

## Maidstone Museum

### Benjamin Harrison Archive

#### Volume 23a

[This slim volume of 43 pages is in contrast to that proceeding it, Volume 23, which had 205 pages of handwritten notes as well as the usual clippings from local and national newspapers, drawings and other printed material. This notebook is out of chronological order, dealing with events that took place from September 1902 to April 1903. Volume 23, though it does record some events in 1901-2, deals mostly with the years 1905-7.]

P.1. A clipping from *The Daily Chronicle* of August 7<sup>th</sup> 1902 entitled 'Sermons in Stones' in which the British Museum's published guide *The Antiquities of the Stone Age* is reviewed. It mentions eoliths in a not totally unfavourable light, which is probably why BH has included it in this volume.

In BH's writing at the right hand corner of the page 'Note book September 21<sup>st</sup> 1902 onward'.

BH writes about excursions from Vigo Gap to Cobham on September 7<sup>th</sup> 1902, and says that he has marked where evidence of the older Pliocene deposits are to be seen on a geological map.

On Sunday September 21<sup>st</sup> 1902, BH spent the day at home due to a bad headache. He did some sketching and was later visited by Evans (not Sir John Evans) of Hartley who brought with him some fine Neolithic stone tools.

Undated but probably not on the 21<sup>st</sup> September, BH writes 'Darbishire on Professor BD'. Says he returned Professor Jones's letter and quotes the contents of a letter from Darbishire which talks of:

...the extravagant prejudice and ignorance of W.B Ds<sup>1</sup>. I am waiting for some detailed report for my common place work – I am sorry to put such an ugly word amongst many fine flowers! I have written gravely to the Professor and shall make him go over at the ?prep you have committed to me and try to save his soul; but "Taffy was a thief!" I am sharing your A.D but enjoying a delightful place and September air and colour.

P.2. An account, dated Wednesday September 24<sup>th</sup> 1902, of a visit from Miss Caroline W. Hotchkiss of 33 Lombard St, London. Under this is written: 'Teachers Cottage, Columbia University, New York City'. BH says:

Arrived at 12.45. She first introduced herself and said "I must go down your pretty street again and take a picture of a Punch and Judy

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<sup>1</sup> BD and W.BD is Professor Boyd Dawkins, an eolith sceptic

there and get the children who are all around.” A long time in the museum – first the eoliths a new world to her but perfectly convinced – immensely interested when I showed her this Wealden model they belonged to the consequent river valleys.

She remarked as she looked at the model – “this is familiar to me. I’ve studied it in our class rooms and this valley of the Shode in particular. But little did I think it would ever be my lot to visit. I am glad to do so.

She specially admired King’s House and the gate house (Vaughan’s in Chapel Lane). This led to my asking if she could tell me as to the gabled repro houses mentioned so often in Ho... works. A sketch was made as below. Oldbury, Hollow road, sphinx, Rock Shelters, plain chalk escarpment gaps, wind gaps, Well Hill and acres by Fairview and exclaimed as we got onto Long Street Lane “ Oh what a dear old lane”.

Then when I told her it was one of the tributaries of the Shode she was interested. Red well examined, across to Tyler’s Knoll gravel spread. Features pointed out of it’s f... . “Now I can begin to see the topography” she said as Oldbury was viewed and a sketch made by Ightham Park footpath and the divide. Examined Buley Valley an old consequent (g... stage) and the Shode Valley a subsequent with reversed drainage. Crowhurst. Sink holes alluded to and noticed – to stream level – cut into clay. Down the gorge admired...

P.3. The entry from the previous page continues:

...quarry bank – Isles especially striking “why this is even better than the Evenlode. Why did not Professor Davis come here? I must tell him. Physical geography is only in its infancy but it is now being most diligently and systematically studied and, like biology, has a future”. On to High Field. Particularly interesting, then to Post office ?... and here she was charmed – and as we caught sight of Durling’s Virginia Creeper its wealth of colour she exclaimed “this is indeed beautiful” – Home by Busty and noted in it’s dry state as usual. Tea and off by 5 train. Full of thankfulness and for my guidance .

BH adds a little reminder for himself that he must write to Jessop at Columbia University respecting implements. He adds ‘Very fine but unfortunately too ?... for distant ?... .

A poem composed by ‘a lady’ in Professor Davis’ class explaining a river valley.

P.4. Reference to a letter sent to either FJ Bennett or Lord Avebury [perhaps both], and the SE Union of Scientific Societies by Edward Harrison, the contents of which are not recorded but the original letter of reply has been pasted in.

Newspaper clipping of a letter from the *Daily Chronicle*, September 24<sup>th</sup> 1902, from J Scott-Temple about the earlier review to the British Museum's *Guide to the Antiquities of the Stone Age* and the poor display of eoliths at the British Museum.

Original letter from Lord Avebury, dated 24<sup>th</sup> September 1902:

Dear Mr. Harrison, I thank you for the enclosed, which I have read with interest, as well as the paper in the SE Union. Virchow is indeed a great loss to science! Yours sincerely, Avebury'.

