

pebble of a reddish colour, not casual, but certainly placed there with design, as in that chalk country a pebble of such a character and quality is never seen, probably some amulet. What a beautiful designation of the hunter's grave! [3] He told us they met with groups of tumuli sometimes of the prince or chieftain, and all his household, the prince's chiefly larger, but clearly characterized by the richness and singularity of the ornaments and relics; and many of the others as characteristic of the person whose ashes occupied them. They never find coin in any, which induces me to think that the greater part are prior to the era of mintage; and seldom have found ornaments of gold [4]. We saw a variety of urns from the height of two feet to one not twice as big as a thimble. The urns that held the remains of the dead were all rude pottery, and half baked; but there are found often accompanying skeletons, a vessel they have given the name of *drinking cup* to; I presume from a supposition, that it was filled with some fluid, a viaticum for the dead, as it is always near the head of the skeleton, with its mouth up, and empty. The pottery of these smaller urns is much thinner, better baked, and more ornamented. When Sir Richard Hoare opens tumuli, a week is generally set apart for the operations, and the Baronet, he told us, is generally attended by a party of his friends;

their headquarters are sometimes at Amesbury, sometimes at Everley, sometimes at Woodyeates Inn; 'and in such a company, gentlemen', said he, 'you may well suppose the time passes with much festivity and good humour; though they may not all of them be as sanguine barrow-hunters as the learned Baronet, yet they are all amateurs in such a degree as to relish the pursuit, and enjoy it'. . . . It was not only the things we saw, so totally new to us, that we were so much delighted with; Mr Cunnington's illustrative account of the different articles displayed very considerable powers of mind, as well as originality, and was conveyed in a language and a manner peculiarly his own, and left us in admiration of acquirements so rarely met with in men of his rank and calling, who affected no other character than that of a respectable tradesman.

- [1] Annable, F. K. and Simpson, D. D. A. *Guide Catalogue of the Neolithic and Bronze Age Collections in Devizes Museum* (Devizes, 1964), p. 5.
- [2] The first volume of Sir Richard Colt Hoare's *Ancient Wiltshire* was published in 1810.
- [3] 'The Hunter's Barrow', Collingbourne Kingston no. 19. *Ancient Wiltshire*, 1, 183.
- [4] For a recent study of the finding of coins and gold in barrows, see L. V. Grinsell, 'Barrow Treasure, in Fact, Tradition, and Legislation', *Folklore*, LXXVIII, 1967, 1-38.

An Exhibition of Neolithic Material from Yugoslavia

A selection of material representing the Starčevo and subsequent Vinča cultures of the Central Balkans is the subject of a special exhibition *The Arts of the First Farmers* arranged by the Sheffield City Museums. It will be open to the public there from the end of March to 4th May.

This important selection of Neolithic material has been drawn from a number of museum collections in Yugoslavia and originally formed the larger part of the summer exhibition held in the National Museum in Belgrade last year. It is the first time that much of this material will be seen in Britain and little of it has

been published in the English language. A well illustrated catalogue is being produced and this will include a survey of the Serbian Neolithic by Dr Colin Renfrew of the University of Sheffield.

We are particularly grateful to the National Museum in Belgrade for giving the British public this opportunity of seeing such a rich and important exhibition. The exhibition will also be shown at the British Museum for a month from 12th May and probably at two other museums before returning to Yugoslavia at the end of August.

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