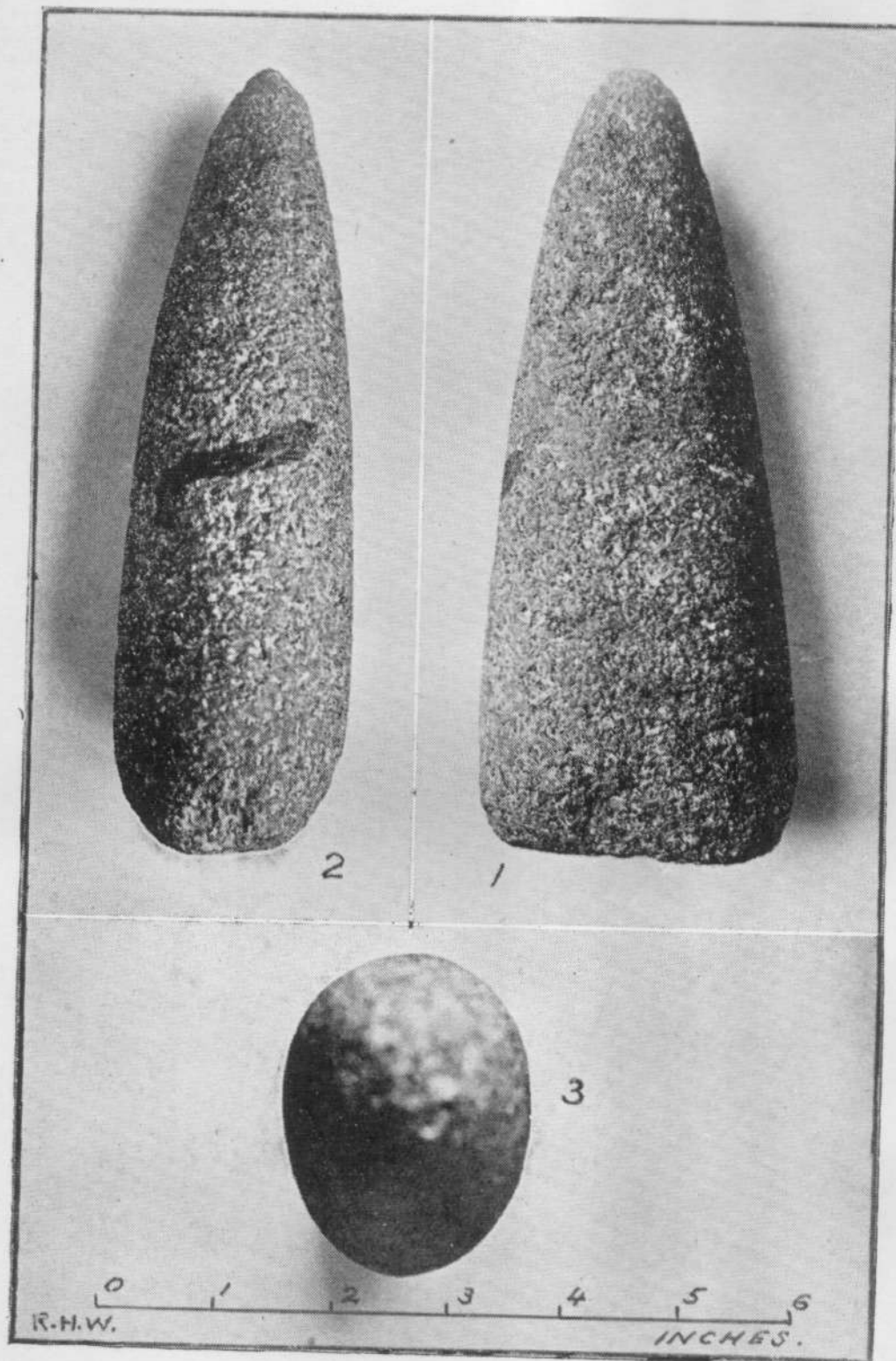


PLATE VIII



R. H. Worth

STONE CELT FROM HARTLAND.