A quote from from Walt Whitman on leaves of grass.

Clipping from a journal with a quote from M Maurice Barres about nature and how she beautifies everything.

A lovely pen and ink drawing of a Neolithic knife, which BH notes was found by Baldwin on Ightham Common and which he considers to be 'a beauty'.

Members of the Gower family listed.

P.5. Sunday September 12<sup>th</sup> 1902. BH spent time completely overhauling his museum, sorting out types to show Temple. Ted was at home. They walked to The Sphinx and came home via Seven Wents.

Copy of a letter from HP Blackmore, in a hand other than BH's. Blackmore draws BH's attention to the recently published memoir of the geology of the country around Ringwood. Clement-Reid is the author of the survey in which, without any fanfare, he recognises the distinction and sequence between the Eolithic and Palaeolithic gravels, of which the former occurs at a lower level than the latter. Clement-Reid also points out the disturbance that has occurred in the Eolithic gravels since they were initially laid down, and which, he suggests: '... probably must be classed as Pre-glacial or newer Pliocene...'. Despite classifying these gravels as Eolithic bearing, Clement-Reid was not able to find any there. This revelation sent Blackmore scurrying off to examine the gravels where, he notes, there were '...plenty of well-marked eoliths to be found, in every section and throughout the whole thickness of the gravel'. He informs BH that he wrote to Clement-Reid, informing him of this discovery.

P.6. October 3<sup>rd</sup> 1902. BH notes the death of one Charley Taylor, of Birmingham, died at Folkestone owing to a lung abscess 'poor dear Charley'.

An entry about a 'Catapillar'[his spelling]. BH's interest in the cocoon of this creature, which assumed the colours of the surface to which it was attached, illustrates his powers of observation and his enthusiasm for and interest in the world about him. He traces its life from the cocoon stage through that of a chrysalis.

This entry is followed by one on the transactions of the South East Union of Scientific Societies which deals with the colour of a pupae in relation to their surroundings. More confirmation of BH's eclectic interests.

A clipping of a song 'The Ould Plaid Shawl' by Mr Denham Price.

P.7. On October 4<sup>th</sup> 1902 BH relates the history of a flint, referring to the sketch of a figure stone which looks like a dog's head. He says that in October, the year is not given, he was asked by Professor Prestwich [so it must have been before 1895 when Joseph Prestwich died] to go to Rochester and walk from there to the mausoleum in Cobham Park to observe the gravels and note the composition. It was while doing this the flint illustrated was found. BH sketched it and put it away where it remained till October 1902 when BH and Scott Temple were engaged in sorting out his flints. BH concluded that the edge chipping and end bruising, demonstrate the work of early man. An arrow points to these phenomena on the two sketches on the opposite page.

P.8. BH records Sunday October 5<sup>th</sup> as being 'A red letter day' He spent time sketching the Cobham Heights specimens and catching up with his correspondence. After this, he and Mr Bennett set off to meet Temple from the train at Borough Green. They went from there to Telegraph Hill, at a level of 761 feet OD, from there to the Devil's Kitchen Gap and by road from there towards Stanstead. They veered off along the old lane to Parsonage Farm, where Burnett, the owner had ploughed his field leaving a strip for the purpose of sinking a pit. From there they went on to Peckham. On to The Horse and Groom, where they were joined by Hodges and Sampson, leaving at 1.15 and home by 2. He adds that they went from there to Parsonage farm to see the newly cut trench in which pipes were to be laid. Says that Tertiary clay was everywhere to be seen with chalk visible at lower levels of the valley around Terry's Lodge. [Terry's Lodge is to the south west of the Horse and Groom and this would have been on their way home to Ightham].

P.9. The entry from the previous page concludes. Mr Bennett was very interested in this, stopping several times to examine the Tertiary clay as well as the pebble conglomerate. He says they made many finds at Peckham wood, one of which was a 'bulbous specimen' [he means an eolith with a bulb of percussion]. Mr Bennett's interest in this phenomenon is noted. The pebble conglomerate, presumably of this trench, being identified as Tertiary. The numerous finds from Peckham noted. This page has obviously had newspaper clippings pasted in, now [removed. One was from *The Standard* which BH has dated October 7<sup>th</sup> 1902.

P.10. Three newspaper clippings, two from the correspondence column of *The Standard*. The first is from a man whose father witnessed the use of stone tools by the Maori's in New Zealand and the second by the writer of the article that Scott Temple commented adversely upon in relation to eoliths. The third clipping is from an unnamed paper and which comments upon a figure stone from Ringwood that bore a likeness to a human being.

