

Acknowledgements

We are indebted to Mr Harman for allowing us to work on the Island, and to numerous members of the Lundy Field Society as well as to Mr Gade and all who made our stay on the Island such a pleasant one. In addition we would like to acknowledge the considerable financial and material support given to the Expedition by the numerous organisations listed in our Report.

In Conclusion

From the start much opposition was raised to the suggestion that an Oxford Expedition should visit an island so near to home—and to stay at an observatory was adding insult to injury.

Our reason was simple: first year expeditions should serve as a basis for future exploration by initiating an understanding of expedition organisation and field research, combined with a minimum expenditure. The sea-bird breeding season is limited in extent and to make the best use of the three weeks, we reduced camp work to a minimum by having a cook and using the Observatory as our tent. As a result, we often spent eighteen hours in the field and in three weeks covered the average ground of a six week expedition.

The material gain is obvious in the sea-bird census and the botanical work, whilst further investigation of the variation in Kittiwake leg-colour has shown its limitations. Perhaps of greater importance is the stimulus induced for further work in the field of auk first-flighting and an attempt to produce a film portraying the underlying motives of sea-bird existence.

A. D. PEARSON.



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS ON LUNDY 1962

By K. S. GARDNER

Introduction

The Reports of this Society for 1960 and 1961 contain preliminary papers on the Dark Age and Medieval ecclesiology of the Island. The results of the various known investigations prior to 1962 can be briefly summarized as follows:

(i) In the mid-nineteenth century over a dozen human burials were accidentally discovered. Two of these, alleged to be of abnormal size, were in slab-lined cists possibly covered by a mound, and in association with them were a number of glass beads, three of which survive in the Dark Age case in Bristol Museum. The site is known as the Giants Graves (SS/137.442).¹

(ii) In 1928 and 1933 excavations in the paddock west of the Giants Graves revealed further burials, one at least of which appeared to have been inserted through a midden which contained sgraffito ware and coin of Edward II (ob. 1327). This paddock is known as Bulls Paradise (SS/137.443).

¹ Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference.

(iii) Elsewhere on the Island was evidence of Dark Age ecclesiastic activity in the shape of an inscribed memorial slab found in the ruins of the Beacon Hill Chapel in 1905 (SS/132.443). Imported pottery of a type found on Cornish Dark Age sites was found in 1959 (SS/138.444).

(iv) The various historical descriptions of the Island and the available legal documents, all refer to the church and the cemetery in the singular, and it has thus been assumed that the currently obvious cemetery and chapel ruin on Beacon Hill was that referred to.

There have however been several contradictions in the written accounts, such as the reference to the chapel being in ruins in the late sixteenth century and thriving in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The field evidence also produces anomalies such as the existence of Dark Age and post fourteenth century burials on one site, and Dark Age and modern memorial slabs on another.

The ecclesiology of Lundy is perhaps a little more complicated than it would appear at first sight.

(v) In 1961 we carried out a ground survey of the Bulls Paradise noting several mounds, one ditched, or a rectangular enclosure.

A trial trench into one mound (Site I) revealed an unstratified jumble of granite blocks among which was dispersed pottery of twelfth and thirteenth century date together with seventeenth century wares.

(vi) 1962 saw a larger party excavating for two weeks on selected sites in Bulls Paradise and it is the results obtained from that work that forms the basis of this paper.

Site III

'A mound partially enclosed by a well defined ditch.'²

A cutting 3 ft by 21 ft was taken from outside the ditch on the west side, eastwards through to the central area of the mound, revealing a sequence of initial construction and subsequent collapse of some form of substantial structure.

The various phases are illustrated by the different soil strata in Fig. 2B as follows :

Layer 8. A black soil level overlying the granite on either side of the ditch. This represents the original soil and turf line.

Layer 7. Mounds of black soil resting on Layer 8 on either side of the ditch. Formed by removing the original soil to expose the rock for quarrying.

The granite blocks obtained from the ditch were placed inside the enclosure on Layer 7 to form a wall or foundation.

Layer 6. A black silt accumulation in the bottom of the ditch, derived from Layers 7 and 8. This contained sherds of gritty ochreous pottery, brittle and hand formed, possibly of pre thirteenth century date, it being cruder but basically similar to more closely datable sherds found elsewhere.

Layer 5. A sandy rubble of almost clay-like texture when wet, containing small shingle pebbles of a type available on the S.E. beach. From its stratigraphical position this material would appear to have collapsed from a point above the stone foundation wall and it is suggested that it represents a collapsed superstructure of 'cob'. Sealed beneath this, on a granite block were several sherds of a fabric similar to that found in Layer 6.