Scientific Memoranda—To face page 137

mittee, read at the Sidmouth meeting. In 1935 it was seen in Cornwall at Par, Luxulyan Valley, St. Kew, Redruth, and Bude, while Mr. G. Tregelles observed it at Barnstaple in July of that year.

The following records indicate definite settlement in the areas named; whether permanent or not, time will show. Captain Stidston reported in September, 1934, that the Comma was abundant in the Newton Abbot area; Mr. F. W. Jeffery, Plymouth, observed it in numbers in the Plym valley during the period April to July. During 1935 over thirty records were received from Devon, south of Dartmoor.

It should be added that this "drift," whatever its cause, has not been confined to the south-west. A radial movement east and south-east from the Bristol area, has also taken place.—C. W. BRACKEN.

ARCHAEOLOGY.

A STONE CELT FROM NORTH DEVON.

Mr. R. Pearse Chope has sent to me for report a stone celt, found at Sowden (Southdown) in the parish of Hartland, by Mr. R. Egerton Godwin.

The celt is polished over the whole surface as far as the material will permit; it is oval in section with a conical butt.

The present length is $6\frac{7}{8}$ inches, and its weight $33\frac{1}{2}$ ounces. The cutting edge has been lost, either from use or accident, and it would appear that after the loss of the cutting edge the implement was still used as a hammer, since the broad end has certainly been bruised and worn.

The material is *pyroxenite*, and has a granular texture which must always have resisted any fine polish. No closely similar rock is to be found in either Devon or Cornwall, within my knowledge. Both in form and material the implement much resembles certain "greenstone" celts described by Evans, principally from Yorkshire; but he records one from as far south as Blackwater, Hants. (*Ancient Stone Implements of Great Britain*, sec. ed., pp. 122-125).

It is difficult to determine what must have been the length of the celt when complete; it certainly exceeded $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Plate VIII, figs. 1, 2, 3, are from photographs.—R. H. WORTH.

PREHISTORIC MACE-HEAD FROM HONITON.

The mace-head, of which photographs are here shown, was found in a garden near Honiton. It was sent to me by Mr. J. Murch of that town in order that I might photograph and describe it. Not feeling sure that my own determination of its period (late Iron Age) was correct, it was sent to Mr.

Reginald Smith of the British Museum, who wrote, "The cylindrical perforation is, I think, characteristic of the Bronze Age. It is generally called the cushion type, and the material is in many cases a hard banded volcanic stone of ornamental appearance. It may be described as a perforated mace-head rather than an axe-hammer. The blunted ends have not been explained, but were evidently intentional in some cases."

A mace-head of cushion type from Twickenham is shown in one of the cases in the British Museum and figured in the *British Museum Guide to the Antiquities of the Stone Age*, page 122. The figure there shown is almost identical with the object found near Honiton. The straight perforation is a very remarkable piece of work. A paper on mace-heads may be found in *Archaeologia*, Vol. 75, page 104.

The dimensions of the Honiton implement are: length, 4"; breadth at middle, $1\frac{3}{4}$ "; breadth at ends $1\frac{1}{2}$ "; greatest thickness, $1\frac{1}{8}$ "; diameter of perforation, $\frac{5}{8}$ "; weight, $7\frac{1}{4}$ ozs.; (Plate IX).

S. S. Dorman, in *Pygmies and Bushmen*, mentions having seen the natives (Kalahari Bushmen) drilling the perforations. The drill was a piece of wood, and the cutting material, sand used with water. He says, "I have seen these *kipi* of various kinds of rock, sandstone, basalt, granite, and quartzite."—

G. T. HARRIS.

MIDDEN AND POTTERY AT ST. BUDEAUX, PLYMOUTH.

