

## Miscellanea.

The Editor will be at all times glad to receive from Members and others, communications of local interest on Archæology, Natural History, etc., for the pages devoted to "Miscellanea" in the Volumes of Proceedings.

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### Prehistoric Remains from Gough's Cavern, Cheddar.

THIS subject, with illustrations, has been dealt with by Mr. H. N. Davies, F.G.S., in the *Quarterly Journal* of the Geological Society, Vol. LX, pp. 335-347, and by Mr. H. St. G. Gray in *Notes and Queries for Somerset and Dorset*, Vol. IX, pp. 2-5; also by the Dean of Wells in the last-named publication, pp. 1-2.

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### Samian Pottery with Potters' Marks, in Taunton Castle Museum.

JUDGING from the collection of the so-called Samian pottery in the County Museum, it is observed that the Roman sites of Somersetshire,<sup>1</sup> with one exception, have produced a somewhat small quantity of this choice, finely-moulded, fictile ware. The exception is a marked one. The Roman lead mines at Charterhouse-on-Mendip have not only yielded a large variety of Roman pottery, including handles of huge amphoræ, but the Museum contains a few hundred fragments of red Samian pottery from this Roman station, presented by Mr. A. Capper Pass in 1883. As recorded in the *Proceedings*, XLVIII, pt. ii, p. 26, only five fragments of Samian out of hundreds of Ro-

1. Bath has not been taken into consideration, as Taunton Museum contains no Samian from Bath.

man and Romano-British shards from Ham Hill, have found their way into the "Walter Collection."

The other localities represented by a few fragments of true Samian are:—North Perrott Manor; Bowden Stowell; Burnham (brick clay pits); Broadwell, Drayton and Stanchester, all near Curry Rivel; and Uphill.

Several of the plain specimens of Samian ware in the collection are stamped with potters' marks, of which the following is a list:—

*From Charterhouse-on-Mendip.*

AISIIM	CRISPVS (?)	REDITIM
A·POL·AVSTI	G·E·N·I·T·O·R·F	ROPVSI·FE
ASIATICI·OF	M·MON (?)	SILVANI
OF·COTTO	PATE----	OF·SILVINI
CRISPI	OF·PATRC	TITVRONIS
CRISPINI·M	PRIVAT--	OF·L·C·VIRIL

*From North Perrott, ATILIAN·O (Atiliani·o)*

*From Ham Hill, ERTIVS F*

*From Somerset (?), on Patera (Stradling Collection), PATI*

*No locality, DONAVG (Donnavg).*

Probably the rarest fragment of Roman pottery from Charterhouse is the ornamental piece of fine, thin, light red ware, with a thin yellow glaze both inside and out.

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY.

**Notes on a further Exploration of the Fosse Road at Radstock.**

IN Vol. xxx of the *Proceedings* is a Plate shewing a section of the Fosse Road at Radstock, accompanied by full notes on the same. This year—July, 1904—with the consent of Earl Waldegrave I have had the pleasure of making a cutting through another portion of the road, in view of an excursion of the Bath and District Branch of the Society to that district. In conjunction with Mr. Thos. S. Bush, a spot was selected about 108 yards to the west of the former one, which was near the junction of a lane leading to Welton, and the



EXCAVATION OF THE FOSSE ROAD,  
NEAR RADSTOCK, 1904.

*From a Photograph by Gerald J. Grey.*

work has been attended with equally satisfactory results. Mr. Gerald J. Grey, who was present at the time the road was cut through, has kindly favoured me with one of the photographs he took, which gives one a very good idea of the formation of the road. Placing this alongside the Plate in Vol. xxx, one can see exactly how the road was built up from the ground-level. The general structure of the two sections of road agree bed for bed:—(1) the *Pavimentum*, consisting of the ordinary black soil of the country; (2) *Stammen* or *Statumen*, 6ins. thick, forming the first bed of the road, consisting of rubbly stones ranged on the ground and apparently left dry; (3) *Rudus*, apparently a concrete bed, 18ins. in thickness, the stones being mostly small in size and of a yellow colour, resembling Lias or Oölite, but the bottom 2ins., consisting of pebbles in a red matrix, derived probably from the new Red Conglomerate; (4) *Nucleus*, a layer 5ins. thick, of finer material, and of a pale yellow colour, forming a bed for the paving of the road; (5) *Summum Dorsum*, consisting of flat rubbly stones of irregular shape, derived apparently from the Lias of the country (this is 4½ins. thick); (6) superficial covering of metalling of later date, 3ins. thick; total depth of the road 36½ins. This measurement is taken at the centre, but as the layers thin off on each side, each bed in ascending order becomes more convex in form. The width of the paved surface of the road appears to be 8ft., and at the base of the road 16ft., the former shewing rut-marks, presumably of the Roman chariot-wheels, the width between the ruts being 2ft. 9ins., and from centre to centre 3ft. I have mentioned that the two sections of the road agree bed for bed, but in this cutting the pavement forming the ancient surface of the road is not quite so substantial in its character as in the section cut through in 1881. No relics were found.