Layer 4. Further silting from Layers 7 and 8 to the west formed this black layer which actually overlapped the 'tail' of Layer 5.

Layer 3. Heavy rubble and loam representing the collapse of the remaining stone wall fabric into the ditch. In this level was a horizontally incised sherd of green-glazed ware of thirteenth and fourteenth century type.

Layer 2. Loam and small stones representing subsequent silting and filling of the ditch. At its base were several sherds of gritty ochreous ware, less coarse in texture than those encountered in earlier levels and showing a rim

² 1961 Survey Report L.F.S.

form not seen in the thirteenth century assemblage from the adjacent sites, but similar to fifteenth century types.

Layer 1. Turf and humus.

Other small finds consisted of :

(i) A copper disc 1½ ins in diameter with a six petalled flower design in relief (*Layer 3*). Fig. 3 r.

(ii) A perforated shale spindle whorl 1½ ins diameter by ¾ ins thick (*Layer 5*). Fig. 3 q.

(iii) A scrap of iron with ¼ in. diameter raised ring design on surface (*Layer 3*).

(iv) Iron nail (*Layer 3*).

CONCLUSIONS

From the slender evidence available this site appears to have been a ditched structure of stone and probably cob dating from the late twelfth century and having collapsed by the late thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. It is presumably with this site that the spread of medieval pottery is to be associated on other sites.

Documentary evidence shows that the Marisco family had acquired Lundy by the mid twelfth century and that they held it, heavily defended, until the Crown eventually removed them and installed a Constable who raised the keep and bailey at the south-east corner of the Island in 1243 A.D.

Site III would not appear to be associated with the ecclesiastic problems but rather with the domestic occupation by the Marisco I dynasty.

It promises to be a most interesting site and one to which we hope to return at a later date.

Site II

'Traces of a rectangular enclosure.'

A single cutting, 3 ft by 21 ft, was made across the southern bank revealing a foundation of hewn granite blocks enclosing a floor of sandy matrix or occasional granite flags. Above and below this floor level were further strata of stones and rubble.

Layer 7. Sporadic traces of a thin black layer containing charcoal and twelfth and thirteenth century sherds. This rested on the rock and natural sub-soil and ran under the wall foundation.

Layer 6. A tightly packed layer of soil and stone which sealed in *Layer 7* and abutted the wall on the south.

Layer 5. At the northern end of the trench was what appeared to be a drain cut into the surface of the granite and filled with loose lumps of rock with noticeably little soil between them.

Layer 4. Sealing the drain filling, inside the enclosed area, was an apparent floor level of sandy matrix and occasional flags of granite.

Layer 3. A thick black rubbish spread containing considerable quantities of sixteenth and seventeenth century pottery, some vessels of which were almost complete, and an admixture of smaller twelfth and thirteenth century sherds.

This layer was confined to the inside of the building and contained a high percentage of charcoal, but the character and range of the pottery suggests a midden rather than occupational accumulations.

Layer 2. A loose spread of loam and small stones covering the wall, the rubbish level and the tight stone layer outside the wall, and also containing pottery of late twelfth to seventeenth century types. This included parts of one thirteenth century vessel which fitted other sherds found north and south of the foundations in *Layers 2* and *3*. The layer was not commensurate with the normal collapse level of a building as substantial as suggested by the foundation courses, there being no large trimmed stones apparent in it. The lack of such stones and the disturbed positions of the pottery suggests that the site has been robbed of useful stone for other building purposes.

Layer 1. Humus and turf—even this included thirteenth-century pottery.

Site IV

A series of mounds to the west of the reservoir in Bulls Paradise were thought to be possible graves but on investigation proved to be barren, except for a few scraps of pottery, and were presumably the result of cultivation.

Site V

As has been previously explained in the reports of this Society, from time to time human remains have been found in the area under investigation. In view of the range of dates, estimated from the available evidence as pre tenth century to post fourteenth and possibly post seventeenth century, it was decided to attempt to locate a hitherto untouched inhumation.

By plotting the pattern of Dr Dollar's discoveries we located several stones, one a headstone which we re-erected, and one an obvious grave slab. The latter we designated Site V and cleared it of overlying turf and humus.

This thin humus (Layer 1) contained scraps of seventeenth-century pottery which proved to have their source in an extensive midden (Layer 2) of rabbit bones, limpet shells and broken pots, which abutted the slab on three sides and rested on a level of roughly pitched granite 'cobbles' (Layer 3). On the west side a previous investigators trench narrowly missed the head of the stone.

