

Antiquity

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Editorial

PLATES IX-X

We open this number with two photographs of objects from the exhibition of Thracian Treasures from Bulgaria which was held in the British Museum from January to March of this year. The first (PL. IX) is a silver salt-cellar from Nikolaevo in the form of a child holding a dog and dating from about 250 BC. The second photograph (PL. X) is of an iron sword and a gold ornamental scabbard from Belogradets, near Varna, dating from the eighth to seventh centuries BC. The exhibition itself, which was very well attended, was a revelation to those who knew nothing of the archaeology of Bulgaria, and a joy to those who had already seen some of the treasures in the museums of Sofia, Varna, Vratsa, Kazanluk, and Turnovo. Among the highlights of the exhibition—and beautifully displayed—were the Varna treasures of the late Chalcolithic, the Vulchitrun treasure of the thirteenth-twelfth centuries BC, with the amazing gold triple vessel, the Vratsa treasure of 380 to 350 BC, and the Panagyurishte treasure from the turn of the fourth and third century BC—its weight in gold is 6,100 gr. We all enjoyed the British Museum's exhibition of Romanian antiquities in 1971 and Yugoslavian antiquities in 1975. The Thracian exhibition was a worthy successor and we owe a great debt to all who organized it. No less than twenty-five Bulgarian museums contributed to this magnificent display. For those who missed visiting the British Museum in the first three months of this year, there is the catalogue, *Thracian Treasures from Bulgaria*, to be obtained from British Museum Publications Ltd, 6 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3RA, price £2 (paper); £5.50 (boards) + p. & p.—truly wonderful value for money.

☪ The sad news of the death of Ivan Donald Margary at seventy-nine came to us on the same day that we received advance copies of the March number of ANTIQUITY. It was too late to refer to this loss in that number but now we mourn his passing and leave out his name from the list of our Trustees. He had written to us a few weeks before his death saying that he was slowly recovering from a major operation, could not contemplate reviewing a book on Roman roads and did not expect to be well enough to attend the annual meeting of the Antiquity Trustees in May.

Donald Margary's personal connexion with ANTIQUITY has been very close. Since the death of O. G. S. Crawford in 1957, Antiquity Publications Ltd, a private limited liability company which owned and published the journal, belonged to Mr and Mrs H. W. Edwards of Ashmore Green, Newbury. On 6 December 1960, Mr Edwards, who had for some months indicated his readiness to sell the journal, informed the Editor that he did not intend to publish ANTIQUITY after the December number and wished to sever his long connexion with the journal as from 31 December 1960. We have already recounted how the Antiquity Trust was founded (*Antiquity*, 1961, 1 and 90) and have printed the list of subscribers to the Trust. But we have not revealed hitherto that in those dark December days sixteen years ago two men volunteered to underwrite the total sum of money required for the purchase: one was Professor Richard Atkinson, fortunately still with us, and the other was Donald Margary, not then known to us except as a name.

With the Trust founded and the future of ANTIQUITY assured, it was natural that Margary

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should be invited to be a Trustee. He took his duties seriously and wrote to us after every issue, complimenting us on this, criticizing that, and drawing attention to errors that had been missed by the small team of proof-readers. (We wonder whether any one else ever reads ANTIQUITY with such meticulous care!) Margary was a kind, generous, avuncular figure, a sort of Edwardian in an Elgar tradition. He gave large sums of money to the Society of Antiquaries, the Royal Archaeological Institute, the Sussex, Surrey, and Kent Archaeological Societies. It was due to him that the site of the great Roman palace at Fishbourne was acquired and protected, and it was largely due to him that what is now known as the Margary Room at Barbican House, Lewes, was reconstructed and refurnished. To him also Exeter College, Oxford, owes most of its new quad which bears his name.

Margary was the leading authority on Roman roads in this country. He published in 1948 *Roman ways in the weald*, and, seven years later, his large two-volume corpus *Roman roads in Britain*. We quote the final sentences from *The Times* obituary (27 February): 'Of all that could be written about Margary, there is one aspect of his character which those who knew him best will recall with affection and gratitude, and that was his modesty. All honours, although so richly deserved, were declined on the grounds that he was privileged to share his wealth and his knowledge. He was of the "old school" in manner, dress and civility: his pattern of life will be cherished by those who were fortunate enough to be counted among his friends.'

