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John Lubbock

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Pre-historic Times as Illustrated by Ancient Remains

Sir John Lubbock (1834–1915) was an English banker who was fascinated with biology and archaeology. He was a close friend of Charles Darwin and a prolific writer who made influential contributions to both of these fields, being appointed the President of the Linnaean Society between 1881–1886. First published in 1865, it was written as a textbook of prehistoric archaeology. It became one of the most influential and popular archaeological books of the nineteenth century, being reissued in seven editions between 1865 and 1913. In this volume Lubbock develops an evolutionary interpretation of archaeology, using prehistoric material remains as evidence that human cultures become more sophisticated over time. He also introduces the division of prehistory, coining the terms Palaeolithic and Neolithic to subdivide the Stone Age. Lubbock's interpretation of cultural evolution was an extremely influential social theory which was widely adopted by contemporary archaeologists and anthropologists.

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Pre-historic Times as Illustrated by Ancient Remains

*And the Manners and Customs
of Modern Savages*

JOHN LUBBOCK



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PREFACE.

IN this book I present to the public some essays on Pre-historic Archæology, part of which have appeared in the "Natural History Review," viz., that on

The Danish Shell-mounds, in October, 1861.

The Swiss Lake-dwellings, in January, 1862.

The Flint Implements of the Drift, in July, 1862.

North American Archæology, in January, 1863.

Cave-men, in July, 1864.

Messrs. Williams and Norgate suggested to me to republish these articles in a separate form, and I was further encouraged to do so, by the fact that most of them had re-appeared, either in France or America. The conductors of the "Annales des Sciences Naturelles" did me the honor to translate those on the Danish Shell-mounds, and the Swiss Lake-dwellings. The latter also appeared in "Silliman's Journal;" and the article on American Archæology, with the exception of the last paragraph, was reprinted in the "Smithsonian Report, for 1862."

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At first I only contemplated reprinting the papers as they stood, but having, at the request of the managers, delivered at the Royal Institution a short course of lectures on the Antiquity of Man, it was thought desirable to introduce the substance of these, so as to give the work a more complete character.

My object has been to elucidate, as far as possible, the principles of pre-historic archæology ; laying special stress upon the indications which it affords of the condition of man in primeval times. The tumuli, or burial mounds, the peat bogs of this and other countries, the Kjökkenmöddings or shell-mounds of Denmark, the Lake-habitations of Switzerland, the bone-caves, and the river-drift gravels, are here our principal sources of information.

In order to qualify myself, as far as possible, for the task which I have undertaken, I have visited not only our three great museums in London, Dublin, and Edinburgh, but also many on the Continent ; as, for instance, those at Copenhagen, Stockholm, Lund, Flensburg, Aarhus, Lausanne, Basle, Berne, Zurich, Yverdon, Paris, Abbeville, etc., besides many private collections of great interest, of which I may particularly specify those of M. Boucher de Perthes, Messrs. Christy, Evans, Bateman, Forel, Schwab, Troyon, Gil-

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hieron, Uhlmann, Desor, and lastly, the one recently made by MM. Christy and Lartet in the bone-caves of the Dordogne.

Sometimes alone, and sometimes in company with Messrs. Prestwich and Evans, I have made numerous visits to the valley of the Somme, and have examined almost every gravel pit and section from Amiens down to the sea. In 1861, with Mr. Busk, and again in 1863, I went to Denmark, in order to have the advantage of seeing the Kjökkenmöddings themselves. Under the guidance of Professor Steenstrup I visited several of the most celebrated shell-mounds, particularly those at Havelse, Bilidt, Meilgaard, and Fannerup. I also made myself familiar with so much of the Danish language as was necessary to enable me to read the various reports drawn up by the Kjökkenmödding committee, consisting of Professors Steenstrup, Worsaae, and Forchhammer. Last year I went to the north of Scotland, to examine some similar shell-mounds discovered by Dr. Gordon, of Birnie, on the shores of the Moray Firth, which appear, however, to belong to a much later period than those of Denmark.

In 1862 M. Morlot very kindly devoted himself to me for nearly a month, during which time we not only visited the principal museums of Switzerland, but also

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several of the Lake-habitations themselves, and particularly those at Morges, Thonon, Wauwyl, Moosseedorf, and the Pont de Thiele. In addition to many minor excursions, I had, finally, last spring, the advantage of spending some time with Mr. Christy, among the celebrated bone-caves of the Dordogne. Thus by carefully examining the objects themselves, and the localities in which they have been found, I have endeavoured to obtain a more vivid and correct impression of the facts than books, or even museums, alone could have given.