On Thursday October 10<sup>th</sup> 1902. BH went to Mallong and returned with Mr Bennett, to his den where they had 'a council of war...' composing letters to *The*

*Standard.* A copy of a letter from Sir John Evans about a coin found at Oldbury Farm, dated October 9<sup>th</sup> 1902:

Thank you for the sight of the coin which I return with the arrow head. This latter is a great beauty. The coin is a Sinah, a much worn variety of my plate A No.4. Obverse: widespread laureate head to left. The face not shown. Reverse, Victory on a chariot to left. This type is that of the earliest British coins, but the coin itself is rather late in that particular series.'

P.11. The copied letter from Sir John Evans concludes here with him noting that the size and weight of this coin, a type frequently found in Kent, has been reduced.

There follows a 'Weather note to be remembered'. An undated entry, though probably in September 1902 when BH records a memorable night-time storm with notable devastation in the Medway Valley. On October 10<sup>th</sup> 1902 the same weather occurred with no rain during the day but at night it fell in torrents and continued into the next day. The weather remained close and oppressive.

The heavy and continuous rain continued till the 12<sup>th</sup> October when the day dawned fine. BH and Temple took advantage of this break in the weather to go to Exedown to arrange some 'pit-sinking'. They met Hodges who intended sinking a pit the following morning. The close and oppressive weather meant BH returned feeling very tired. This did not prevent them from looking out for high-level drift sections where they found many in-situ flakes at the base.

A letter, dated October 18<sup>th</sup> 1902, from BH, copied in by someone else, to Lord Avebury about the pit currently being excavated and inviting him to view it. BH thought it would be of particular interest to Lord Avebury since the remains of a Pliocene shell were found in the clay. He uses an interesting turn of phrase to describe his work in this pit saying:

The Reservoir undertaking was very inconvenient for search by reason of the number of men, the desire to get it completed to satisfy the clamorous public. Hence it was only by what you advise in "industry". Firstly perseverance, secondly perseverance, thirdly perseverance that I succeeded in getting such evidence as I did; Gault fossils, Pliocene shells(?) 5 Celtic remains and pottery, southern drift, Roman remains from pockets distributed in the surface drift, very fine Neo celt, last but not least, many eoliths. Though a high bonus was offered to the men, and implements taken to educate their eyes, not a trace of Palaeolithic man was discovered. This, combined with three years persistent search on the summit levels, and only finding eoliths, tends to strengthen my opinion on the point suggested when I wrote to Sir John Evans in 1892 (when he disappointed both Professor Prestwich and myself in not coming to visit my plateau). I was moved to spur up "At the commencement of this I would wish to disclaim ought like a desire to set up a theory. At the utmost I simply ask leave to lay before you evidence from notes and observations which

occupied my attention for many years. I lay the facts before you as a humble seeker after truth, not as one by whom truth has already been discovered. That however will be for you to judge". Alas... he has never been.'

BH refers to a recent letter in which he notes how pleased Sir John was to see Palaeolithic implements from Hartly at around the 400 feet OD level but not those (possibly eoliths) from 700 feet OD. He says that Sir John's disinclination to have anything to do with eoliths, even to look at them, is inconsistent with the latter's reputation as an authority of stone tools. [this letter concludes on page 12]

P.12. On October 19<sup>th</sup> 1902, BH and a little group of similarly minded gentlemen went, via Wrotham, to Terry's Lodge, where they examined a pit and found some eoliths in-situ. From there they went to Parsonage Farm where the men had only got down to a depth of 3 feet. Several eoliths had been found. Temple, one of this group, left for London.

P.13. Conclusion of the account from the previous page. BH says 'For particulars of pit see diary]. The next stop was the fissure after which the group returned home by the 6.18 train.

On Tuesday October 21<sup>st</sup> 1902 BH, Mr Bennett and another gentleman, possibly Mr Church, went to the pit where they found the 'spoil very convincing'.

The following day BH and Mr. Darbishire went again to the pit where Sampson was excavating the final stage to the level of the Tertiary sand. More eoliths, some of which had bulbs of percussion, had been unearthed. No palls had been found. The wind was coming from the north and BH found it intensely cold at the top of the plateau, even after donning his cape. Mr Darbishire had to take cover to mitigate the effects of the cold wind. The evening was spent sketching.

Copy of a letter from EW Handcock on a 'Conversazione' he had attended dated October 22<sup>nd</sup>. He speaks of an eolith exhibition that he had assembled for the local Technical School and the extracts from *Prehistoric Times* he took along to accompany the exhibits. Section drawing (east/west) showing the Medway and Darent basins which he copied on a large sheet from the May edition of *Harmsworth Magazine*. The Headmaster of Tonbridge Grammar School showed an interest in the exhibition.

P.14. The letter from Mr Handcock from the previous page continues in which the Headmaster proposed buying 'a typical set' of stone tools from BH for his own school museum since they had, at that time, no lithic implements. Handcock actually suggests that the school might be persuaded to buy a set costing a little more than he himself had paid. The Headmaster was also keen on some of the diagrams he saw and asked for some for his school museum. Also interested in the exhibits was 'our principal local medical man' (Dr Jervis). Handcock promises to return BH's British Museum book.