And as we typed out those words we received a telegram from the BBC telling us the very sad news that Paul Johnstone had died suddenly at the early age of fifty-five. The Editor had worked with him for over a quarter of a century since those distant days when *Animal, Vegetable, Mineral?* began in Lime Grove in the early fifties, and he was a close and loved personal friend of the Editor and the Production Editor. He would be surprised and perhaps shocked, because he was a modest and self-effacing and humble man, to find that his death merited a page in ANTIQUITY. But it merits a very serious mention: his death is not only a loss to his

friends and colleagues, and a loss to the BBC of one of their most senior, experienced and successful producers. It is a loss to British archaeology: and for three reasons. From the *AVM?* days through *Buried Treasure* to *Chronicle* he succeeded in the *haute-vulgarisation* of archaeology in a way in which no other person—and we are thinking deliberately of Ceram, Eydoux, Bibby, and Cottrell—was able to succeed by writing, lecturing or broadcasting. The present-day interest in archaeology, and the information which the public now have, is in a larger measure than people, in and outside the BBC, believe, due to the dedicated work of this one man. We know only too well from America, France, Italy and Denmark, and from the Independent Television companies in Britain, how much his achievement in archaeological television was admired and envied. He set standards which have not been equalled and it is good to know that his programmes on Bronze Age Ships and on Glouzel will be shown in September in the Nice Conference of Prehistoric and Proto-historic Sciences.

But he became slowly an archaeologist in his own right and was made a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. He had exciting and interesting ideas about new archaeological projects: his reconstruction and experimentation with prehistoric ships was one, and his Silbury Hill project another. Gradually he became more and more expert on prehistoric shipping: his *The archaeology of ships* has already been published in the Bodley Head Archaeology series edited by his friend and colleague, Magnus Magnusson, and his Penguin on the same subject will be out soon; but, alas, posthumously. We have no doubt that when our successors write the history of twentieth-century archaeology they will very rightly praise the work done by Paul Johnstone in the BBC over the last twenty-five years. Long may *Chronicle* and its associated activities go on. We last worked with him in the field in America in December 1974 and the result of this work, *The Williamsburg File*, was broadcast only a few days before his death.

We have no intention of turning the editorials of ANTIQUITY into necrologies but it is unfortun-

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ately true that our colleagues are dying, too quickly, and too soon. We cannot write about them all but we remember Germaine Henri-Martin, the discoverer of Fontéchevade man, whose contribution to training and research in French Palaeolithic studies was very considerable, and whose sense of humour and pricking of pomposity a constant delight, and Claude Arrau, the German detective story writer whose book *Archaeological fakes* is one of the best things ever written in this difficult field, and, of course, Dame Agatha Christie (Lady Mallowan)—she might join Joan Evans and Kathleen Kenyon in the select list of archaeological Dames—whose *Come tell me how you live* seems to us still one of the best introductions to archaeology: written as it was by someone both outside and inside archaeology, and with an acute awareness of what interested non-professional archaeologists wanted to know.

We print a letter from Dr Ian Glover of the University of London Institute of Archaeology:

'Reading your necrology in the December 1975 issue of *Antiquity*, I was reminded that the death in 1974 of Bob van Heekeren seems to have been unnoticed in British archaeological circles. This is a pity, for van Heekeren learnt some of his archaeology here during a visit in 1939 and was a good friend and constant encouragement to younger fieldworkers, from whatever country, who have been continuing his pioneering studies in Southeast Asia . . . Bob van Heekeren belonged to a generation of archaeologists, almost vanished in Europe; an amateur with no formal training, but with an enthusiastic and critical mind, he was absorbed into archaeology to become a full-time professional.

'Since then Southeast Asian archaeology has suffered another loss with the recent death in Bangkok of Tom Harrisson. I came to know him late in his career, but two brief meetings were enough to stimulate a lively correspondence which demonstrated both his astonishing range of interests, and that he bore no resentment for a less than charitable review I once wrote of one of his books. Since Tom was no doubt better known to you and to others in Cambridge than to myself, I will not try to assess his many inter-

ests and achievements, but I am reminded of the typical Harrisson style by one of his last letters on which, in red ink across the foot of a page in which he ranged from the migration of *Stegodona* in Wallacea to Neolithic C14 dates, was written "If you see any double-spouted vessels, pray cable Me." I hope you will be able to find room in *Antiquity* to celebrate this extraordinary character.'