To the more strictly archæological part of the work I have added a chapter on the Manners and Customs of Modern Savages, confining myself to those tribes which are still, or were, when first visited by travellers, ignorant of the use of metal, and which have been described by competent and trustworthy observers. This account, short and incomplete as it is, will be found, I think, to throw some light on the remains of savage life in ages long gone by.

Fully satisfied that religion and science cannot in reality be at variance, I have striven in the present publication to follow out the rule laid down by the Bishop of London, in his excellent lecture delivered last year at Edinburgh. The man of science, says Dr.

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Tait, ought to go on, "honestly, patiently, diffidently, observing and storing up his observations, and carrying his reasonings unflinchingly to their legitimate conclusions, convinced that it would be treason to the majesty at once of science and of religion if he sought to help either by swerving ever so little from the straight rule of truth." *

Ethnology, in fact, is passing at present through a phase from which other Sciences have safely emerged, and the new views with reference to the Antiquity of Man, though still looked upon with distrust and apprehension, will, I doubt not, in a few years, be regarded with as little disquietude as are now those discoveries in astronomy and geology, which at one time excited even greater opposition.

I have great pleasure in expressing my gratitude to many archæological friends for the liberal manner in which their museums have been thrown open to me, and for much valuable assistance in other ways. My sincere thanks are due to Professor Steenstrup for many of the figures by which the work is illustrated. Others, through the kindness of Sir W. R. Wilde, Mr. Franks, and Dr. Thurnam, have

* Lecture on Science and Revelation, delivered at Edinburgh. See *The Times*, November 7th, 1864.

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been placed at my disposal by the Society of Antiquaries, and the Royal Irish Academy. To Professor Steenstrup, Dr. Keller, M. Morlot, and Professor Rütimeyer, I am indebted for much information on the subject of their respective investigations. Finally, Mr. Busk, Mr. Evans, and Professor Tyndall have had the great kindness to read many of my proofs, and I am indebted to them for various valuable suggestions.

CHISELHURST,

February, 1865.

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1. Copper? celt from Waterford. It is 6 inches long, $3\frac{3}{4}$ wide at the broader end, and $1\frac{1}{8}$ at the smaller, which is about 1-16th thick.
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48. Bronze stud, one-half of the actual size.
Keller, *l.c.* Zweiter Bericht, pl. 3.
49. Gold torque, consisting of a simple flat strip or band of gold, loosely twisted, and having expanded extremities which loop into one another. It measures $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches across, and was found near Clonmacnoise, in Ireland.
Cat. of Royal Irish Academy, page 74.
50. Gold fibula, one-half of the actual size. The hoop is very slender, the cups deep and conical.
Cat. of Royal Irish Academy, page 56.
51. Smooth, massive cylindrical gold ring, with ornamented ends, one-half of the actual size.
Cat. of Royal Irish Academy, page 52.
52. Gold fibula, one-third of the actual size. The external surfaces of the cups are decorated with circular indentations surrounding a central indented spot. There is also an elegant pattern where the handle joins the cups. It is $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches long, and weighs 33 ounces, being the heaviest now known to exist.
Cat. of Royal Irish Academy, page 60.
53. Woollen cap, one-third of the actual size. Found with the bronze sword, fig. 19, in a Danish tumulus.
Afb. af Danske Oldsager og Mindesmærker. Madsen, H. 5.
54. Another woollen cap, one-third of the actual size. Found with the preceding.
55. A small comb, one-third of the actual size. Found with the preceding.
56. A woollen cape, one-third of the actual size. Found with the preceding.
57. A woollen shirt, one-third of the actual size. Found with the preceding.
58. A woollen shawl, one-third of the actual size. Found with the preceding.
59. A pair of leggings, one-third of the actual size. Found with the preceding.
60. Staigue Fort, in the County of Kerry.
From a model in the collection of the Royal Irish Academy.
61. Flint core or nucleus from which flakes have been struck. Jutland. One-half of the actual size.
In my own collection.
- 62-4. Three views of a flint flake from a Kjøkkenmødding at Fannerup in Jutland, one-half of the actual size. *a* represents the bulb of percussion, which is also shown by the shading in fig. 68.
In my own collection.
65. Arrow-shaped flake from Ireland. It is worked up at the butt end, as if intended for a handle.
Cat. of Royal Irish Academy, page 72.
- 66-68. Flakes from a Danish shell-mound, actual size.
In my own collection.
69. Minute flint flake from Denmark, actual size.
In my own collection.
70. Sections of flakes. *a* is that of a simple triangular flake; *b* is that of a large flat flake split off the angle from which the smaller flake *a* had been previously taken. Consequently the section is four-sided.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES.