The 24<sup>th</sup> October 1902 was a red-letter day for BH. He started out for the pit at 8.45 on a fine morning via House Farm. He noted that pipes were being laid to

Plaxdale Farm and the associated cottages. He observed the Tertiary sandy-clay exposed and the clay with flints by the cottages. No ochreous flints were observed in this formation. BH notes that where Sampson was working, in the north east corner, conditions were 'very peculiar' there he found a broken pal, which he notes had 'characteristic work on edge'<sup>2</sup> and many eos.

P.15. Concludes the last paragraph of the last entry. Drawings of eoliths, from that day's outing, dated October 24<sup>th</sup> 1902.

P.16. Parody of the 'To be or not to be...' soliloquy from Hamlet. It of course deals with matters prehistoric and lithic and his relationship with them.

P.17. Copy of a letter from Lord Avebury, dated 24<sup>th</sup> October 1902 and sent from 6 St James Square, London. He commiserates with BH on Mrs Harrison's illness. He regrets that he will not be able to visit as not only will he be away on holiday very shortly, but other engagements 'crowd' his life. He suggests that next spring, when the days are longer, might be a better time to spend a day together. He says:

My idea is that side-by-side with Palaeolithic implements which are always rare, many ruder forms, you call eoliths were in use. The plateau implements are no doubt the more ancient, but the m... above remains the same, and I regard them as belonging to the earlier part of the same period as the specimens found at lower level gravels. I am  
Yours sincerely, Avebury.

The parody of the 'To be...' soliloquy concludes.

P.18. More discussion of pits, Mr Pink of Kingsdown<sup>3</sup> and a trip that day to Aylesford. BH thinks that Mr Pink in aiding his research by assisting in digging more trenches would '...aid science and improve his land and make Chapel Croft (an eolithic Valhalla) an anthropological cathedral to all, many would come, all parts, pity its not near the Pilgrim's way'. A small sketch of the suggested, cross-shape of the pit. A rather enigmatic conclusion to this entry with reference to people referred to only by letters, A+H+C. He actually says 'I told A that he would have a good working by his pit... to put B afore C – if H did so much would C do so much more. But we shall see. I hope so' In pencil, Edward Harrison has written 'This came true'

Sunday October 26<sup>th</sup> 1902. Some snow that day. BH hard at work between 6.30 and 11 sketching specimens that Sampson brought in the previous night. Out at 11 via Fenpond. It rained but BH continued on. Met Sam(pson) at the pit. After some time observing BH and Kennard, his companion on that outing, BH left at 1.30.

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<sup>2</sup> BH probably means working characteristic of eoliths on the edge of the broken palaeolith. Since he was always searching for the evolutionary link between eoliths and palaeoliths, a palaeolith with eolithic working on its edge would have represented a transitional specimen that strengthened his argument for the authenticity of eoliths

<sup>3</sup> The owner of many pits and the Basted fissure

P.19. Sketching later in the day following the visit to the pit. Went to bed at 9.30 but woke at 12.30 and, being unable to sleep, reviewed his work of the past fifteen years. Went downstairs, with a cigarette, and read for a while. A paragraph caught his eye about Huxley and his lectures on the study of nature for the working men of Jermyn Street. Then recalls part of one of these lectures about geological history in which he compares this to a drama from which some acts are missing and on which the 'curtain rises now and again in disjointed scenes'. Quotes Darwin who says:

I think of the geological record as a history of the world... written in a charming dialect; of this history we possess the last ... alone, relating only to the contours. Of this volume we only have a short chapter preserved and of the each page we only have four lines.

BH says this appeals to him and he draws a comparison between it, and the broad, shallow valley between Chapel Croft and Parsonage farm, then a buried channel. He quotes a passage from Geikie's work which says that natural landscape features always have a geological explanation which should be borne in mind when examining a district as it gives additional interest.

P.20. Professor Rupert Jones is mentioned in relation to the latest dig for which he commends BH. Dated 31<sup>st</sup> October 1902.

BH completed his pit diary and expressed a wish to take a rest.

Sunday November 2<sup>nd</sup> 1902 was a fine day that saw BH tinting his diary plates until 11, after which he and Jack Temple went out to Heath Cottages. Bill Hayman gave him a broken ovate implement. Found this to be an interesting fragment. Sketch of the broken implement, butt end, said to be creamy-yellow.<sup>4</sup>

Sunday November 9<sup>th</sup> 1902. Edward was at home on what turned out to be a fine day following a heavy rainfall. He and BH set off for Terry's Lodge and were home by 1.30.

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November saw Mr Elliot visiting BH.

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November. Mrs H and Mrs Mist out for a ride to Ivy Hatch. BH, Jack Reynolds and Mr Mist went to Oldbury on what turned out to be a fine, mild day.

P.21. A poem entitled 'For Ear and Hair' which continues to P.22. It is about the time it takes a woman to do her hair before going out.

P.22. The poem from the previous page concludes.

