

ELEVENTH REPORT OF THE BARROW COMMITTEE.

ELEVENTH REPORT of the Barrow Committee, consisting of Mr. P. F. S. Amery, Mr. G. Doe, Mr. P. O. Hutchinson, Mr. E. Parfitt, Mr. J. Brooking Rowe, and Mr. R. N. Worth (Secretary), to collect and record facts relating to Barrows in Devonshire, and to take steps, where possible, for their investigation.

Edited by R. N. WORTH, F.G.S., Hon. Secretary.

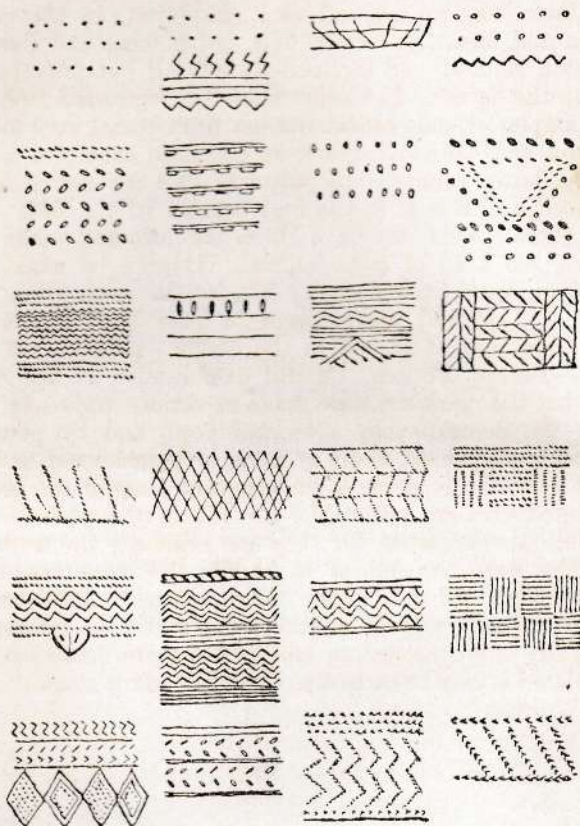
(Read at Tavistock, August 1st, 1889.)

THE Committee have again to express regret at the paucity of communications, and to state that the past year hardly seems to have brought anything to light in connection with pre-historic sepulture in Devon. At the same time, they cannot regard their work as accomplished.

J. BROOKING ROWE, Chairman.
R. N. WORTH, Secretary.

MOUNT BATTEN.

Mr. R. Hansford Worth has found the remains of another funeral urn on the isthmus at Mount Batten, near Plymouth, adjacent to the kitchen-midden there, and not very far distant from the site of the pre-Roman cemetery of the later Bronze Age at Fort Stamford. The urn is sun-dried, and of the rudest unornamented type, and probably represents the earliest stage of fictile manufacture in Devonshire. It is remarkable to note how every year adds something to the traces of ancient and continuous occupation by man, from pre-historic times, of the eastern shores of Plymouth Sound, between the Plym and the Yealm.



VARIOUS FORMS OF ORNAMENT ON BURIAL URNS FROM BARROWS AND KISTVAENS
IN DEVON AND CORNWALL.

ANCIENT ORNAMENT.

“The careful examination and comparison of funeral urns throws considerable light on the dawn of artistic ideas among the early inhabitants of the country. Though the execution is commonly very rude, at times there is not only much taste but exceptional skill displayed, in the combination and formation of the dots and notches and lines—horizontal, vertical, and inclined—which all but universally make up the details. The annexed sketch represents twenty-four examples of rude ornamentation from burial urns found in Devon and Cornwall, the more elaborate examples being from the latter county. In only one case are curved lines introduced, and this is in the first pattern in the fifth row, where there seems to have been an attempt made to delineate the head of some animal. It may be unsafe to argue from such limited data; but, so far as it goes, the culture of Cornwall would seem to have been somewhat higher than that of Devon in the earlier—perhaps not the earliest—Barrow Period. Careful examination of the urns shows that the markings were made in various ways—by the nail of the decorator, by a twisted cord, and by pointed implements—of stone, wood, or bone, or perchance a broken shell or a thorn. It seems to me also that some of the better ornamented urns are rather the product of the professional than the amateur artist, for they are evidently the work of those who were accustomed to handle the primitive tools employed; and what is more, they appear to bear traces of what we may regard as schools or styles of ornament. The inquiry is an interesting one, and if more detail can be accumulated it may be carried to some important conclusions. (R. N. WORTH.)”