Tom Harrisson was indeed an extraordinary character whom the Editor knew slightly as an undergraduate in Cambridge and then better later on when he was one of the many brilliant protégés of Louis Clarke. These were the years when he was on anthropological expeditions to Arctic Lapland, Central Borneo, and the New Hebrides. 'On returning to England in 1938', as his entry in *Who's Who* laconically and characteristically says, 'determined, instead of studying primitive peoples, to study the cannibals of Britain, so started with Charles Madge a new type of social research organization called Mass-Observation.' He came back to this at the end of his life when he was a Professor in the University of Sussex working through the Mass-Observation archives and organizing their analysis, editing and publishing. In between he had done amazing things like being the first white man dropped in Borneo to organize guerillas in Sarawak and Dutch Borneo prior to Allied landings. We met him in the last few years when he was a Senior Research Associate at Cornell and were filled with renewed delight at his wide knowledge and great versatility. His publications were very wide-ranging, starting with *The birds of north-west Middlesex* written when he was a schoolboy at Harrow. It was sad that he died with so much energy left and so much work to do, and in such a curious way for a man of such bravery, energy and enterprise—in a bus accident in Bangkok.

Everyone must buy, before it runs out of print, the December 1975 copy of *The UNESCO Courier* which deals with *The Celts*. *The Courier* has always been an excellent journal very well edited by Sandy Koffler and has often devoted time and space to archaeology. This issue of fifty pages with many astonishing illustrations,

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many in colour, has articles by Paul-Marie Duval, Anne Ross, Jean Markale, René Joffroy and Wolfgang Dehn. The price is 2·80 French francs: it can be obtained in Britain from HM Stationery Office and all Government Bookshops, and in the United States from *Unipub*, a Xerox Education company, *Box 433, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10016*.

☞ Leakey's Luck seems to last to the second generation and long may it last to many further generations—or is it that East Africa *was* the home of early man and that his remains are there to be found by those who prospect and excavate with all the resources of modern archaeology and all the inspired skill of the late Louis Leakey, his wife Mary and his son Richard? On 8 March Richard Leakey announced in Washington the discovery in August of 1975 on a hillside near Lake Turkana, formerly Lake Rudolph, in northern Kenya, of a human skull almost identical to that of Peking Man. He said in a press conference in the headquarters of the National Geographic Society that this find was the most complete and oldest fossil skull of *Homo erectus* yet discovered, and that it was about one and a half million years old. He also said that Peking Man is probably far older than had previously been suspected.

Which, while exciting, makes it all the more tantalizing that no one knows the whereabouts of Peking Man since the last war. For well over half a million years, and perhaps a million and a half years, Peking Man lay buried and unknown in a limestone hill in Chou Kou Tien near Peking. When his existence was announced in 1926 it was an archaeological and anthropological bombshell; when the work was halted in 1937 there had been found the remains of forty individuals—men, women and children. In 1941 they all vanished. Packed in two white footlockers labelled A and B they went to the US Embassy and then to the US Marine Corps who sent them to a warehouse at Chingwangtao—the port of Tientsin—to be shipped to America on the SS *President Harrison*. From that moment no one has seen the remains.

Dr Harry L. Shapiro, who is on the staff of the American Museum of Natural History in

New York and was Professor of Anthropology at Columbia University from 1938 to 1973, has put down in a book all that we can reasonably know at the moment about the strange affair of Peking Man. His book, first published in America in 1974, has just been published in England. It is entitled *Peking Man: the discovery, disappearance and mystery of a priceless scientific treasure* (London, George Allen and Unwin, 1976, 190 pp., 8 pls., £3.95) and makes compulsive reading for those interested in archaeology or detective mystery fiction—which takes in most of the readers of this journal. Among the most extraordinary tales in a book full of strange tales is the account of how Walter Fairservis discovered the Solo skull in the Japanese Emperor's Household Museum which is apparently 'part of the Imperial collection of curiosities' and delivered it personally to Von Koenigswald who, says Shapiro dryly, 'probably had never received so welcome and unexpected a Christmas present'; and the bizarre story of the meeting of Mr Christopher Janus with the anonymous lady (who said she had the Peking fossils as war booty) at the observatory on the 102nd floor of the Empire State Building.