Clipping dated November 1<sup>st</sup> 1902. It deals with the esteemed:

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<sup>4</sup> The transcriber has catalogued this broken implement for Maidstone Museum. The sketch is sufficiently accurate to allow easy recognition



Mr Ben Harrison... village shopkeeper... whose labours in the realm of geology have won world-wide appreciation. Mr Harrison has collected a number of older implements which he claims established the presence of man on the earth 200,000 years before the previously received limit. The Urban District Council had the offer, on moderate terms, of a set of these but declined them. Mr. Handcock however, himself an ardent geologist, determined that the Museum of Tonbridge, should if possible, contain a set of these interesting stones... they were on view at the Technical Institute Conversazione last week....

Another clipping from a quite lengthy article entitled 'Our First Ancestors' by Andrew Lang, which continues to P.23. Among other matters, the possibility of Tertiary man chipping flint in an eolithic manner is discussed. Also mentioned is the lack of middens associated with this stage of human evolution and the possibility that Tertiary man may have been vegetarian.

P.23. Small clipping entitled 'A Noble Life' quoted by Professor Huxley from the German. Another clipping, like the last with no associated newspaper or journal name, about 'Primitive Man and the Knife' .

A poem by Scott Temple to: 'Benjamin Harrison; Pioneer' in which the pitfalls of leading the way are described. It is dated November 3<sup>rd</sup> 1902.

P.24. An extract from the *Academy of Science* publication entitled 'The Precursor of Man' and is dated October 11<sup>th</sup> 1902. The Author is F. Legge. It coincides with the opening of an exhibition of stone implements at the British Museum and discusses the possible age of the earliest human to work stone, concluding that such a being existed at least 'two hundred and twenty thousand years before the dawn of civilization'. It quotes the views of A Hovelaque and A de Mortillet who conclude that the flint-worker of this period was 'not a man at all but his precursor upon the earth, and a being intermediate between the ape and man'. It is suggested that Neanderthal man existed in the Tertiary and 'presents many points of resemblance with that of a female gorilla and still more with that of *Pithecanthropus erectus*, a man-ape whose relics are still apparently being sought for in the interior of Java'.

Pencil drawing, though just what it represents is not clear.

Original letter from AB Martin and sons, Chipstead, Sevenoaks, dated 15<sup>th</sup> November 1902. He writes to ask BH how he got on at the 'Conversazione' mentioned on the previous page, and notes that H Warren was the only dissenting voice there. He is very disparaging of SHW's views.

P.25. On Thursday Mr Nash of Bishop's Stortford, visited BH and went with him to Terry's Lodge and the pit. BH intended taking him to visit the Rock Shelters the next day.

On Saturday BH and Mr N.F Roberts met. Mr Bennett also features in the activities of that day, which are not specified, though they all met at the Chequer's pub on their return.

Sunday saw the day dawn fine with the wind blowing west to east and at 12 BH went to Oldbury where he found a poorly worked chert implement and a huge Neolithic flake, which he considered to have been part of a Palaeolithic implement. The following day BH rested as the efforts of the previous day had, according to his own diagnosis, brought on '...a touch of pleurisy'. He felt an even temperature was needed to ameliorate the symptoms so stayed in.

It must have been cold as he notes the presence of snow and frosts and even records some ice-skating.

Another poetic diatribe entitled; 'The Geo Eo Grocer'. It is rather a sad statement of how BH thought he was viewed through the lens of academia. This body of people he perceived as seeing him as a mere shopkeeper, incapable of teaching anyone anything about the earth or its early human inhabitants. He felt he was being dissuaded from aspiring to contribute to the body of anthropological knowledge. [this has been transcribed fully from FJ Bennett's original at the end of this volume]

P.26. Sunday November 23<sup>rd</sup>. A foggy morning blossomed into a lovely bright day. BH and Jack went to Birds Hill where they found Neolithic flakes, then onto Buley where they found a Palaeolithic flake. He spent the evening writing and says he had neuralgia from the chill of the day. He also comments on the help he and Jack had to give unloading to assist in the laying of the newly metalled road. Yhis they did for three quarters of an hour. BH says 'very cold work'.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1902, BH was so busy he was unable to see Mr Kennard though he must have left a specimen for Kennard to see because the latter was able to make a few remarks about it. He enclosed a newspaper cutting from the previous day's *South ... News* for Mr Kennard. He mentions the presence of others, such as D Hinde, Mr Whitaker, DHF Parsons and Mr Clinch at a gathering and his comment is '... I gave them a good chance'. Exactly what is meant by this remark is not clear, though his following description of where eoliths had been found may be the 'chance' to which he refers. He says they had been found on the surface and on and in the brown loamy clay with flints, but not in the red clay with flints and Tertiary pebbles and Lower Greensand fragments. He points out that they were also found in the gravel underlying the Tertiary pebbles and Lower Greensand fragments. This gravel he attributes to the presence of an ancient river and associated gravels in which lay 'chocolate flints'. He says that he noticed that this had been marked as 'clay-with-flints' and should be 're-mapped'. Whitaker is mentioned as BH says he did not refer at all to the implements [eoliths] acknowledging however that there were differences and that he had mapped all clays, with or without Tertiaries' as 'clay-with-flints'.

