

I was immensely interested in the megalithic monuments of Brittany. & examined some of them carefully with a view to judging of the art & skill of the builders. Those that are worked much such as the Menhir near Dinan (St. Sampson) has been tooled to an oval section with great accuracy & care -

I noticed also that some of the stones used for covering the chambers in barrows were carefully worked, and in some cases these covers seemed to me to have been tooled for menhirs, being oval in section - about the worst form for a cover stone one would think. The great carved stone in the chamber "Table des Marchands" at Carnac, was as I understood

Goodland
Am. Nov. 24/96.

21889
The Vicarage,
Brewton, S. O.
Wilts.

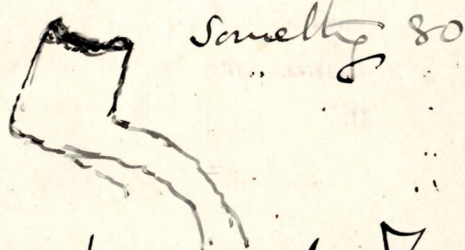
Oct 6. 96

Dear General Pitt Rivers
I am forwarding by this post to you a small box of pot sherds dug up in removing earth from around the walls of Maddington (Wilts) Church - chiefly the Tower. The neighbouring Manor house must have used the Ch-yard as a con-

venient "kitchen midden"
are wd. think from the
quantity of pottery turned
out.

I send all the sorts found
to show you the style of
deposit - but the most
numerous are unglazed
coarse thin: red blackish
or pale pink, with thick
square cornered rim, the
upper surface ^{or rather edge} of which as
you see generally has a

more or less pronounced groove
on it



Some pieces have soot adhering
still: all the glazed bits
I have picked off the surface
of a big heap of rubbish
I have sent you.

I also have put in
a few bits I picked up in
ploughed fields about Carnac
in Brittany this summer -

& a couple (a very coarse red, the
other fine blue) from ploughed downs
in Maddington parish.

2/ only excavated so as to
be quite visible of late years.
But its carving is very much
weathered. ~~It~~ Of course it
may have been originally
intended to be left visible
— there is no apparent barrow
over this chamber, & it rises
so far above the surface
as to show like a cromlech
but as the great table or
Cover stone entirely ^{covers} roofs
in the chamber & the
Carved stone which forms its
~~the~~ support at the head, I do
not see how the weather
could have beaten into the
sufficient violence to weather

away the carving of a granite slab in its present position.

Do you know these Carnae monuments? If so has it suggested itself to you that some of the more elaborately worked stones have been re-used & are not now in their original positions?

Of course one must except such stones as those of the Chamber at Gavrinis, where they clearly are all of a piece - but there it is proved by their present positions that

they were carved before placing, & not always with knowledge of the position they would occupy. Without knowing Ferguson's theory of their late origin, I came to the conclusion that as at Stonehenge the people who could work stone so accurately were not barbarians of a primitive age.

If I am not boring you I should very much like to hear any ideas you have formed about the Brittany stones.

Faithfully yrs
Cecil V. Fiddens.