A fuller account of these excavations is given in the *Trans. Bris. and Glouc. Arch. Soc.*, 1903, xxvi, ii, 326.

JAMES MCMURTRIE, F.G.S.

**A Copper Celt from Staple Fitzpaine.**

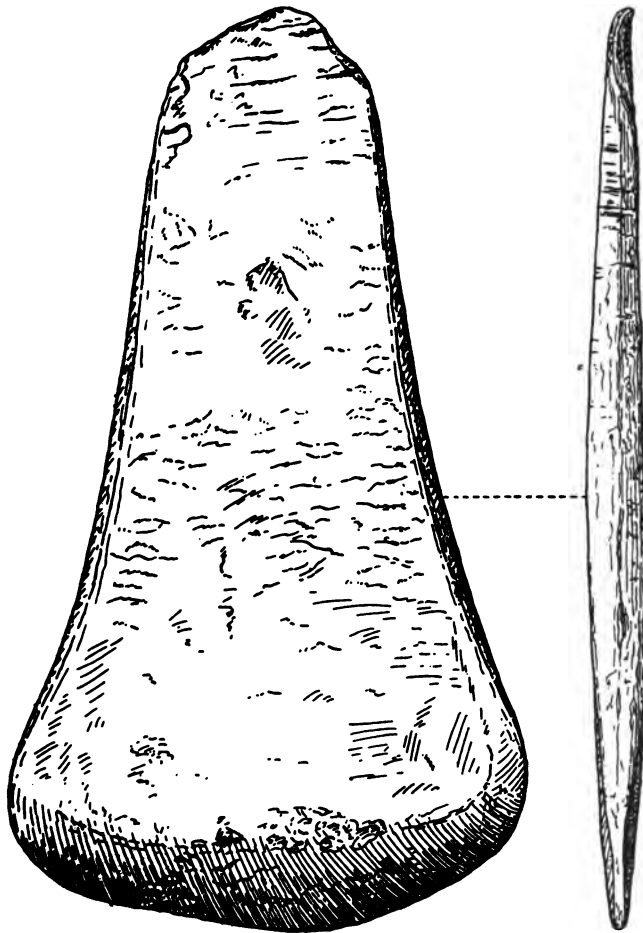
THIS rare celt is exhibited at the head of the somewhat large series of Bronze Age implements—chiefly Somerset—of which Taunton Castle Museum is justly proud. Its existence was noted a few years ago by the Hon. John Abercromby, and is recorded by Mr. George Coffey in his paper on “Irish Copper Celts,” in the *Journ. Anthropol. Inst.*, Vol. XXXI, 1901, p. 278,—a paper of a character that was much needed at the time of its publication, and one which was eagerly perused by all students of the transitional period connecting the late Neolithic and early Bronze Ages. This paper recalled to the minds of antiquaries, in a remarkable manner, how original, brilliant, and correct General Pitt-Rivers was in his views as regards the development of bronze implements, and the continuity in advancement from implements of stone to those of bronze, as propounded in his famous series of lectures on “Primitive Warfare,” in 1867-9.

The implement represented in the accompanying illustration, full size, was found in November, 1857, at Staple Fitzpaine, five miles south-east of Taunton, and close to “Castle Neroche” (See *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, Vol. XLIX, pt. ii, pp. 23-53).

There appears to be no printed record of the actual finding of this copper celt. I say “copper” from the appearance of the metal, which has the usual red lustre of copper. Doubtless it contains a *small* percentage of tin and probably other minerals in slight quantities, but it has not yet been analysed by an expert chemist.

The celt is of the thin, flat, triangular variety, length 112 mm., with concave curves at the sides. From the side view it will be seen that the implement tapers both ways from a maximum thickness of 8 mm. There is ample proof that the celt was cast, and not hammered into shape, from the fact that a slight ridge exists along the centre of the curved sides, indicating the line of junction of the two sides of the mould. This

ridge has been partly removed ; had this been completely the case, the celt would have presented an almost quadrangular cross-section. The expanded cutting-edge, (width 62 mm.), is



Copper Celt found at Staple Fitzpaine, 1857.

*(Full size. From a Drawing by H. St. George Gray).*

slightly bevelled, but never apparently to a very sharp edge ; it is sharpest in the centre of the edge, where it is only 1 mm. thick. As will be seen by the side view, there are some trans-

verse incisions near the butt-end, which, of course, is not an unusual occurrence.

The surface of the celt is unusually smooth; there are, however, some very slight "pittings" and striations. The weight of the celt is  $8\frac{1}{2}$  ozs. avoirdupois.

The writer has already figured this implement in "Man," January, 1904, No. 5, p. 13; and the line-block, from which the illustration has been printed, has been kindly lent by the Council of the Anthropological Institute.

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY.