

system will doubtless need modification, but it is hoped that a detailed study of the 56,000 coins from Richborough now in progress will suggest a final form of periods and subdivisions and so present a sound basis for national and international comparisons.

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- [1] R. E. M. and T. V. Wheeler, *Verulamium* (1936), 42, pl. cxviii.  
 [2] ANTIQUITY, 1964, 104 and fig. 2.  
 [3] S. S. Frere, *Britannia* (1967), 253.  
 [4] *St Albans and Herts. Arch. and Arch. Soc. Trans.*, 1935, 243.  
 [5] ANTIQUITY, 1964, 111.

- [6] e.g. P.-M. Favret, *Note sur un vase zoomorphique* (1909); J. Déchelette, *Manuel d'Archéologie* (1914), Vol. III, 3, 1467, and fig. 662.  
 [7] For a drawing of this brooch see *Antiq. Journ.*, XLVII, 1967, 290; Mr M. R. Hull has drawn my attention to an extremely close parallel from the Magdalensberg, Austria: *Carinthia I*, 142, 1942, 154 and fig. 1.  
 [8] cf. *Archaeologia*, CI, 1967, 38, and fig. 23.  
 [9] *Antiq. Journ.*, XLI, 1961, 44.  
 [10] *Germania*, XXXIX, 1961, 196.  
 [11] See [1], 41.  
 [12] *Antiq. Journ.*, XXXVII, 1957, 6; *ibid.*, XXXVIII, 1958, 13; *ibid.*, XLI, 1961, 75, n. 6.  
 [13] *JRS*, LIV, 1964, 166.  
 [14] *Antiq. Journ.*, XLI, 1961, 75, and fig. 2.  
 [15] ANTIQUITY, 1964, 103.

## Tree-felling by Fire

PLATE VIA

*The following note has been sent to us by Thurstan Shaw, Research Professor of Archaeology in the Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.*

The part that fire has played as an instrument in the clearance of forested areas for purposes of early agriculture has long been recognized, but doubt has sometimes been expressed about its capacity to deal with large forest trees. Readers of ANTIQUITY may therefore be interested in a photograph which shows a large tree in the rain forest of West Africa being felled by fire (PL. VIA). The tree had previously been killed by

the removal of the bark from the lower part of the trunk, but a man attempting to fell it with a modern steel axe made very little impression upon it after a whole day's work. Accordingly a fire was set around the base of the trunk, and was kept burning continuously for 60 hours, at the end of which period, as a result of the regulation of the fire, the tree fell in precisely the desired spot. I measured the tree after its fall as having been 44 m. high. I estimated the total expenditure of labour, consisting of bark-stripping, collecting firewood and tending the fire, as 6 hours.

## South Cadbury Excavations, 1968

In 1968, six sites were excavated, four in the interior, one across the inner rampart, and one at the south-west gate. The great variety of structures and objects recovered is best dealt with by concentrating on the highlights of each period.

For the Early Neolithic, the greatest surprise was the discovery of a vigorous culture beneath the first Iron Age rampart. There, sealed by the old land surface, were pits rich in flint flakes and pottery; a scatter of charcoal; and a suggestion of a bank of roughly piled stones. In the rampart cutting on the south side of the hill, this Neolithic bank stood at the point where the relatively gentle slope of the Cadbury hilltop plunges steeply to the valley—the most effective

line, that is, for defensive purposes, and the one chosen therefore by the Iron Age defenders. This siting looks so deliberate that one is tempted to predict that a similar Neolithic bank may be found in a comparable position all round the hill; and if this is so, then Neolithic Cadbury would have been an embanked settlement of about 20 acres (c. 8 hectares). A provisional date for the settlement is provided by the thermoluminescence technique. Measurements at the Oxford Research Laboratory for Archaeology give the following dates for two Neolithic sherds recovered in 1967: 3300 ± 800 BC and 3350 ± 800 BC.

Thereafter the hilltop was abandoned for two millennia or longer, until early in the 1st