



Photo: R. H. Worth.

Fig. 1. BLOWING-HOUSE, BRISWORTHY BURROWS.



Photo: R. H. Worth.

Fig. 2. MORTAR STONE, BRISWORTHY BURROWS.

STRAY NOTES ON DARTMOOR TIN-WORKING.

PART II.

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THE destruction of objects of antiquity on Dartmoor proceeds with little check. There is no excuse possible, since there is room enough on the Moorland for such modern activities as are essential, without any destruction of the works of former men.

It must, however, be recognized that the antiquities are a wasting quantity, and if this is beyond remedy it remains only that record should be preserved, wherever possible.

Toward such record, in the especial matter of the tinworks, this paper is a contribution; it follows naturally upon an earlier paper by the same author, published in the forty-sixth volume of our *Transactions*.

BRISWORTHY BURROWS, PLYM.

In the paper above referred to there was an account of a blowing-house situate at Brisworthy Burrows, and it was then stated that the granite furnace base, formerly lying in the ruins of the building, had disappeared.

Within the past few years a much more complete wreckage has taken place. The land adjacent to the ruins has been sold for building purposes, and a working man has erected a cottage thereon. In so doing he has practically destroyed the last remains of the blowing-house. In view of this, it seems desirable that a photograph showing a part of the original wall should be published; plate XXIX, fig. 1, is such a photograph. Formerly there were mortar stones within the fallen walls of the building; these have disappeared. A mortar stone also lay without the building; that yet remains, and is figured on plate XXIX as fig. 2. The length of the stone is two feet, and the mortars are each $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, and 3 inches deep. The destruction of this blowing-house brought, indirectly, a little information. The builder of the cottage said that he had not destroyed any tin-smelting

place, the building had been a "mill." The adjacent field was known as "Mill Park," and the new house had been christened "Mill Park Cottage." This is in accord with the rule that, in Devonshire, any building having a water-wheel is a "mill"; just as, in Cornwall, any device for raising water, even a windlass and bucket, is a "pump."

MILL CORNER, PLYM VALLEY.

Another blowing-house on the Plym is situate at a place now known as "Mill Corner." It will be found described in a paper entitled, "The Moorland Plym," or rather in its sequel, "The Erme, Yealm and Torry," published in the *Transactions of the Plymouth Institution*, 1891-92. At the date of that paper, and for many years after, five fragments of mortar stones lay within the building. These have now disappeared, whether actually removed, or whether buried in the ruins, which have been disturbed, can not be ascertained. Plate xxx, figs. 1 and 2, give views of these stones as they were in 1891. The largest of the mortars was eight inches in diameter, the others did not exceed six inches.

PLYM VALLEY, ABOVE LANGCOMBE.

In the first part of this paper, in Vol. XLVI of our *Transactions*, there is reference to the ruins of a blowing-house in the Plym Valley about 125 feet above Langcombe foot. There is an error in the description of the house, which is stated to be 20 inches in length internally, whereas 20 *feet* is the correct statement. The mortar stone there described still exists, it has this year been photographed, and is figured in plate xxxi, fig. 1.

SOUTH BANK OF BURRATOR RESERVOIR.

The hitherto unrecorded ruins of a blowing-house lie on the south bank of the Burrator Reservoir, in the Meavy valley. At top water of the Reservoir the ruin is now partly submerged. A good example of a mould stone lies on the foreshore, and there is one of the mill-stones of a crazing mill hard by. It is hoped to give a more complete account in a later paper. A photograph of the mould stone forms fig. 2 of plate xxxi. The mould cavity varies from $18\frac{1}{2}$ to $19\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, is $15\frac{1}{4}$ inches in width, and $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep. There is also a sample mould $4\frac{3}{4}$ ins. by $2\frac{3}{4}$ ins. and $1\frac{1}{4}$ ins. deep; and there is in one side of the stone, leading to the mould, a groove.

NOSWORTHY, MEAVY VALLEY.

There is a blowing-house on the bank of the Meavy, 700 feet in a direct line north of Nosworthy Bridge. Here there are many mortar stones, and other worked stones. It is hoped



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Fig. 1. MORTAR STONES, MILL CORNER, PLYM.

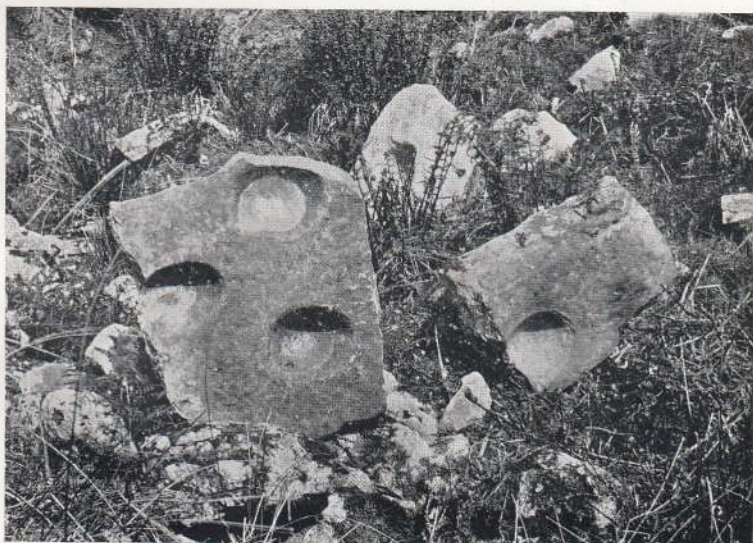


Photo : R. H. Worth.

Fig. 2. MORTAR STONES, MILL CORNER, PLYM.



Photo: R. H. Worth.

Fig. 1. MORTAR STONE, PLYM ABOVE LANGCOMBE.



Photo: R. H. Worth.

Fig. 2. MOULD STONE, BURRATOR RESERVOIR.
DARTMOOR TIN-WORKING.—To follow Plate XXX

to offer a complete description of this house in a later paper. At Riddy Pit, still further to the north, mortar stones evidence the former presence of a tin-smelting place.

THORNWORTHY, CHAGFORD.

Crossing recorded the existence of blowing-houses near Thornworthy; his record has been verified by the discovery of tin slag in the trench for the new pipe line of the Torquay Water Works. Mr. Chapman tells me that the slag has been found to contain metallic tin to the extent of about seven per cent. This accords well with the known defects in the old methods of working. It is hoped, at some later date, to give details of these blowing-houses.