Shapiro concludes his book wondering if the Peking fossils will ever be found, but wants every clue explored and pursued. He writes: 'I would hope that an international group or committee, co-operating fully with the Chinese, might be established to carry out such a responsible investigation. At this stage, however, we can only speculate while we mourn.'

☞ A word of welcome to two new journals. The first is the *Journal of Field Archaeology* published by Boston University for the Association for Field Archaeology. The Editor is James Wiseman and his address *Boston University, 270 Bay State Road, Boston, Massachusetts 02215*. The subscription and advertising office is *Boston University, Scholarly Publications, 775 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02215*. Regular membership of the Association is \$25, associate membership \$20, and institutions (subscription only) \$25. The idea of this Association was first put forward in the spring

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of 1970 by R. Ross Holloway and David G. Mitten in a letter sent to some 100 archaeologists working in the New and Old Worlds, and in November of that year the Association was formed. The principal concerns of the Association were set out in the first issue of the *Journal*. They are (1) to encourage communication among archaeologists working in different areas of the world and concerned with different time periods, (2) to encourage and develop interdisciplinary approaches to archaeological studies, and (3) to help make both scholars and the general public aware that the cultural heritage of the world is threatened by the plundering of ancient sites and the illicit traffic in antiquities. The Association, in brief, has as its chief aims the improvement of archaeological research, greater communication among specialists and archaeologists of diverse interests, and the preservation of the world's archaeological resources. The first issues of its *Journal* reflect its wide interests and high purposes: there are articles by Marija Gimbutas on her 1973/74 excavations of the Neolithic mound of Achilleion in Thessaly, by Anthony P. Andrews on the U-shaped structures at Chan Chan in Peru, by R. Ross Holloway and colleagues on the excavation of the Early Bronze Age village at Tufariello (Buccinno) in southern Italy, and by Eugene L. Sterud and Peter P. Pratt on Archaeological intra-site recording with photography.

The second journal is *Archaeologia Atlantica* edited by Dr Frank Schwappach, *Seminar für Vor- und Frühgeschichte der Universität Hamburg, D-2 Hamburg 13, Von-Melle-Park 6, West Germany*. In his introduction to the first issue produced in 1975, the Editor says the new journal is 'in the service of the prehistoric and early historic research of the Western European countries which border the Atlantic Ocean . . . the bulletin is devoted to the presentation of regional studies in their wider geographical and cultural context, namely that of Atlantic Europe as a whole'. The first volume is largely made up of papers given at a colloquium on Problems of Western European Archaeology held in September 1974 in Hamburg. These papers include Guilaine on the origins of the Neolithic in the West Mediterranean, Anthony Snodgrass on

Mycenae, Northern Europe and radiocarbon dates, David Coombs on Bronze Age weapon hoards from Britain, and Jean-Pierre Mohen on some aspects of the Early Iron Age in south-west France.

¶ We are grateful to Julian Munby for drawing our attention to a Home Office File entitled *Obscene Publications: the Cerne Abbas Giant* which he describes as 'a well-handled file relating to an incident in 1932, though consulted several times until being sent to the archives on 1967'. The Public Record Office Reference is PRO HO 45/18033: we understand that no special permission is required for publishing short extracts from this file provided we acknowledge, as we hereby do, the custody of the original to be with the PRO.

The file begins with a letter dated 14 November 1932 from Walter L. Long of Oakleigh, Wyke, Gillingham, Dorset. On the top left of the letter was a sketch of the Cerne Abbas Giant 'covered with a paper flap'! Long wrote:

'If this sketch offends, please remember that we have the same subject, representing a giant 27,000 times life size, facing the main road from Dorchester to Sherborne . . . With the support of the Bishop of Salisbury, another Bishop, and representatives of other religions, I appealed to the National Trust, but this society exists only to preserve that which is entrusted to it, and consequently does not consider the obscenity of this figure is a matter on which I can act. In this figure's counterpart in Sussex, Sex has been eliminated altogether; the other extreme.