The stone itself was roughly wedge-shaped its wider end being 32 ins long and 11 ins thick, the narrower, foot end, measuring 24 ins by 8 ins. The sides were approximately 72 ins and 60 ins and the estimated weight 1500 lbs. There were no inscriptions or ornaments although a few circular $\frac{1}{2}$ in. depressions were noted on its upper surface.

The midden and cobbles on the north and east sides were removed and the stone was jacked up with lever bars and pulled along rails which were inserted underneath. It had rested on a single stone at each end.

On attempting to remove the dark grave filling (Layer 4), disarticulated human bones immediately became apparent. Mixed with these were sherds of a coarse unglazed ware including a rim fragment of a thirteenth-century jug, several pieces of plaster a scrap of lead and part of the jaw of a wrasse.

Removal of further filling revealed that the grave had cut firstly through a tight layer of stones and loam (Layer 5) and a thin black layer (6), similar to and probably contiguous with that encountered on Site II and there designated Layer 7. This probably represents the source of the pottery above referred to and rested on the natural sub-soil into which the bottom of the grave cut (Layer 7).

Eventually at a depth of about 4 ft the final burial was revealed.

The grave had obviously been cut for one burial and then re-opened for the final burial. At this time the primary burial had been treated with little respect, having been removed, broken up, and shovelled back with the fill.

By the seventeenth century the site appears to have lost its necrological significance, being used as a rubbish tip. In the nineteenth century slabs were being utilized for building purposes and the accidental discovery of skeletons was a matter for some comment.

THE SKELETAL REMAINS

(i) The primary burial was represented by the broken and re-interred bones of an adolescent female. The skull had been shattered on disinterment but the frontal bone was intact and bore no brow ridge. The long bones available were all broken and incomplete and it was difficult therefore to assess the individual's height. The pelvis was represented only by fragments which fortunately included parts of both ilia showing pre-auricular sulci as further indication of sex.

Mr Langham's study of the teeth suggested an age of about sixteen years at death and there was some decay, possibly suggesting the inclusion of a sugary-content in the diet.

(ii) The final burial was extended with the head to the west and the arms folded across the chest. The skull was in such a position that the chin rested on the chest the original grave being a little too short for the final occupant. Only the cranium was intact the facia, bones having shattered under the weight of the slab-supporting stone which was immediately above the cranium. The state of closure of the sutures indicated an age at death of about 45.

The only really intact long bones were one femur, one humerus and one radius, and the height estimated from these was about 5 ft 6 ins.

The dentition, frontal bone and pelvic remains indicated that the person was male.

The most interesting feature was the condition of the left leg. The femur was broken in a greenstick fracture, the lower quarter of the bone being forced up and out through the inside of the thigh. The tibia had a simple fracture at its upper end and the whole of the lower leg (as opposed to fleshless bones) had been twisted outwards, the actual foot being 'clenched' or contracted. The accident in which these injuries had been obtained had obviously proved fatal.

CONCLUSIONS

The number of human burials around Site V now totals at least twenty and we are justified in regarding it as a cemetery.

Site V is a Christian grave dug after the mid thirteenth century and yet allowed to become neglected and indeed desecrated by the early seventeenth century.

Evidence from the earlier excavations does not contradict this interpretation, only the Giants remaining an enigma.

Cemeteries normally contain a chapel. In Site II we have traces of a building of some substance which also seems to have a life between the thirteenth and seventeenth centuries. There is no evidence that this building was a chapel but it is so close to the graves in time and space that the possibility cannot be overlooked.

The Pottery

MEDIEVAL

The medieval pottery found on all sites in Bulls Paradise would appear to be comparable to the twelfth and thirteenth century wares found in Devon, from whence it was presumably imported.

The fabric can be described as basically of two types—a grey clay fired to a yellow ochreous colour on both surfaces and exhibiting a high grit content, and a heavier grey-brown ware also gritty in texture.

Ornament and decoration consists of horizontal and serpentine lines scored in the outer surface, depressions made with a pointed stick or similar tool, and strips of clay applied to the shoulder angle and to the body of the vessel, sometimes showing finger-tip impressions.

Part of a slashed jug handle was found and a number of sherds showed signs of an external green glaze.

These characteristics are all typical of the local Devonian twelfth and thirteenth century wares.