71. Stone celt or hatchet. It is formed of felstone, is $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches long and 2 broad.
Cat. of Royal Irish Academy, page 41.
72. Stone celt or hatchet, actual size. Found in the River Shannon. One of the smallest yet found in Ireland.
Cat. of Royal Irish Academy, page 45.
73. Stone celt with a wooden handle. Found in the county of Monaghan.
Cat. of Royal Irish Academy, page 46.
74. Skin scraper from Bourdeilles in the south of France, actual size. Found by me.
75. Ditto, under side.
- 76-78. Skin scraper used by the modern Esquimaux of the Polar basin within Behring's Straits, actual size. It was fastened into a handle of fossil ivory.
In the collection of Mr. H. Christy.
79. Flint adze from the shell-mound at Meilgaard in Jutland, actual size.
Upper surface.
In my own collection.
80. Ditto, under surface.
81. Ditto, side view.
82. Modern New Zealand adze, actual size. Upper surface.
In the British Museum.
83. Ditto, under surface.
84. Ditto, side view.
The New Zealand adze is partially polished; this is not the case with the Danish adze, because flint naturally breaks with a smooth surface. The projection *a*, in fig. 81 is accidental and owing to some flaw in the flint. They generally have the under side as flat as in fig. 83.
85. Hollow chisel from Denmark.
86. Spear-head from Denmark.
87. Flint dagger, one-half of the actual size. This beautiful specimen was found in a large tumulus with a second imperfect dagger, a rude flint core, an imperfect, crescent-shaped knife, one or two flakes, two amber beads, and some bits of pottery. Denmark.
In my own collection.
88. A second form of flint dagger. Also from Denmark.
89. Oval toolstone.
Cat. of Royal Irish Academy, page 94.
90. Triangular flint arrow-head, actual size.
Cat. of Royal Irish Academy, page 19.
91. Indented flint arrow-head, actual size.
Cat. of Royal Irish Academy, page 20.
92. Barbed flint arrow-head, actual size.
Cat. of Royal Irish Academy, page 22.
93. Leaf-shaped flint arrow-head, actual size. Showing the gradual passage into the spear-head.
Cat. of Royal Irish Academy, page 22.
94. Bone pin or awl from Scotland, actual size.
95. Bone harpoon, actual size.
Afb. af. Danske Old og Mindesmærker, 5 Heft.
96. A tumulus of the Stone age at Røddinge in Denmark. It contains two chambers.
Nordiske Oldsager i det Kong. Mus. i Kjøbenhavn. Pl. 4.

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97. Ground plan of ditto.
98. Section of ditto.
99. Cromlech. Denmark.
Nordiske Oldsager i det Kong. Mus. i Kjöbenhavn. Pl. 1.
100. Tumulus.
Nordiske Oldsager i det Kong. Mus. i Kjöbenhavn. Pl. 2.
101. Ground plan of a sepulchral chamber in a large tumulus on the Island of Mön.
Ann. for Nordiske Old Kyndighed, 1858, p. 204.
102. Brachycephalic skull from the above tumulus, one-quarter of the natural size.
103. Ditto, side view.
I am indebted for these two drawings to the kindness of my friend Mr. Busk.
104. Interior of the sepulchral chamber in the long barrow near West Kennet in Wiltshire.
Archæologia, vol. xxxviii., p. 405.
105. Flint scraper from the above tumulus, two-thirds of the actual size.
Archæologia, vol. xxxviii., p. 405.
106. Flint scraper from the above tumulus, two-thirds of the actual size.
Archæologia, vol. xxxviii., p. 405.
107. Flint flake from the above tumulus, two-thirds of the actual size.
Archæologia, vol. xxxviii., p. 405.
108. Flint implement from the above tumulus, two-thirds of the actual size.
Archæologia, vol. xxxviii., p. 405.
109. Fragment of pottery from the above tumulus, two-thirds of the actual size.
Archæologia, vol. xxxviii., p. 405.
110. Fragment of pottery from the above tumulus, actual size.
Archæologia, vol. xxxviii., p. 405.
- 111-113. Fragments of pottery from the above tumulus, two-thirds of the actual size.
Archæologia, vol. xxxviii., p. 405.
114. Fragment of pottery, actual size.
Archæologia, vol. xxxviii., p. 405.
115. Urn from Flaxdale barrow. The original is 14 inches in height.
Bateman's Ten Years' Diggings in Celtic and Saxon Gravehills, p. 280.
- 116, 117. Vases from Arbor Low in Derbyshire.
Bateman's Ten Years' Diggings in Celtic and Saxon Gravehills, p. 283.
118. Drinking cup from Green Low.
Bateman's Ten Years' Diggings in Celtic and Saxon Gravehills, p. 286.
119. Crannoge in Ardakillin Lough, near Stokestown, County of Roscommon.
It is constructed of stones and oak-piling. The top line shows the former highest water level, the second that of the ordinary winter flood, the third the summer level.
Cat. of Royal Irish Academy, p. 226.
120. Swiss axe of serpentine, actual size. From Wangen on the Lake of Constance.
In my own collection.
121. Spindle-whorl, actual size. From Wangen on the Lake of Constance.
In my own collection.
122. Bone chisel?, actual size. From Wangen on the Lake of Constance.
In my own collection.