For some years I have been attracted to the district of St. Budeaux and King's Tamerton, largely on account of the names (Old Walls and Plaistow), the latter a farm. Last year Mr. E. Masson Phillips recorded the discovery of a long trench and oyster midden; the story is continued this year, when Mr. Palmer of Plaistow farm reported a large deposit of shells in a bank while widening the road below Plaistow farm.

I arrived rather late in the day, for a great many loads of spoil had been removed and with it much of the slaty bed. The shells extend in a layer, roughly for twenty-two feet, and are five feet below the surface of the garden soil, resting on a thin bed of clay, superimposed on the local slate. They consist largely of winkles, cockles, mussels, and a few oysters.

Miss Saunders, my assistant archaeologist, retrieved some fragments of pottery, which I submitted to the British Museum. Plaistow is only a good stone-throw from Old Walls. The name Plai Stow (Play Place) is rare in Devon.

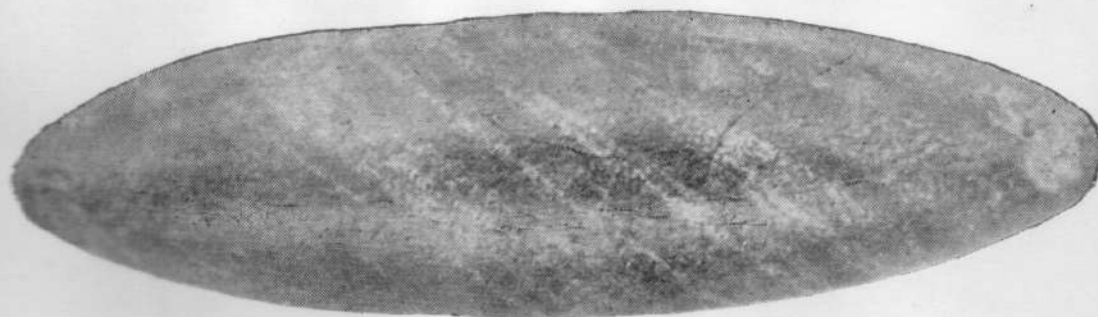
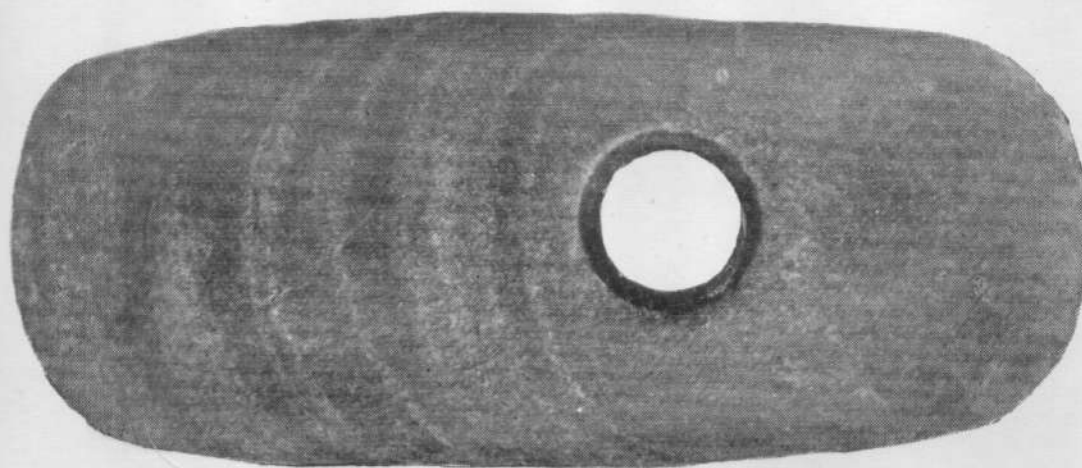


Photo G. T. Harris.

MACE HEAD FOUND NEAR HONITON.
(Natural Size)