FIGURE 3

(a) Rim profile of a jug on which the beginning of a pinched spout is visible. The top of the rim has a concave channel produced by finger tip pressure whilst rotating, whilst the outer bulge appears to have been formed by the smoothing over of an applied strip of clay. The fabric shows a gritty ochreous surface and grey core and is approximately 8 mm. thick.

Found in the grave fill, Site V (Sherd Ref. 6).

(b) Fragment of a slashed handle. Fabric identical to (a) and probably from same vessel.

Site II. Black deposit outside wall (23).

(c) Shoulder angle with finger tip impressed pad. Fabric as (d) 7 mm.

Site II. Loose rubble outside building (7).

(d) Incurved rim with concave top. Grey-brown fabric, 8 mm.

Site II. Four sherds found which fitted each other, one in black rubbish inside building (16) and three in loose rubble outside (3, 4 and 5).

(e) Rim of grey fabric with orange surface, comparatively smooth in texture. 6 mm.

Site II. Black deposit outside wall (22).

(f) Rim in grey-brown fabric. 8 mm.

Site II. Black rubbish inside building (18).

(g) Rim. Fabric as (f) 5 mm. Position as (f), (19).

(h) Rim. Fabric as (f) 5 mm.

Site II. Loose rubble outside wall (9 and 10).

(i) Possible pot lid rim in smoother grey fabric.

Site II. Black rubbish inside building (17).

(j and k) Soft ochreous sherds with incised decoration and traces of a green glazing. 5 mm.

Site II. Humus (1 and 2).

(h and m) From Site I report for comparison.

(n) Thin grey sherd with mottled yellow traces of glazing, applied strip of triangular section. 3 mm.

Site II. Black rubbish inside building (13).

(p) Sherd from Site I report showing further decorative motifs.

Post-Medieval by T. J. MILES

The post-medieval pottery was found on Site II and Site V. On both sites all but a very small number of sherds appear to be North Devon or 'Barnstaple ware'. A late sixteenth to early seventeenth century date is suggested.

Site II. A large amount of this pottery was found in the floor rubbish layer and in the loose rubble above. No difference was discernible between the pottery from these two levels, although the whole assemblage falls roughly into two groups:

(i) A hard smooth, fairly fine, well fired paste used for jugs and similar types and

(ii) The characteristic gravel tempered ware used almost exclusively for the numerous large basins or 'milk pans'.

About twenty vessels were represented. The form of the jug (Fig. 4A) and the total absence of decoration and slip ware are factors which seem to suggest an early rather than later seventeenth century date.

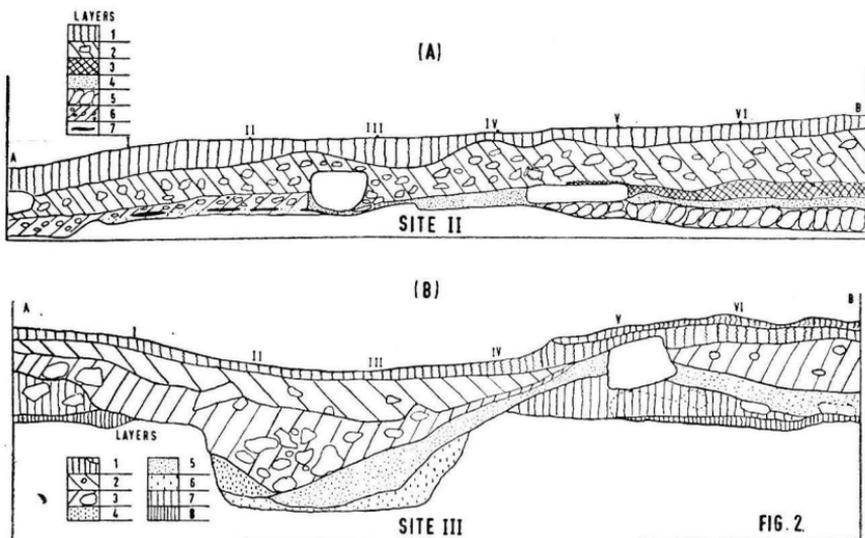
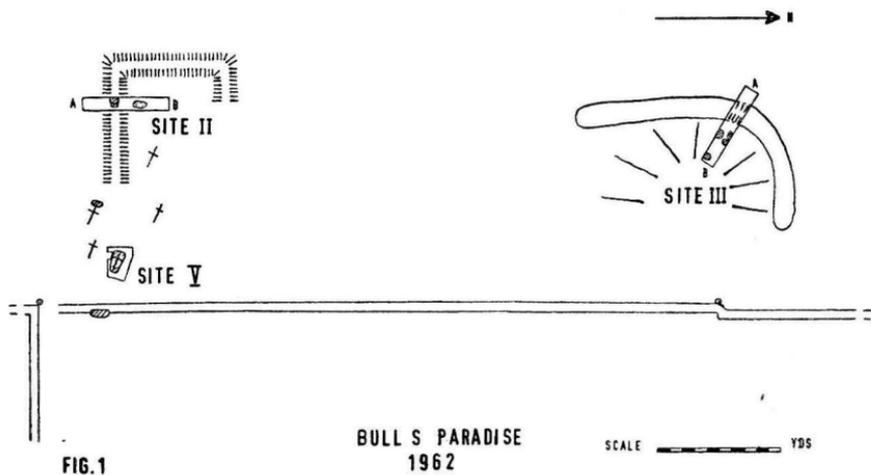
Site V. The pottery from the midden surrounding and overlapping the grave slab is similar in nature and date to that from Site II, although a greater proportion of sherds are of the finer paste. A small piece of white glazed stoneware and two fragments of blue painted tin glazed earthenware were also found.