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123. Piece of tissue, actual size. From Robenhausen.
In my own collection.
124. Bronze pin, actual size.
Found in a shell-mound near Elgin, and now in the museum at that place.
125. Flint awl from Denmark, actual size.
After Worsaae.
126. Lance-head? from Denmark, actual size.
After Worsaae.
127. Lance head? from Denmark, actual size.
After Worsaae.
128. Lance-head? from Denmark, actual size.
After Worsaae.
129. Rude flint axe from Denmark, actual size.
After Worsaae.
130. Flat stone implement of uncertain use, actual size.
From the Cave at La Madelaine.
131. Stone implement, resembling in some respects those characteristic of the drift gravels, actual size.
From Moustier.
132. Ditto seen from the other side.
133. Ditto, side view.
134. Poniard of reindeer horn.
From the Cave at Laugerie Basse.
135. Rude flint spear-head from the drift gravel at Hoxne, one-half actual size.
After Frere. *Archæologia*, 1800, pl. xiv.
136. Ditto, side view.
137. Another specimen.
After Frere. *Archæologia*, 1800, pl. xv.
138. Ditto, side view.
139. Section across the Valley of the Somme at Abbeville, after Prestwich; the length is reduced to one-third.
140. Section at St. Acheul near Amiens.
a. Brick earth with a few angular flints.
b. Red angular gravel.
c. Marly sand, with land and freshwater shells.
d. Grey subangular gravel, in which the flint implements are found.
e. Coffin.
f. Tomb.
141. Section taken in a pit close to the Joinville station.
b. Red angular gravel, containing a very large sandstone block.
d. Grey subangular gravel.
142. Diagram to illustrate deposit of loëss and gravel.
a'. Loëss corresponding to and contemporaneous with the gravel *a.*
b'. Loëss.
c'. Loëss.
1. Level of valley at period *a.*
2. Level of valley at period *b.*
3. Level of valley at present.
143. The Engis skull, viewed from above.
144. Ditto, viewed from the front.
Huxley's *Man's Place in Nature*, p. 126.

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145. The Neanderthal skull, seen from the side, one-half of the natural size.
146. Ditto, seen from the side, natural size.
147. Ditto, seen from above, natural size.
Huxley's Man's Place in Nature, page 139.
The outlines from camera lucida drawings by Mr. Busk; the details from the cast and from Dr. Fuhlrott's photographs. *a* glabella; *b* occipital protuberance; *d* lambdoidal suture.
148. Australian boomerang, one-sixth of the actual size.
149. Australian club, one-fifth of the actual size.
150. New Zealand patoo patoo, one-fourth of the actual size.
151. Stone axe with wooden handle, one-fourth of the actual size.
152. South Sea fish-hook, one-half of the actual size.
153. Esquimaux arrow-head, actual size.
154. Esquimaux spear-head, actual size.
155. Esquimaux bone harpoon, one-third of the actual size.
156. Fuegian harpoon, one-half of the actual size.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLATES.

The three great tumuli at Upsala, popularly supposed to be those of Odin, Thor, and Freya. (*Frontispiece.*)

Diagram of Abury. (*To face page 53.*)

PLATE I. (*To face page 60.*)

- Fig. 1. A flint axe from a tumulus, one-third of the actual size.
2. Another form of stone axe, with a hole for a handle, one-third of the actual size.
 3. A flint saw, one-half of the actual size.
 4. A flint sword, one-sixth of the actual size.
 5. A flint chisel, one-half of the actual size.
 6. One of the "cores" from which the flint flakes are splintered, one-half of the actual size.
 7. One of the flakes, one-half of the actual size.
 - 8, 9. Rude axes from the Kjökkenmödding at Havelse, one-half of the actual size.
 10. Flint axe from drift at Moulin Quignon, near Abbeville, one-half of the actual size.
 11. Flint axe from Abbeville, showing that the part stained white is parallel to the present surfaces, and that the weathering has taken place since the flint was worked into its present shape, one-half of the actual size.
 12. Sling-stone from the Kjökkenmödding at Havelse, one-half of the actual size.

PLATE II. (*To face page 268.*)

A flint implement found near Abbeville, slightly reduced.

The artist has been so careful to present a faithful image of this specimen, that he has even copied exactly my rough memorandum as to the place and date of its discovery.