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104. Early Defensive Works, Ceylon.

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Source: *Man*, Vol. 9 (1909), pp. 181-182

Published by: Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2840279>

Accessed: 27-06-2016 22:28 UTC

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this description it is possible to reproduce the minute right-lined flaking which is the distinguishing feature of the Hastings kitchen midden men. No one can realise the accuracy and delicacy of this work. I have often counted sixty and eighty of these minute flakings to one inch, forcibly calling to mind the teeth of the machine-cut wheels in a chronograph! It is neither minuteness of size, quaintness of outline, nor small work alone that entitles a flint to be regarded as of Hastings kitchen midden age, or belonging to *la petite industrie*, but this method of working, which, whenever found, is accompanied by the other characteristics.

With reference to the age of these interesting little objects there are many points to connect them with the Continental troglodytes, of whom they might well have been the work of the descendants who migrated northwards to Britain and southwards to the Mediterranean, Egypt, India, and numerous other places. The geological evidence in Lancashire, according to Dr. Colley March's description, would refer these things to a time far more remote than any deposit in which polished stones have been found. If we take the specimens from the undisturbed Hastings kitchen middens as our types of purity, and allow no other forms as typical that do not occur here, or in some other place equally well preserved (as in, say, barrows), we shall sometimes be able to fix their age in relation to polished and other neolithic implements. In many open-air stations and settlements in commanding positions we find vantage sites that have been used by various peoples in succession. A magnificent example of such occurs on the summit of Blackdown. But, unfortunately, the hunting here was done by workmen who turned over and sifted all the ground that yielded any kind of flint. Cornwall has recently yielded a rich harvest of the smaller pygmies. Occasionally we get cases where the relics of the different ages occur in superposition, and it is obvious that such sites ought to be preserved to be worked only by qualified men. It is in this point that we need amendments of the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act to which I hope to refer on another occasion.

W. J. LEWIS ABBOTT.

### Ceylon : Archæology.

Andrews.

#### Early Defensive Works, Ceylon. By J. B. Andrews.

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I wish to call attention to a fine cyclopean wall I visited in Ceylon recently, at the suggestion of Mr. J. Hill, of the Land Settlement Office, and formerly assistant to Mr. Bell, the Government archæologist. It surrounds Mapagala Hill close to the famous rock fortress of Sigiri. It is similar to others found in various countries in England and on the French Riviera, such as are described and illustrated in the valuable publications of Dr. A. Guébbard, member of the Société préhistorique of France. This wall was evidently constructed for defensive purposes; the enormous stones are piled unhewn on top of one another without the use of mortar. It dates probably from the Neolithic epoch, if not before. Similar fragments exist on Sigiri Hill itself, but most of the many walls thereon are quite different in style, the stones being much smaller, more regularly shaped, and put together with some order. These last are attributed to the parricide King Kasyapa, A.D. 500 circa. Doubtless other similar walls exist elsewhere in Ceylon and India, but, to my knowledge, they have not yet been noticed.

I also visited this winter the *kadangas*, long lines of huge earthworks situated in the mountains of Coorg, some hours' journey from the town of Mysore. I may confirm what Dr. Richter in his *Manual of Coorg* says of their resemblance to the so-called British earthworks and dykes, such as the Wansdyke, even in the occasional presence of supporting forts or camps. They are of unknown antiquity, thousands of years old according to the imaginative native traditions. The *Coorg Chronicle* narrates their being repaired three or four hundred years ago, in some small sections with stone, it is said. Some of the *kadangas* are of great length, traversing the province

of Coorg from north to south. Their height is some 30 feet from the bottom of the fosse to the top of the vallum.

The lofty mud walls protecting some of the Mysore villages are noteworthy. They are strengthened by a fosse. In some respects they recall the *kadangas*.

J. B. ANDREWS.

## Melanesia.

Edge-Partington.

**Banks Islands Pudding-Knives.** *By J. Edge-Partington.*

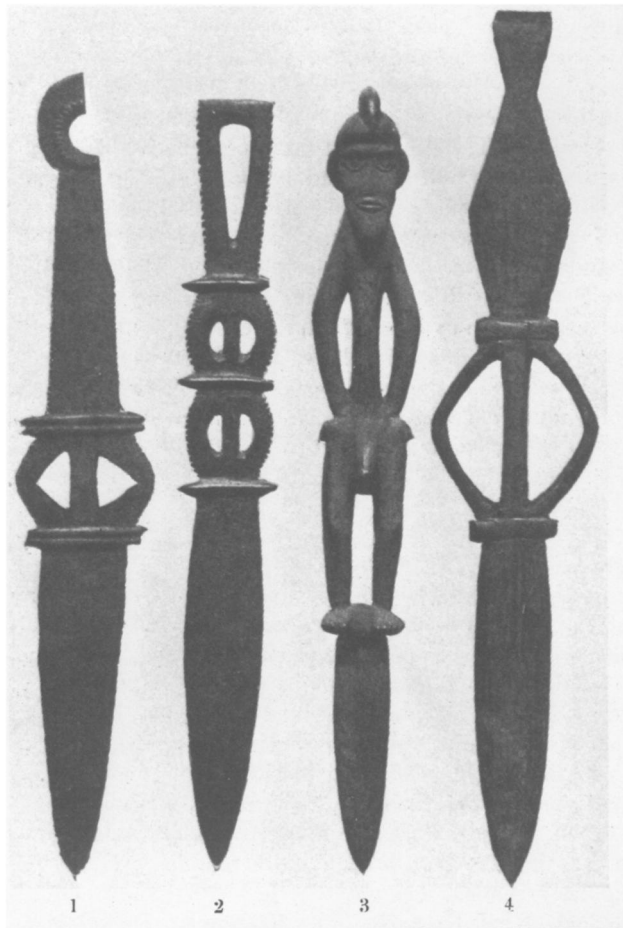
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The varying forms of the handles of pudding-knives from the Banks group are evidently all derived from the same source. Without doubt the design is anthropomorphic. Absolute proof of this, however, was wanting until, through the kindness of Dr. Codrington, I became possessed of a knife the handle of which was carved to represent a complete male human figure (No. 3). In comparing this specimen with others from the British Museum the anthropomorphic design is at once apparent. Dr. Codrington tells me that the native name of this implement is "igot." My specimen (No. 3) is made of reddish-brown wood and measures  $16\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length and is much more highly finished than is usually the case with this type of implement.

Dr. Codrington says that the bread-fruit is abundant in the Banks Islands, where it forms an important part of the food supply when dried over a fire, wound round with strips of leaves and preserved in chests.

The figures in the illustration are one quarter the size of the originals.

J. EDGE-PARTINGTON.



## Africa, East: Archæology.

Seton-Karr.

**Prehistoric Implements from Somaliland.** *By H. W. Seton-Karr.*

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The place where I found the palæolithic implements about twelve years ago in Somaliland was the locality where they were produced, manufactured, or made. It was the work-place. The material was there.

That is the reason they were found in such a perfect condition in such large, or comparatively large, numbers, and aggregated or collected, not scattered. They had not been used. They were not waterworn. They were probably for barter and exchange.

What were the conditions under which they were found, under which they had lain for an immense period of time.