FIGURE 4

(a) Jug or pitcher $7\frac{1}{2}$ ins high, of a smooth hard grey paste, with a reddish exterior, coated with a thin light-green glaze. A thick greenish brown glaze, with an almost metallic surface covers all the interior and extends to the exterior around the rim. The inside of the rim is shaped to take a lid, but no spout or lip is apparent. The handle is basically the same paste as the body but contains a quantity of added grit.

Site II. Black rubbish inside building (26).

(b) A full profile of a large open 'milk pan', 6 ins high, and rim and base diameters of $15\frac{1}{2}$ ins or 8 ins respectively. The fabric is a smooth paste to which a large quantity of grit has been added, the interior is grey but reddish towards the outer surface. The exterior is completely unglazed and the lower part is much blackened with soot. The interior is coated with a mottled green-



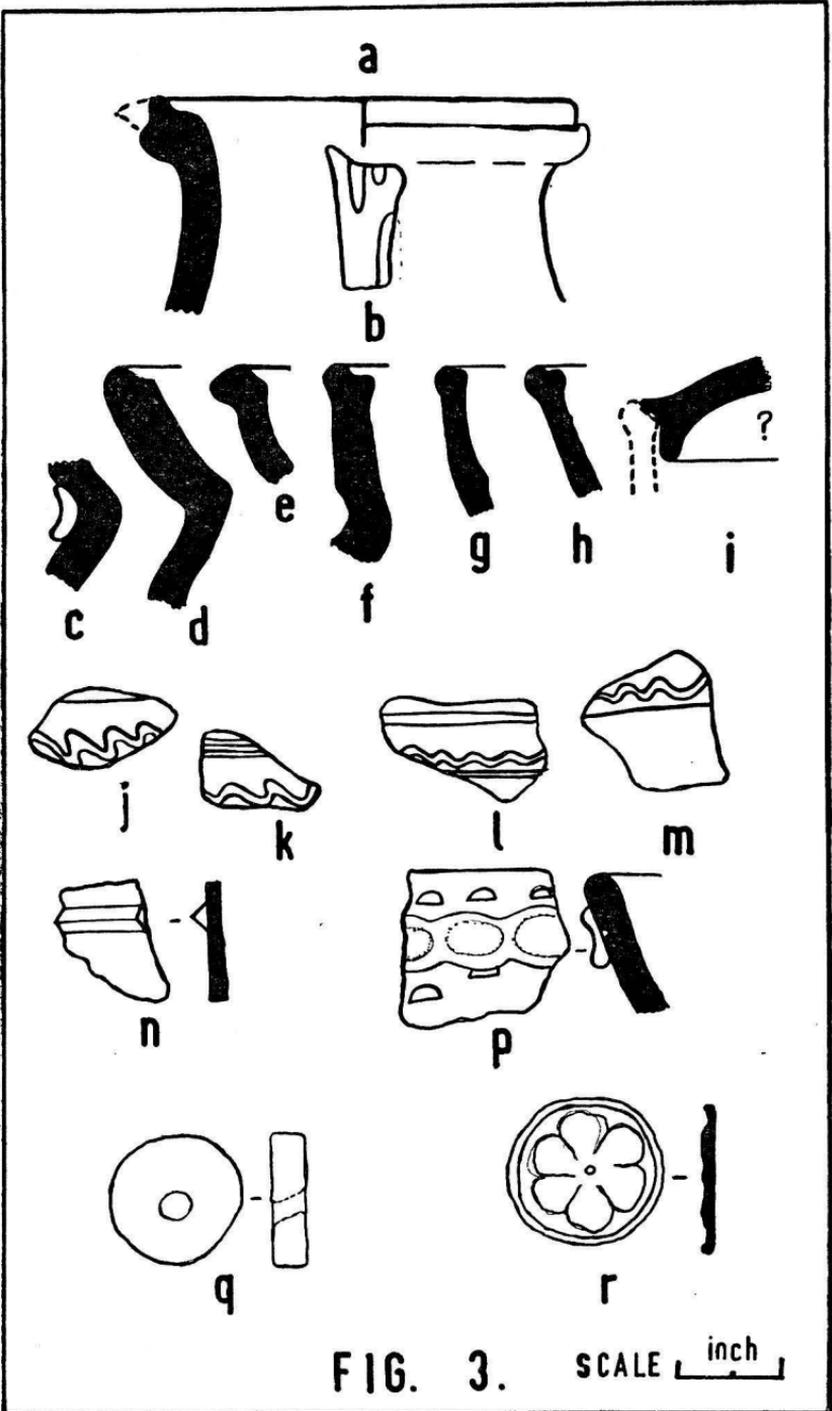


FIG. 3.

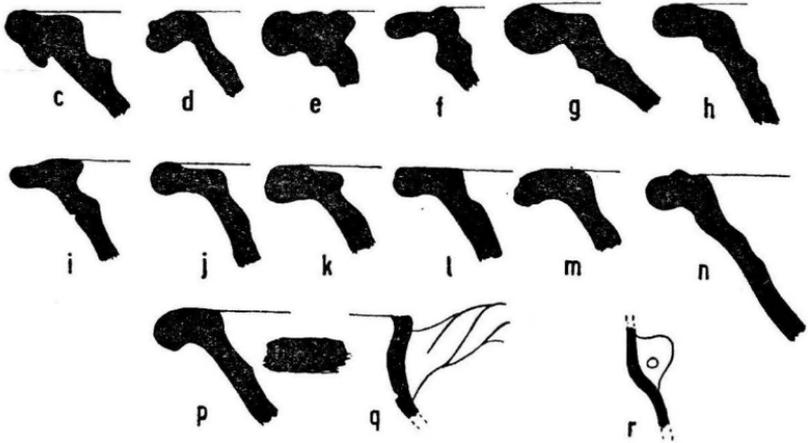
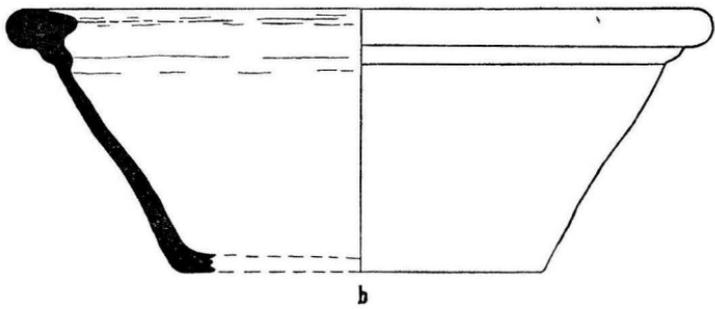


FIG. 4.

SCALE 0 1 2 3 4 ins
T.M.

brown glaze to within an inch or so of the rim which is very thick, heavy and of complex form. Position as (a), (28).

(c)—(p). Various rim forms all of 'milk pan' type vessels (c=27; d—p=3—42).

(q) Rim sherd with upper part of ornate handle; fabric—smooth reddish-buff unglazed with occasional fragments of grit (43).

(r) A shoulder sherd of hard smooth paste similar to (a) including external but no internal glaze. The lug is pierced for suspension (44).

Pottery of the 'milk-pan' type was made in considerable quantities in North Devon in the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries and a large amount was exported. Vast quantities were found in the eastern States of U.S.A. where for some time they presented a considerable problem to local archaeologists who were not sure of their source of origin. A full description with illustrations and such documentary evidence as port loading lists, is in the U.S. National Museum Bulletin 225: 'North Devon Pottery and its Export to America in the Seventeenth Century' by C. Malcolm Watkins.

The pottery from these excavations has been returned to the Island. The sherds are marked with reference numbers as follows:

L for Lundy.
B.P. for Bulls Paradise.
II for Site Number.
13 for Sherd Number.

