



On a Collection of Stone Implements and Pottery from the Cape of Good Hope.

Author(s): Langham Dale

Source: *The Journal of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland*, Vol. 1 (1872), pp. 345-348

Published by: [Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2841265>

Accessed: 15/06/2014 14:32

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at <http://www.jstor.org/page/info/about/policies/terms.jsp>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.



Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *The Journal of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland*.

<http://www.jstor.org>

was regarded as marking a certain stage of civilisation ; and it was a curious question what race of mankind now occupied that position. He had some doubts whether implements of so imperfect a nature had ever been very long or very extensively employed.

MR. H. W. JACKSON : The last speaker has been more fortunate than I have been. I have resided for many years in a gravel district, and I must say that I have never yet found any stone whatever which it was possible to mistake for any of the many forms of implement manufactured by man. With regard to the quantity of animal matter in old bones, I should like to tell a short story. Many years ago, at one of the British Association dinners of the renowned "Red Lions", the late Dr. Buckland was appointed caterer for the occasion. So he decided to give his scientific brethren—a treat. He procured a large quantity of fossil bones—those of the Cave lion were, I think, among them—and he had some soup prepared from them. All the Red Lions partook of the soup, but all thought that the flavour was peculiar, and while some said that the soup was rather thin, others fancied that it was somewhat gritty. When the Doctor gave his explanation of the thinness and grittiness and peculiar flavour of the soup, I believe that some of the diners were not well pleased.

MR. LEWIS, referring to Captain Burton's statement that his fellow traveller had been able to cut inscriptions upon some of the rocks on which ancient inscriptions were found, with flint implements found on the spot, showing thereby that the older inscriptions might have been cut with those implements, asked what kind of rocks they were, and what character the ancient inscriptions were cut in.

SIR D. GIBB inquired of Dr. Carter Blake his reasons for saying that some of the bones were not more than twenty years old.—DR. CARTER BLAKE referred to the greater proportion of animal matter present in the jawbone and part of skull from Moslem cemetery, and probably Negro.

CAPTAIN BURTON replied. He declined to enter into elementary discussion about flint-implements. This was not the place for such trials of strength. The inscriptions alluded to by Mr. Lewis were the celebrated Sinaitic epigraphs.

The following paper was read :

On a COLLECTION of STONE IMPLEMENTS and POTTERY from the CAPE of GOOD HOPE. By the Rev. LANGHAM DALE. Communicated by G. BUSK, F.R.S., V.P.A.I.

ON the 9th February, 1869, Sir John Lubbock communicated to the Ethnological Society a brief notice of a collection of stone implements, made in the neighbourhood of Cape Town by my brother, Mr. C. J. Busk, and the Rev. Langham Dale. In this communication Sir John Lubbock gave an account of the general character of the South African specimens, which was illustrated by figures of the more striking objects. The collection exhibited on the present occasion, and forwarded a short time since by the

VOL. I.

A A

Rev. Mr. Dale, includes select specimens collected by himself on the "Cape Flats" and elsewhere ; together with numerous others from parts near the coast of British Caffraria, collected by Mr. George M'Kay.

The majority of the specimens consist of pointed, spear-shaped flakes, resembling those described and figured by Sir John Lubbock ; but amongst them is also a polished stone Celt, of an elongated wedge-shaped form, and constituted of a sort of green-stone. As the former collection did not include any specimen of polished or ground stone, the present instance may be regarded as of peculiar interest. The implement is about 5·8 inches in length, and 1·1 wide, and about an inch thick at one end, whence it tapers rapidly to the other. It will be observed that Mr. Dale, in his list of the specimens, includes some that he terms "scrapers," but with respect to these both Sir John Lubbock and Mr. Flower were of opinion that it was extremely doubtful whether the implements so termed were really "scrapers," the absence or paucity of which in South Africa has been before remarked.

The following are Mr. Dale's notes accompanying the collection, to which he has subjoined a list of the specimens,* with a statement of the various localities in which they were found :—

"It will be observed that all the implements are found on what may be called the normal surface soil ; in some places nothing has occurred to disturb the soil, and the varieties of chips and unfinished tools lie in considerable quantities on the surface ; the exposure to wind and water accounts for the peculiar appearance of many of them. On the Cape Flats there are vast tracts of sand, shifting season after season ; this drift is being permanently but slowly arrested by the planting of the Hottentot fig (*Mesembryanthemum edule*), and various shrubs and coarse grasses, so that it will soon be a work of toil to search below the mountains of sand. Wherever the wind has swept off the sand from a valley, and piled it in heaps on either side, in the depression (often in shallow water) implements are found, partially embedded in the surface clay. Occasionally, a more finished specimen is picked up on the open flat, as if it had been used and dropped there.