P.27. Entry from the previous page continues. BH says that the drift in these places was quite distinct from the red clay-with-flints or the 'supposed insoluble remains of the chalk'.

Whitaker spoke to BH about this after [the trip to the plateau] noting the need to re-map these features since the clays he mentions are all, wrongly classed as clay-with-flints. This account was recorded by NJ Robarts and reproduced by BH.

BH's perennial love of geology is very evident from this short entry from Lambarde's *Perambulations of Kent*, one of BH's all time favourite books. He says that, for the first time in fifty years (he was 65 in 1902) he saw a copy of this work, in the form of a reprint of 1826. From page 402, he mentions a reference to the Shode stream. There is a reference to a marginal note of Mesopotamia as 'significantly a country encompassed with rivers' and a reference to the similarity of it and the land between the Shode and the Darent.

Newspaper clipping re: stone tools and especially eoliths from the geological strata described by to Whitaker et al on the previous page.

P.28. Newspaper clipping entitled: 'leaves from Local Naturalists Notebook'. There is no author recorded but Kent is the locality and BH and eoliths get a mention.

Obituary of Samuel Laing. Two, loose, photographs of an inglenook fireplace with a wonderfully carved lintel above it.

An original letter from Mr WH Griffin who lived at 6 Rutland Park, Perry Hill, Catford, dated 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1902 in which he thanks BH for the loan of some implements, returned with gratitude. The lecture he gave was one of many which included subjects from a range of academic disciplines. BH and his eoliths featured.

Newspaper clipping from *The Kentish Mercury*, outlining the lectures.

P.29. On Sunday November 30<sup>th</sup> 1902. BH notes the most dismal and depressing nature of the day. He found the conditions most unfavourable for work though he revived somewhat in the evening and had 'an enjoyable turn', by which he means a walk with Jack Temple, who also felt 'revived'. Indexing his work, a task that he continued the following day, was returned to on his return from the walk.

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December was very cold and BH got on with his correspondence before setting out for a walk to Crowhurst. He notes that there was 18 degrees of frost overnight.

Copy of a letter from E Westlake of Fordingbridge, dated December 11<sup>th</sup> 1902:

... I enclose a few notes on some of your recent finds ... All can raise the flowers now for all have got the seed thanks to yourself. What success have you had on the pit (about 700 ?) which I hear you have opened recently on the edge of the escarpment? How long will it be open and on view? Bullen says he is going to bring out a book on eoliths next year dealing with the whole subject. I hope he will manage to get satisfactory illustrations.

P.30. The copy of the Westlake letter from the previous page continues:

Have you any views on illustrations. My own opinion, as far as I have got, is that the essentials are (1) artificial illustrations of flint so as to emphasise work (2) good negative (3) reproductions of same by ...? process such as callotype printed as plates on special paper not really satisfactory are to be got by printing with letter press. Don't mind about Sir JE he will be simply "left" The ... work we got hereabouts can no more be doubted than the contents of a culler's shop. Yours sincerely,  
E Westlake.

Three-line newspaper clipping about Henry Stopes 'Architect and Engineer' who died on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 1902 aged 51.

Original letter from TG Bonney, dated December 10<sup>th</sup> 1902 in which he apologises for failing to acknowledge BH's letter and in which he thanks BH for his kind remarks about his (Bonney's) article in *The Cornhill Magazine*. A mention of eoliths and the geology from which they emerge.

BH comments on his birthday and upon reaching the age of 65, in the entry for December 14<sup>th</sup> 1902. The day was dull and Mrs Beadle visited and stayed on for the day. BH wrote to his son, Ted, in poetic form of course, commenting on the gloom of the day.

P.31. The period around Christmas seems to have been one of unrelieved dullness. On Christmas day, BH, Ted and Agnes visited 'Liz'. [This may be a reference to the family paying their respects to their deceased wife and mother, whose grave lies in Ash churchyard. Though it is possible that he is referring either to BH's sister also named Elizabeth, or Ted's girlfriend, another Elizabeth.] BH records a visit to the pit at Terry's Lodge with Jack on this most festive of days.

On Boxing Day BH, Ted and Jack go off again to the pit, returning home via Wrotham and Park Farm. They seem to have paid their respects to a number of people on the return journey. The days alternated between fine and dull and BH stayed in sketching on the dull days, though on the 28<sup>th</sup> December he went to Fane Hill where he found a Palaeolithic flake. Ted departed on the 28<sup>th</sup>. A poem, 'to BH archaeologist' parodying Tennyson's 1850 'Ring Out Wild Bells' written by JST, and which BH asked him to copy into this volume. It is of course about BH and his eolith theories. Concludes on P.35.