In addition the sherd numbers are contained in a site identity symbol so that all sherds from Site II bear a triangle, Site III a circle and Site V a square. The numbers in brackets in the pottery descriptions refer to the site sherd number marked on the actual sherd.

Miscellaneous Items

(i) To the east of Site V is a high wall of mid nineteenth century construction which has incorporated in it a further grave slab, presumably taken from the cemetery for building purposes. Had this happened on Site V we would have been left with a grave apparently inserted through the seventeenth century midden, and this may be the interpretation of a grave so noted in 1933.

(ii) Also in a field wall was found a quarter of a circular stone basin—a font or piscina and we are indebted to Mr John Ogilvie for drawing our attention to this further piece of ecclesiastic evidence.

(iii) The Giants 'Pillow', which was alleged to be part of the cist complex and is to be seen in the church porch, was photographed and examined. It measures approximately 4 ft by 1 ft by 1 ft and has a hemispherical depression in one end in which the top of the Giants skull is alleged to have rested. This particular usage of such a stone is at least unusual and one might be less surprised to find it used as a lamp in some early ecclesiastic structure.

(iv) The 'Giants Stone' which lies outside the Marisco Tavern has been described as the cover slab for the cist. The cist was 10 ft long, the cover slab 6 ft long. Its surface is pitted with $\frac{1}{2}$ in. holes, which can be linked up with a piece of chalk and a considerable amount of imagination to form the Christian Chi-Rho symbol.

Beacon Hill Cemetery

As was mentioned in the Introduction one Dark Age memorial slab was discovered in the cemetery on Beacon Hill in 1905. The inscription reads: I GERNI ITIGERNI.

In 1961 Mr Langham and the writer discovered another, one interpretation of which is TULCO H(ic) J(acit).

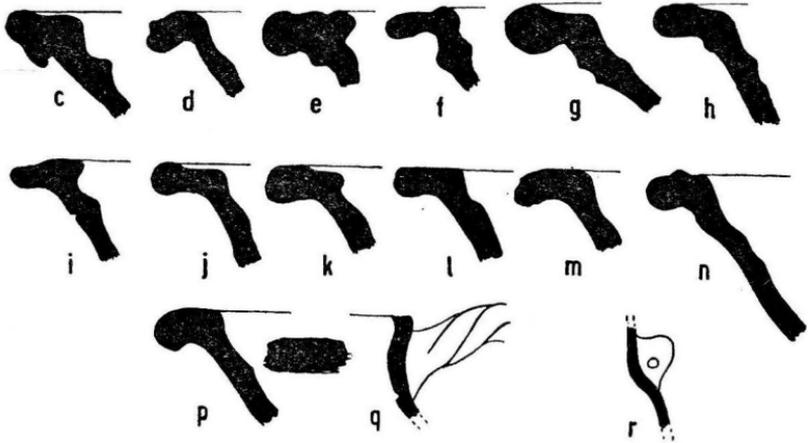
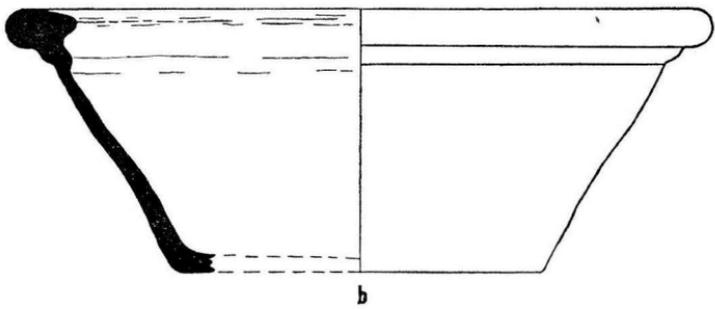
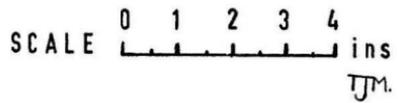


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This assemblage of inscribed stones is of considerable importance and significance to archeology and the close survey and scrutiny of this cemetery is high on the list of priorities. The stones merit a separate paper in themselves and it is not intended to do more here than note their existence and their significance in the subject at present under consideration.

With the discovery of the first stone it was assumed that the chapel and the cemetery were its contemporaries. This did not follow as such stones were often built into later chapels on new sites as a tradition from the old site. With the more recent discoveries however, it must be admitted that it seems most likely that Beacon Hill has been used as a burial ground for perhaps 1400 years. Certainly its position high on the exposed western cliffs is typical of Celtic Christian ecclesiastic settlements.