'Were the Cerne Giant converted into a simple nude, no exception would be taken to it. It is its impassioned obscenity that offends all who have the interest of the rising generation at heart, and I, we, appeal to you to make this figure conform to our Christian standards of civilization.'

If we had been in the Home Office at this time we would have taken the view that this was a fake letter for three reasons. The phrase 'impassioned obscenity' is not what one would have normally used in a letter to the Home Secretary. Then, surely, only a humorist would have ventured, in writing of that splendidly erect

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figure, the Cerne giant, to use the phrase 'the rising generation'. And what 'representatives of other religions'? Hindus perhaps with photographs of Khajrao and copies of the *Kamasutra* in their despatch cases?

But the Home Office did not share this view. There follows a splendid minute from a L. Cecil Yates: 'This is a serious charge of indecency against a scheduled prehistoric national monument, made, with apparent deliberation, after a lapse of 2,000 or 3,000 years, or from 1/3 to one half the Biblical Age of the Earth. The complainant bears an historic name and is associated with one who is not unconnected with another venerable national monument—I refer to the Bishop of Salisbury.

'They have approached the National Trust, and that body has repelled their advances on the ground that the duty of the Trust is to conserve and not to deface. I have discussed the matter with Sir Charles Peers of the Office of Works. . . .

'What does the complainant want us to do? Commit a nameless outrage? We cannot contemplate that. Plant a small grove of fig trees (on measurements hardly less would suffice) in a strategic position?'

The Home Office decided to write to the Chief Constable of Dorset and by now were suspicious that the whole affair might be a leg-pull, but the Chief Constable did not agree. 'The enclosed letter is certainly not a leg-pull', he wrote. 'The Cerne Giant is one of the well-known prehistoric landmarks of England and is undoubtedly phallic in origin. It is very much as the drawing depicts except that the actual figure has the legs wide apart and the private parts are distinct in every detail. . . . For years past it has been the subject of periodic controversy in the local press. One section holds that the figure should be either destroyed or modified. The opposite argues that it would be sheer vandalism to touch it.'

In due course the Home Office wrote to Mr Long as follows: 'With reference to your letter of 14th November, I am directed by the Secretary of State to say that he has caused inquiry to be made and finds that the prehistoric figure of which you complain—the Giant of Cerne—is a national monument, scheduled as

such, and vested in the National Trust. In the circumstances the Secretary of State regrets that he cannot see his way to take any action in the matter.'

There should not have been any regrets. The Secretary of State should have directed his minions to say that the Cerne Giant being a National Monument, he was happy to say that it was the only indecent photograph that could be sent through the English Post Office.

Our gloomy prognostications in the last number (*Antiquity*, 1976, 1) have proved only too true and as we have looked at the finances for 1975 and the still rising costs of printing and publication it is only too obvious that there must be a large increase in the rate of subscription and a cutting down in the annual size of the journal, alas. The increase in subscription begins next year; the cost of the journal will then be £7.50 or \$25. We must also, we hope as a temporary measure, reduce the number of issues a year from four to three; and this change must begin at once. There will therefore be a joint September/December issue and our fiftieth year will end with number 199/200 in the autumn. These are harsh measures but many journals will be engaged in doing the same. We will endeavour to keep up the high standards established over the last half century, and to publish as many reviews as before, but it is clear that we must rigorously maintain our limit of 700 words and that the review of 500 words is to be preferred. And of course there will be fewer articles each year: only the very best will now do for us and they must all be shorter and crisper. We already have a big backlog of unpublished material. We will begin at home by paring away our Editorials—but not until after September/December. That number is to include two poems, both archaeological, and both by Poets Laureate. The first is by the present Laureate, Sir John Betjeman, whose archaeological interests extend backwards from Liverpool Street Station to the White Horse of Uffington, and the second by W. H. Auden, whose archaeological interests we have only recently been discovering in correspondence with his literary executors.