P.35. Copy of a letter to Sir John Evans, dated 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1902. Not in BH's hand. In it he thanks JE for a copy of his Egyptian address and then moves on to the subject of the artificial nature of eoliths. He proposes that, if Sir John is unable to accept that humans made eoliths then he might consider it possible that a proto-human produced them. [BH is really desperate for JE to accept eoliths as artefacts and is playing semantic games with definitions of human workmanship]:

... as regards the workmanship on eolithic flints: many distinguished people who have visited me appear inclined to attribute the rude chippings to man's precursor – a being more or less of an ape. You

speak of “human work”: this adjective gives limitations to the question than I care to confine myself to. I prefer to describe the work on the eoliths as artificial; and am not prepared to qualify this description by asserting that that it is human or simian. Believing, as I do, in the artificial origin of the eolithic chippings, I reserve my opinion as to human workmanship till more light has been thrown on the subject from other quarters...

P.36. The letter from the previous page continues:

... but I should like to ask you – are you prepared to ascribe the ...chippings to man’s precursor if you cannot ascribe them to man himself. Trust you will kindly satisfy me on that point and with all good wishes for the festive season, I remain Sir Yours very truly, B. Harrison.

Copy of a letter from Professor James Geikie, dated December 1902:

...I am much interested to hear of your further finds of eoliths. I confess I had at first doubts as to the artificial character of these – but a number of years ago having had opportunity of studying Mr Bell’s and other collectors I became convinced that they were truly man’s handiwork.

P.37. Copy of a letter from Mr Bell, Christmas Day 1902:

I am very glad that your son is taking your autobiography in hand. He has leisure and energy and will help you make something of it. You should I think try to have it illustrated. You live in one of the picturesque spots of England and all your finds, Botanical, Fossil Neolithic, Palaeolithic, Roman, British, Norman, stone, bronze, Eolithic are all susceptible of artistic representation’

On the 4<sup>th</sup> January 1903 BH and Jack took advantage of the fine day to go to the malt House at Stanstead where he had an interesting chat with Hodges, Sampson and his neighbour from whom he was given ‘a very fine eo’, found in the water works trench. They then went on to Ash where they walked along the Church Field but found nothing. They lunched at The Swan and later called on Richard and Charles. Home by four. BH felt ‘Not at all tired’ after the exertions of the day.

A copy of part of a letter from Giekie in which he asks if BH is aware that Rutot has discarded eoliths of precisely the same character as Plateau eoliths. He then notes that the exact geological and chronological position of Rutot’s eoliths is known to belong to the end of the *Elephas antiquus* stage. Geikie remarks that:

This is not on – the Belgian anthropologists believe they have discovered implements belonging to an earlier stage. Your Kent implements they maintain are identical to those of their Mesvinian stage: but according to them the Mesvinian stage was preceded by a still

earlier phase of human industry – the Rutelian type. Rutot, who visited the Thames Valley etc says that he obtained at Erith Rutelian implements identical in character with these of Hardin's. He picked some up in the debris that had fallen from the cliffs at Dover...

P.38. The entry from the previous page continues:

... Folkestone, Hastings and between Herne Bay and Reculver. The cliffs are capped by Quaternary deposits from which the implements were derived. If you have not read Rutot's paper (or rather papers, for he has written many) you would do well to read it. His work is entitled 'Les Industries Palaeolithiques Primitives'. The same geologist has an excellent paper in which he defends the views of those who maintain the artificial origin of eoliths. This is by far the earliest statement of the case. He shows that on the supposed...

Continues to the following page [39].

The point-point races took place on April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1903. The day was cold with a sharp frost. BH arrived at the station at 1.40 and lost the first race (having reached Wadhurst). He left there with friends and, spending a long time in the pit, made some finds. They made their way to an old chalk pit where they poked up flints and looked out for shell fossils. Many of the fossils found were new to his companions who were enthusiastic collectors. He arrived at Tonbridge at 7.25. Mentions Wadhurst Vicarage and two ladies from ?... who were keen ?collectors.

P.39. The entry entitled Geikie, from the previous page continues:

... natural causes which have been appealed to in explanation of the eoliths is utterly inadequate (see Bulletin de la Societe Anthropologie de Bruxelles. With kind regards. Yours very truly. James Geikie'.

Below is Rutot's eolith classification:

First Glacial )  
First Interglacial ) Pliocene

Second glacial and Interglacial- Rutot's Meseen

Third Glacial and third Interglacial- Rutot's Campinien and Hesbayen respectively

Fourth Glacial and fourth Interglacial both Rutot's Brabantian

Fifth Glacial and Interglacial Rutot's Flandrian

Sixth Glacial Medium stage.

Continues to the following page.