Discussion—Church History

The evidence from both field and documentary sources seems now to be following parallel courses and a more logical framework of ecclesiastic activity seems to be presenting itself. Four phases are suggested :

(i) *Dark Age.*

(a) A Celtic community on the western cliffs with a cemetery and a chapel dedicated possibly, as has been suggested elsewhere, to St Elen. Various cells and communal buildings would be in keeping, with a fifth to sixth century foundation date.

(b) The Giants Graves are a problem but appear to have housed abnormally large beings interred in cists with beads of ninth century Irish type in association. The loose description of the burials would fit in with Nordic cist burials, as would the size of individual and the position away from the Celtic cemetery. Lundy cannot have escaped the attentions of the Nordic elements during the period and indeed a Viking visitation could well have meant the destruction of the Celtic Christian establishment as it did on so many other islands around our coasts.

(ii) *Medieval.*

The first documentary evidence for a church on Lundy is in 1243 immediately after the installation of a Constable who built a castle. It is possible that he built a church too for his fifty Royal men-at-arms, near to the traditional village site and on a spot already associated with human burials.

In 1254 a Church of St Mary is mentioned but subsequently we hear only of St Elen. This may be an error but it may represent a re-dedication to the Celtic Saint by the Marisco II dynasty who had returned to favour and power by the fourteenth century when St Elen is first mentioned.

By the sixteenth century the Island was being periodically over-run by pirates of all creeds and nationalities and by the turn of the century Risdon records that the chapel on Lundy was in ruins.

The graves and buildings in Bulls Paradise were being used as a rubbish tip about this time.

(iii) *Civil War—Nineteenth Century.*

Came the Civil War and Thomas Bushell, Royalist Governor, a pious man who spent thousands of pounds on building projects. He rebuilt the castle, made gun batteries, and founded a Royal Mint. He could also have built a new chapel in the old cemetery on Beacon Hill.

At any rate we soon find mention of a church in use again—in 1688 with the episode of the Frenchman's Funeral. Marriages are recorded until 1747 and in 1787 a detailed description is given of the chapel and oratory on

Beacon Hill. The population fluctuates however and in 1794 Dalton records only one family in recent residence.

By 1884 the ruined but still standing walls were demolished by a Survey Party.

(iv) *Nineteenth Century—to Date.*

In the same year the Church returned to the village in the shape of a little tin hut east of the Manor Farm, and was used until ten years later the present Church of St Helen was built. As a matter of interest the winter of 1963 caused such damage even to this monumental building that its days would surely have been numbered had not immediate repair been effected.

This I suggest is the pattern of Church archeology on Lundy, from cliff-top to village and back again for 1500 years—an interesting problem with many questions for the future to answer.

It only remains for me to thank Mr Harman and Mr Gade for their permission and co-operation, and for the most invaluable assistance to Mr and Mrs T. J. Miles, Misses Blake, O'Flynn and Speake and Messrs Langham, Baker, Baskott, Cossar, Dyke, Jones and Painter.

LIST OF VISITING MEMBERS 1962

Peter Abbott	9th to 12th April
David Taylor	9th to 12th April
Timothy Oakley	9th to 12th April
Miss Margaret Hopkinson	12th to 25th April and 28th July to 2nd August
Miss Janna Steinmann	24th to 28th April and 23rd to 25th September
Miss Mary Giles	12th April to 1st May and 23rd July to 2nd August and 28th August to 11th September
A. J. Vickery	18th to 23rd April and 14th to 15th July and 14th to 27th September
David Wicks	18th to 23rd April and 5th to 9th September
Miss Barbara Bizell	24th to 28th April and 29th July to 2nd August and 13th to 18th August
John Coleman-Cooke	22nd to 26th May and 30th August to 11th September
Kenneth Williamson	22nd to 30th May
Dr G. H. Spray	22nd to 30th May
Mr and Mrs Light	3rd to 7th June
Miss Jennifer Davies	3rd to 8th June
Michael Bullen	8th to 16th June
Carres Grammar School	10th to 16th June
Christopher Rees	22nd to 24th June
David Ingleby	22nd to 27th June
Andrew Pearson	} Oxford Lundy Expedition 28th June to 20th July
Jeremy Greenwood	
Gerald Sinclair	
Christopher Hemsley	
Anthony Billings	
Elizabeth Blunt	
Miss Deirdre Dawes	19th July to 2nd August and 9th to 19th September
Michael Shea	17th to 20th July
Miss Patricia Smith	10th to 20th July
Mr and Mrs Hudd and son	24th to 25th July
Donald Dingwall	23rd July to 2nd August and 3rd to 8th September