

## Glass Beads found in a Cist-Burial at Clevedon

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AN interesting cist-burial was uncovered at Clevedon in 1927, of which no proper record was made at the time, but through the instrumentality of Mr. Frank Beale<sup>1</sup> and the kindness of Mrs. Stuckey, the associated remains—an attractive series of glass beads, etc.—have recently been presented to the Somerset County Museum.

The discovery was made by the late G. Wyatt Stuckey when digging was in progress for the foundations of a shed in his back garden at 'Rholbyn', King's Road,<sup>2</sup> Clevedon. The human bones were taken by the police; the coroner is stated to have considered the human remains of no consequence, and they, with the exception of a few teeth, were thrown into the sea! The cist was covered up again, and it is unknown whether it still retains its original form.<sup>3</sup>

It was about 1932 that Mr. Beale was given this information by Mr. Stuckey, and told of the discovery of beads. Soon after that, however, Mr. Stuckey died. Recently Mr. Beale called

<sup>1</sup> A member of the Somerset Archæological Society since 1903. He gave to the Somerset County Museum some Neolithic and Roman remains found in Clevedon and the immediate neighbourhood (*Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, lxi, pp. lxiii, lxiv).

<sup>2</sup> Corner of King's Road and Old Park Road.

<sup>3</sup> This is not the only stone cist which has been discovered in Clevedon. One (probably of earlier date than that found at 'Rholbyn') was met with in laying out the garden of the late H. C. A. Day, in Walton Road (now Sunnyland, The Avenue), Walton St. Mary, probably between the years 1898 and 1902. It is known to have contained human bones and 'two or three roughly-worked flint implements'.

The writer recently received a letter from Mr. H. C. Day, son of the late H. C. A. Day, in which he said the cist was about 4 ft. 6 in. in length and was covered by a large slab about 5 ft. by 3 ft. It was discovered by a male nurse in attendance on his grandfather; the nurse took steps to preserve such bones as were kept, but they were re-buried in the cist in 1934. The letter also stated that 'numerous arrow-heads were found', he believed in the cist.

upon his widow, and was rewarded by an examination of the treasured beads which form the subject of this article.

The correspondence which then took place between Mr. Beale and the writer resulted in Mrs. Stuckey deciding to present the beads to the Museum provided a full record was made of them.

In the first place it should be said that the majority of the beads compare precisely with some of those found in the Meare Lake Village, and from that fact alone we are able to establish the date of the cist-burial, viz. Period 'B' of the Early Iron Age.<sup>4</sup>

Of the human remains only ten teeth were saved (4 molars, 4 incisors, 1 bicuspid, 1 canine). They indicate that the woman must have eaten much coarse food.

Associated with the glass and paste beads was a small pebble of chalcedony of a pale greenish-grey hue, and four segments of encrinites which were possibly intended for use as beads. These are from the Carboniferous Limestone.

Dr. F. S. Wallis reports that 'these are the detached portions of crinoid (encrinite) stems known as ossicles or columnals. They are abundant in the Zephrentis zone of the Carboniferous Limestone, and may have come from the beds exposed on the shore-line on the south-western flank of Wain's Hill (Clevedon), at Littleharp Point or at several places near Walton Castle. With such an abundance of localities in the vicinity of Clevedon it is unlikely that they would be brought from the Mendip region where they are also found'.<sup>5</sup>

With regard to the small pebble of chalcedony (non-crystal-line quartz) Dr. Wallis describes it as exhibiting 'a tendency towards a dreikanter form. This is a type of faceting characteristic of wind erosion. The abraded surface of the pebble

<sup>4</sup> When thinking of Clevedon in late prehistoric times one never forgets the handsomely engraved terminal of a gold torc found at Clevedon, which is well illustrated in the *Guide to Early Iron Age Antiquities, British Museum*, 2nd edit., 1925, p. 150, fig. 175. (See also *Antiq. Journ.*, x, 155.) Some of the Roman remains found from time to time at Clevedon were listed by John E. Pritchard in *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, xlix, ii, 185.

