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Notes and Reviews

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brandgravar som kristet påverkade skelettgravar. Det andra bestod av 230 fornlämningar och torde huvudsakligen tillhöra romersk järnålder. Bland gravformerna märkas runda, triangulära och kvadratiske stensättningar, i vilka påträffades såväl brandgravar som skelettgravar. Fyndbeståndet var rikt och omväxlande.

NOTES AND REVIEWS

Two Seal Harpoons from Hälsingland's Stone Age. Of the two harpoon finds, which Louise Cederschiöld here publishes, one comes from Skarvtjärn, Harmånger parish (fig. 1), and has, by means of pollen analysis, been dated at probably some time in the centuries closely preceding 2000 B.C., or according to a less definite dating, at some time between 2000–1500 B.C. The harpoon was discovered, stuck fast in the skeleton of a seal (*Phoca Groenlandica*). About five Swedish miles (50 km.) to the south of the Skarvtjärn finding-place is situated the Stone Age settlement of Hedningahällan, which dates from the later division of the Middle Neolithic Period. If it was a seal-hunter from Hedningahällan that downed the seal at Skarvtjärn, which is of course only a possibility, it would be the somewhat more uncertain dating of the find that must be accepted. The unlucky seal hunt would in such case have taken place at some time between 2000 and 1800 B.C. The second harpoon find (Fig. 2) comes from the Vibo Lake, Hälsingtuna parish, and was reported as a loose find. The Vibo Lake harpoon is here compared with a harpoon found together with a seal skeleton at Oulojoki, Österbotten, in Finland, and published by Leppäaho and Korvenkontio in "Suomen Museo", 1936. This is from the New Stone Age, the typical Comb Pottery period.

An Early Type of Short-Sword from Gotland. B. Nerman distinguishes a group of one-edged short-swords or daggers on Gotland, which belongs to the Migration Period (ca. 400–ca. 550) and perhaps to the time immediately following, and which thus constitutes the oldest group; the weapons in question belong, as is well known, chiefly to the Vendel period (ca. 550–ca. 800 A. D.). These earliest specimens have—figs. 1–3, 5—a very narrow, and at the tip extremely pointed blade, with a very thick back, which is provided with a faceting that, from about the middle, extends for a considerable distance on towards the point; the faceting is formed by two longish bevelled planes, which slant up to the common longitudinal back, a faceting that is well known from the Migration Period and the Late Roman Iron Age (ca. 200–ca. 400 A. D.); cf. the Gotlandic strap-end mounting fig. 4 from the time 400–475 A. D. This faceting, taken together with the find-combinations, fixes the time of our short-swords or daggers. That so

few exemplars are known, is because weapons are very seldom deposited in the Golland graves from the Migration Period, and outside of the graves, they are still more rare.

The Bridal Crown of Skärstad Church. As E. Andrén points out, the church in Skärstad, on the east side of Lake Vättern was, in the 17th century, poor in silver; two wine pitchers and one bowl for consecrated wafers were made of simple pottery, down to the 1660's. A new bridal crown (not now preserved) was made in 1646 by the goldsmith Peter Månsson Smitt in Jönköping, who was born in Scotland but learned the craft in Sweden, where he died in 1682. The accounts list in detail the amount of silver that went into the making of the bridal crown, the value of the stones, the gold for the gilding, payments for workmanship, etc. The crown casket illustrated, from the 1640's or possibly a little earlier, has a framework of basket-weaving, and is externally covered with black leather and rivetted-on iron mountings.

Weathering on Cliff-Carvings. A. Strömberg describes the factors operative in the weathering of different rocks. Stresses in rocks that are caused by thermal variations or the expansion of water at freezing-point may result in fractural formation and the splitting of the rock. Chemical weathering acts selectively upon certain minerals, as for instance, the mineral calcite in rocks. Carbonic and other acids to be found in the soil or in rain water, may dissolve calcite and other easily dissolvable minerals. In certain instances it has been possible to study the process by which weathering acts upon rocks bearing the ancient cliff-carvings known as "hällristningar". At Fossum in the parish of Tanum, Bohuslän, the reddish granite on which there are cliff-carvings, has withstood weathering remarkably well where it has lain bare. On the other hand, at Ekenberg, near Norrköping, the dark grey gneiss has been protected from disintegration by the covering of earth. These two examples show that the circumstances governing various cases of weathering may vary considerably in relation to the mineral composition of the rock itself and of the condition of its surroundings.

A Circum-Polar Conference. C.-A. Moberg contributes a short report on the discussions arranged by the Ethnographic Department of the National Museum in Copenhagen, between a number of ethnographers, archaeologists and anthropologists from North America, the Soviet Union and Scandinavia, on phenomena which are common to the arctic and adjoining areas of Europe, Asia and America.

Svenska Fornminnesföreningen 1958. A report on the activities of the Swedish Archaeological Association in 1958.

Svenska Arkeologiska Samfundet 1958. An account of the activities of the Swedish Archaeological Society in 1958.

Andreas Oldeberg reviews H. H. Coghlan's book, "Notes on Prehistoric and Early Iron in the Old World". Coghlan first deals with the occurrence of iron ore and the extraction of iron in ancient times as also with the further treatments in the manufacture of iron during different periods. As a consequence of his own experiments, he does not believe that iron was originally discovered as a result of the chancy occurrence of a bit of iron ore in an open camp-fire, which had thus happened to get melted. Instead, in agreement with Witter, he considers that the earliest occurrence and use of iron was connected with the extraction of copper. Coghlan has here published a large number of microscopic analyses of various iron objects, and he illustrates the presentation with pictures and diagrams. According to the reviewer, Coghlan has brought together many valuable facts associated with the earliest history of iron, and he has, by his microscopical investigations, made a number of important discoveries that have enriched our knowledge of the technical methods of procedure that were in use by the blacksmiths of ancient times.

Armin Tuulse reviews a stencilled lexicon by Paul Campe, with information about 3500 master-builders, masons and carpenters and others, who during the time from 1400 to 1850 were active in Livland and Kurland, that is to say, in the present Latvia and the southern part of Esthonia. The first part of this lexicon appeared in 1951 (see Fornvännen, 1953, p. 149).

B. Thordeman reviews a book by B. Stolt, on the restoration of churches. The writer considers that the functional purposes of a church ought to receive first consideration when one is being restored. This view leads to conclusions, which likewise from antiquarian standpoints, are satisfactory. The writer's conception as to the role of the museums in relation to early ecclesiastical art is sensible and moderate, and may well therefore be shared by museum workers. The book's attack upon different types of 17th century church decoration, the reviewer considers to be rather overshooting the mark.

News. Information is given about certain business dealt with at the meetings of the Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities; certain items announced in the 1958 Budget; certain grants from the State Lotteries Fund and from H. M. King Gustaf VI Adolf's 70th Birthday Fund for Swedish culture made in 1958; grants for a rebuilding of the museum in Visby; buildings of historic interest scheduled for protection under the Historic Buildings Protection Act of 1942, and, finally, excavations and finds from Årsta near Stockholm and from Bromölla in Skåne.