"I would notice, too, that the finding of implements at East London was due to the alluvium being cut through by wagons, passing from the port to Fort Glamorgan. It is premature to hazard any theory as to the age of the South African stone implements ; the subject is attracting attention, and from a letter which I have received from the Rev. Mr. Kronlein, of the Rhen-

* It is intended to lodge these in the Christy Museum.

ish Mission at Beersheba, north of the Orange River, I am inclined to hope for positive evidence of their use being known to some native races of the present day. The illustrations of various implements which I had sent him, when exhibited to the people, were recognised as of things known to them. The grain-crushers and the perforated stones are evidently the most modern. It seems to be acknowledged that a stick was forced into the perforated stone, and so used by the old Hottentot warriors as a weapon in time of war, and also as a tool to dig roots out in time of peace; for these uses I have the direct testimony of the missionary at Wapperthal, in the Clanwilliam division, and of others. I shall continue to collect evidence bearing on the problem of the age of these implements; at present the probability is, that they have been in use at no distant day among Bushmen and Hottentots."

Stone Implements, Cape Colony, 1870.—The localities where these implements, which I now send, were found, are in the Cape Colony, viz.—

LOCALITY.	SPECIMENS.	SOIL AND CONDITIONS.
1. Cape Flats, near Cape Town.	Various — spear-heads, arrow-heads, flakes, sling-stones, corn-crushers, scrapers, and pottery.	On the undisturbed soil, where left bare by the drifting away of surface sand.
2. East London, at the mouth of the Buffalo R., British Kaffraria.	Various—chisels, sharp-eners, rubbers, arrow-heads, flakes, perforated stones.	In gravel, under four feet of alluvial clay.
3. West bank of the Kahoona, British Kaffraria, 1½ miles from the sea.	Chisel and flakes.	On the red soil of the country.

Specimens have also been found at

LOCALITY.	SPECIMENS.	SOIL AND CONDITIONS.
4. Panmure, on the hill near Buffalo Mouth.	Arrow-heads.	In gravel, under two feet of alluvial clay.
5. Cape Henderson, near the Kei River.	Various.	Surface of red soil undisturbed.
6. Klip River Sprint, division of Albert.	Various.	Surface of red soil undisturbed.
7. Between Queen's Town and Dordrecht.	Various.	Surface of red soil undisturbed.
8. Lower Albany.	Arrow-heads.
9. Mouth of Great Fish River.	Arrow-heads and flakes.
10. A drift of the Orange River.	Arrow-heads and flakes.

The specimens from the Cape Flats comprise: three spear-heads without shaft; one spear-head with shaft; one core; bits of pottery, and a handle of a pot; two rubbers; flakes, various; scrapers.

A A 2

The specimens from British Kaffraria, for which I am indebted to Mr. George M'Kay, are: one peculiar rubber, No. 22, white; one chisel, No. 32, red; flakes Nos. 28, 29, 30, 36, red; two rubbers, Nos. 52, 53, green, from a shell-heap; one perforated stone; flakes Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 17, 26, 27, white; flake (large) No. 1, white; flake (large) No. 0, 2; one nondescript large flake (unnumbered); one peculiar sharpener, No. 19, white.

DISCUSSION.

The Rev. J. G. WOOD remarked that he could not believe the stone ring which was exhibited to be used indiscriminately as an aid to digging and as a weapon. He was aware that the Hottentot women use such rings in order to give weight to their digging sticks. But a woman's agricultural implement was a different thing from a warrior's weapon, and he was not aware that the same object was ever used for two purposes so essentially distinct. Moreover, as far as he knew, none of the Hottentot tribes used stone weapons, and he was exceedingly surprised to find that a resident missionary should make so startling a statement.

MR. F. W. RUDLER, F.G.S., exhibited a stone hammer and an unique double-pointed cutting implement, also from the Cape of Good Hope; and the PRESIDENT exhibited some stone polished implements of rare beauty from Greece.

The meeting then separated.

DECEMBER 18TH, 1871.

DR. CHARNOCK, *Vice-President, in the Chair.*

THE minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The following new members were announced: The Right Hon. the Earl of DUNRAVEN, Dunraven Castle; JAMES BEST, Esq., M.D., 11, Johnson Place, Harrow Road, W.; J. KEMPE, Esq., M.A., 5, Barnard's Inn, Holborn, W.C.

The following presents were announced, and the thanks of the meeting voted to the respective donors:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

From the EDITOR.—The Food Journal, for December 1871.

From the REGISTRAR-GENERAL, Melbourne.—Patents and Patentees, vol. iv. Indices for 1869.

From the INSTITUTION.—Journal of the Royal United Service Institution, No. 65.