A copy of a letter from Worthington Smith, dated 17<sup>th</sup> April 1903:

‘Did I ever mention this? Some years ago Sir John Evans decided to visit Caddington. I arranged to meet him at the Horse and Jocky inn three miles from here and 1 from Caddington. I took with me a bag of high-level implements and stones. And I got to the Inn about a quarter of an hour before the appointed time. As there were two large window sills on each side of the door I took out my stones and arranged them on the sills for Sir John to see. The inn keeper started at me he made me shrink and shrivel up with his looks. He went back into his ?... swearing. Soon he came out again with a heavy-duty rope. “Here said he, is this any good to you? No I meekly replied it is no good to me. Oh says he, I thought you would want to hang yourself”. Directly after this a fine open carriage and pair drew up with Sir John and Arthur Evans, Sir Thistleton Dyer, Lady Dyer, some other person whose name I forget... [This letter concludes on P.40, but for the sake of clarity I will finish it here.] These all of course shook hands with me and Sir John arranged with the innkeeper for luncheon. The innkeeper now collapsed, he fainted and turned into an Egyptian mummy. Later on I returned with and found the people at luncheon at the inn.

Part of the original letter concludes this correspondence:

I do not call to mind Harmsworth’s flippant article –altho’ I have a kind of dim recollection of seeing something at our local reading room. I saw an article in morning leader with a libellous portrait, it made my wife laugh’.

The Geikie entry continues and concludes here with an observation about Rutot’s defence of eoliths against those who proposed natural causes as an explanation. Below this is a copy of Rutot’s classification of early stone tools (mostly eoliths).

P.40. Rutot’s classification succession of Quaternary deposits continues here with the accompanying landscape changes.

P.41. Copy of a letter from JGS to BH, dated April 18<sup>th</sup> 1903:

... One of the Editors of the New York World called at the office today and I showed him around a bit. He has asked me to send him these articles: 1) ?... . 2) B Harrison. 3) on his work. I showed him an article (*Morning London*) and he said something like that would ?... their Sunday edition. As things are moving with regard to your eoliths and the *NY World* is one of the principal papers in USA having a circulation which runs into millions I believe, I hope, you will have no objections. Would you please give me a list of your chief American Visitors with a brief account of what they thought of your collection and work...[Concludes on P.42, but for the sake of clarity, will be finished here...] give the dates roughly, Professors and where from. This would make an article doubly interesting to American readers. I should end up the article by advising American tourists to visit

Ightham before they return. Please oblige and answer this letter soon... JGS

Copy of a letter from Worthington G Smith:

... I want to say that I have returned the items, diary and papers. I have read the latter. I will return all directly I don't care what anybody says about me. I have it pretty stiff here at election times. A town councillor... and said that I was a damndest liar in Bedfordshire and that I ought to be kicked out of the county and that the first time he caught me alone he would cut my throat - and so on ad lib. I am not a member of the B. Asn. I have never attended any of the meetings so I only see the reports in the *Athenaeum* and *Nature*, often happily condensed. Eoliths seem to be quite political with two cohorts – ultra radical and ultra Tories or church and chapel with damnation to outsiders. I don't intend to join in. Yours faithfully, WG Smith.

P.42. Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup> 1903. Cold and frosty BH. Something copied out for Jack BH does not specify. Out with Wilson to Park Farm, and then on to Selby's where from below the hill he found a hammer stone, a drawshave, which he says is Neolithic and a deep brown flake. . The evening was cold enough to keep BH close to his log fire. A weather note observes how abnormal the weather had been, Good Friday being a perfect spring day though by Easter Sunday it had become very cold, which continued for two weeks. Frost as recorded for 6-7 days. The lack of rain was noted. A small clipping about the weather which, whatever it is never pleases people.

P.43. Newspaper and journal clippings re: famous dead people, for example Rev CL Dodgson (Lewis Carroll). An article about Rudyard Kipling.

Original of a poem entitled 'The Geo Eo Grocer' By FJ Bennett.

We will swallow up tea, butter, cheese  
And smoke tobacco, snuff and sneeze,  
And frizzle your bacon and scramble the eggs  
And drink up your liquor right down to the dregs  
But your "Licenced to Sell" not licenced to teach  
The knowledge of earth is quite out of your reach  
The fissure of Ightham and Oldbury rock shelters  
They are not for chandlers and such tallow smelters  
Keep your eyes on your till and your hands on your scales  
And the secrets untold of your hills and your vales  
You must not aspire with high anthropology  
Nor search out the secrets of the Wealden geology  
Still less of the fissure with its ... zoology  
So down on your knees with a humble apology  
Tis quite out of the question, we will not endure  
A man without letters must be without love  
Why learn off a grocer! A ... in bed  
We dealers in paper with this won't agree



That a man who runs banks, and a ...who runs mills  
Should be taught by a man who sells pepper mills  
Talk no more of your eos and sir R no more frills  
Be warned no good time or you will have fits  
So geo-eo- grocer – Woh!  
You grew so fast go slow Woe! FJB’

This concludes Volume 23a of the Benjamin Harrison archive held at the Maidstone Museum.

Angela Muthana, 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016.