker.

I have also seen a carved

bone comb, feeding funnel, so-called chief's staff of remarkable form, and several "Hawaiian" bone fish-hooks. The latest production of this "artist," as far as I know, is a pair of "Marquesan" stilt steps. I have fortunately been able to secure two photographs of these, showing the *original* from which they were undoubtedly copied, which I send herewith. The work and finish on these is so good that they would be very likely to deceive even an expert, at any rate at first sight.

I trust this short note will be of some use as a warning to collectors of

ethnographica to look very carefully at any rare objects offered for sale; I hope also that it will lead ultimately to a stop being put to these dangerous reproductions.

W. O. OLDMAN.

FIG. 1.

FIG. 2.