PLATE IX: EDITORIAL

Silver salt-cellar from Nikolaevo in the form of a child holding a dog. About 250 BC. Height 10.4 cm ; weight : 166.4 gr

See p. 89

Photo : Courtesy British Museum

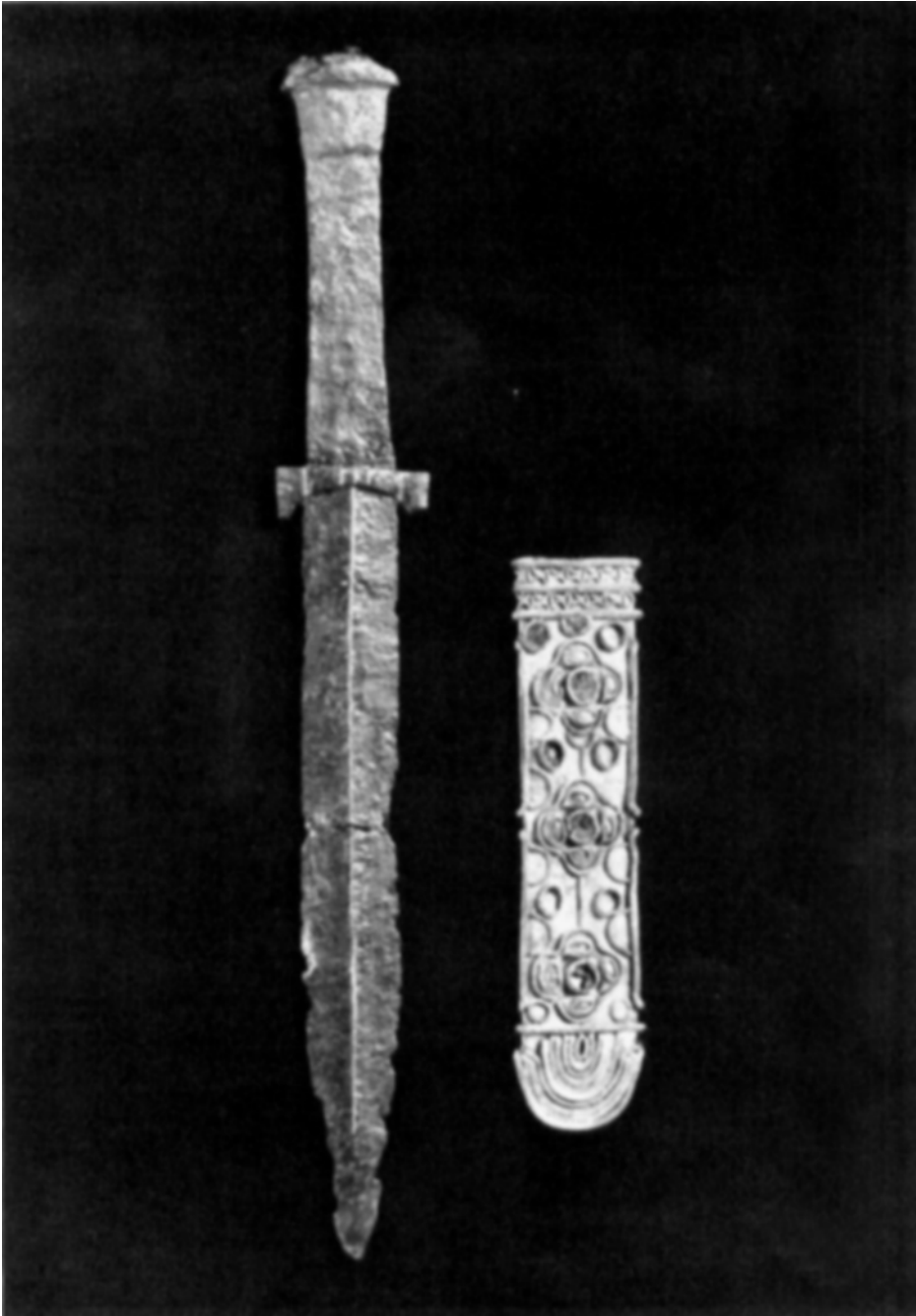


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Iron sword and gold scabbard from near Varna. About 700 BC. Length of sword 42 cm and of scabbard 20.1 cm. In the Archaeological Museum at Sofia

See pp. 89

Photo : Courtesy British Museum