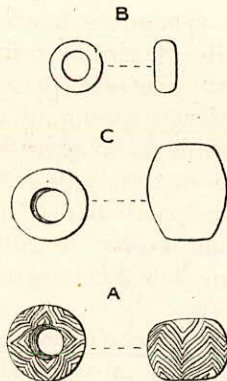
<sup>5</sup> In *Proc. Spelæol. Soc.*, iv, 92, in describing the North Barrow, T10 (Tynings Barrow Group—Bronze Age), Dr. H. Taylor says that they found 'some 200 crinoid segments of local origin, none of which seem to have been worn as beads. These fossils are far too numerous to be explained by traces of soil in the vessel and very many have been burnt, as in Urn 2 and Cysts A and B. The inference is that cremation was carried out in the presence of limestone, perhaps on a built hearth. The little cylinders were certainly collected and added deliberately, for the ashes were not swept up wholesale but picked



also points to exposure under desert conditions. It probably came from the local Old Red Sandstone or Triassic rocks'. In addition there was a small piece of calcareous sandstone which Dr. Wallis describes as 'probably of Trias age and of local origin (perhaps from the very site of the cist-burial). It contains specks of galena—a peculiar characteristic that has been noted in the Clevedon Trias. Small cleavage pieces of calcite are also present'.

We will now proceed to give a detailed description of the beads of glass and paste :

(1) Globular bead of clear glass, with sides ornamented with grooves of chevron or vandyke form filled with yellow fused glass or vitreous paste. Diameter of bead 11.5 mm.,



Beads found in Stone Cist, Clevedon.

(Scale about  $\frac{1}{2}$  linear);

over, as is shown by the absence of fine ash and the rarity of charcoal. They may have been mistaken for calcined bone, but this does not explain their abundance in such deposits as P. Possibly in some cases they were supplied for use as beads'.

John Brent, F.S.A., in his paper in *Archæologia*, xlv, 306, described 'Glass Beads with a Chevron Pattern', but they are of a different type to those found at Clevedon and Meare. However, we should here like to quote two of his paragraphs :

'Doubtless there was an old superstition connected with the "adder-bead" or "snake-stone", and I think it not at all unlikely that the "cor anguinum", an encrinite in its fossil state so called, had a value attached to it through superstitious observances.'

'These fossils somewhat resemble a bead, and I have found in ancient graves two specimens buried with relics belonging to the deceased, one from Sarre and the other from Faversham.'

thickness 9.5 mm., diameter of hole 5 mm.<sup>6</sup> Figured in the accompanying drawing, 'A'. Of a type rather commonly found in the Meare Lake Village.

(2) Ten small ring-beads of fused yellow glass or vitreous paste, with rounded sides externally. Diameter 7.5 mm., thickness 3 mm., diameter of hole 3.8 mm. One of the specimens figured, 'B'. Of a type found in some numbers in the Meare Lake Village.

(3) Seven beads of clear glass of barrel-shaped form and rather more than half another specimen; the paste is pale red (strawberry tint) with an undercoating of a pale chrome yellow shade, but it is somewhat weathered and in many parts now deficient, leaving a bare glass surface. Diameter 11 to 11.5 mm., thickness 12 to 13 mm., diameter of hole 5 mm.<sup>6</sup> One of the specimens figured, 'C'.<sup>7</sup>

The clear glass beads of globular form ornamented with chevrons in yellow paste are rare, except in the Meare Lake Village,<sup>8</sup> where over a dozen specimens were found on the site of the western village, while so far three have been uncovered in the excavations at the eastern village.<sup>9</sup>

No specimens of this particular design was found in the Glastonbury Lake Village, as may be gathered from Chapter X in vol. ii on that site (pp. 353-359), entitled 'Objects of Amber and Glass, chiefly Beads'.

In the cutting (no. xv) the writer made through the inner vallum of the northern spur of Ham Hill, Stoke-under-Ham, in 1929 (between the monument and the so-called 'frying-pan'), half a globular bead of clear glass inlaid with yellow chevron ornament was found below picket '2' (indicated in the unpublished sectional diagram), at a depth of 9.9 ft. below the surface and near the old surface line. This 'find' goes far to date the erection of the first vallum in this position; it is exhibited in the Somerset County Museum.

Mr. Horace C. Beck, F.S.A., in his valuable paper on the 'Classification and Nomenclature of Beads and Pendants', *Archæologia*, lxxvii, 1-73, makes no reference to glass beads of this design.

<sup>6</sup> The holes in these beads are sufficiently large to take a strong cord or thong.

<sup>7</sup> Beads drawn by Miss V. M. Newman.

<sup>8</sup> Glass beads, although found in large numbers at the Meare Lake Village, were comparatively scarce at Glastonbury.

<sup>9</sup> No report on these beads has yet been published.